

THE KITEFLIER

ISSUE 50 - JANUARY 1992 - PRICE £1.25



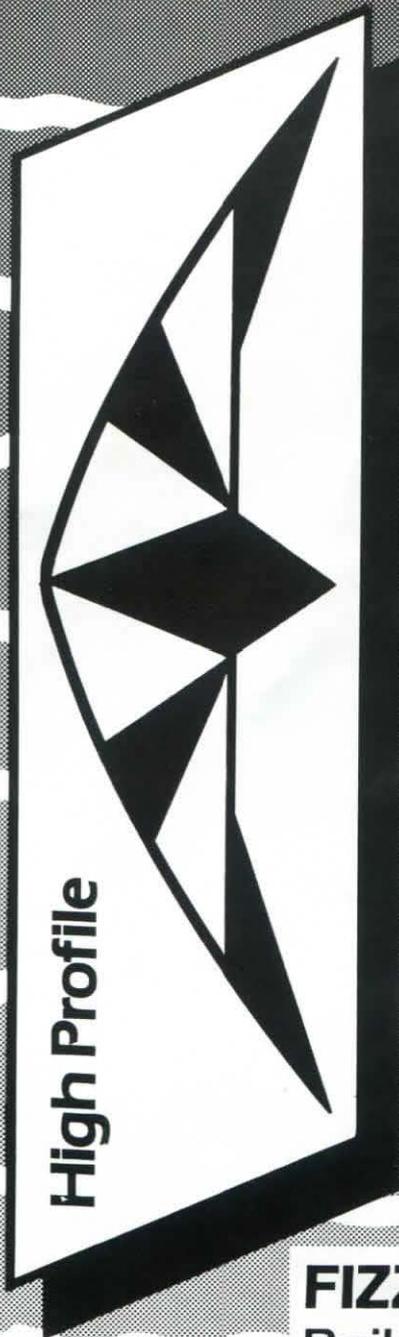
NEWSLETTER
OF
THE KITE SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN



FIZZ
SPORT KITES



Original Benson
Phantom



High Profile

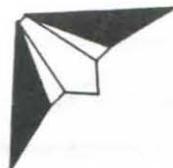


Swallowtail

FIZZ SPORT KITES
Baildon Craft Centre
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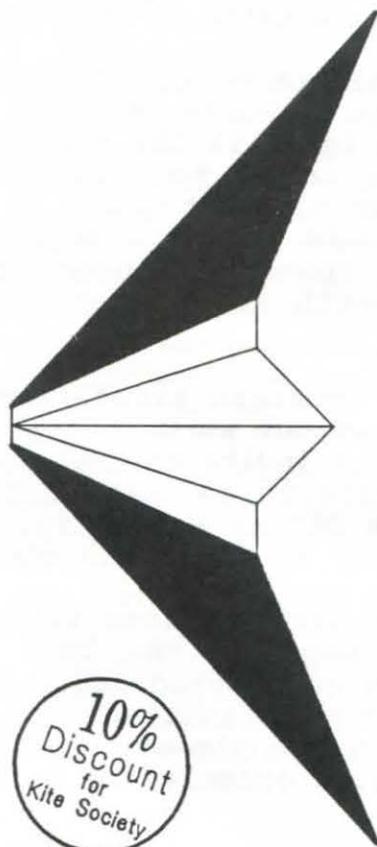
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EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

This issue of The KiteFlier is something rather special, the fiftieth issue of the magazine and to mark the occasion this issue contains 60 pages! We hope you enjoy reading them.

The 1992 kite season again promises to be a good one. Kicking off with an important event on Easter Monday when there will be five simultaneous kite festivals to help raise money for the International Spinal Research Trust. Kiteflying is one of the few activities where disabled people can participate on an equal footing and we hope that our members will help to support this worthwhile event. (See the British Gas Kite Fly page for more details).

The U.K. Rokkaku Challenge will take place at the following festivals: Blackheath Easter, Weymouth, Scunthorpe, Blackheath Summer, Shrewsbury, Monmouth, Washington and Bristol. Eight venues mean plenty of opportunity to enter - just turn up on the day. Kiteability will once again be providing trophies for each round of the Individual Challenge.

One date that is missing from the calendar is Petworth Kite festival. The Organiser - Joanna Mersey - has told us that, at the moment, she does not wish to run this event, although she may in the future, but she would like to thank everybody who has attended the event in the past.

One final point, we would like to thank The Kite Store (London) for paying for the colour covers of the newsletter for the last four years - thanks guys!

Gill and Jon Bloom

LETTERS

From George Webster

This year has been a good one for flying kites, not just festivals, but good soft wind for the flying which I like. I would have thought it was a good year for attracting new kitefliers. Is there any information about how many kites get sold at a festival or how many stunters in a year?

Festivals have got the balance of kite/sports kite much better - I only got cut down once and that was at Poole. Bristol and Washington were rivals for the biggest - Washington is still THE example of how you can combine kites with other things and get crowds to mix. Bristol is the foodies festival - no having to eat a greasy burger there - no problem about working off the excess calories - just make an extra trip back to the car park from the flying site. Why won't sponsors appear for a London festival? Why no festival again in the North West? Most amazing sight - the Mayors Mace bearer at Weymouth.

Gradually you meet more American kitefliers - the legendary figures from Kitelines. Most were great but weren't some ... funny? One thing is clear if you want a festival just invite the Peters. George does everything; from kites to tails; from tents to banners; from windsails to blowpipes (yes blowpipes the darts have George Peters flights). The ideal festival also needs Peter Lynn - if only to close the show - or bring down the kites.

An idea. Many kitefliers buy magazines to look at home for new kites. The problem is that since many of the best recent designs are produced commercially plans don't get reproduced. What about the Kiteflier asking for plans to result in the definitive version e.g. best Cody plan, best Conyne Plan etc. If definitive dimensions were established then a kite made to the spec would be a good example for a 'kite pageant' as at Blackheath this year.

Another idea. Could we start to think of class competitions for kites - as they have in sailing. So we could have a sprint for say deltas 4' - 6'. We can still have an open sprint so that Stafford can win it with his paper kites. We can do it for big deltas and also for Roks. (Come to think of it this might make a good warm up competition before a fight). There are kitefliers who take great care in tuning a kite to fly well - they're not great on sewing or patterns but they might fancy getting their 4' - 6' deltas ready for a sprint. It should at least guarantee howling gales next summer.

From Cathy Excell

I would like to thank everyone at the Bristol Kite Festival at Ashton Court on the 15th September 1991, who assisted us when my son was knocked down by a car on the Sunday morning. From the moment of the accident, Stu Scorgie - a paramedic - was there seeing to Thomas along with St. Johns Ambulance who took us to hospital.

I am more than delighted to say that Thomas is well and due to the quick acting of all concerned to keep him calm, on what seemed the end of the world, he seems more proud than upset by the accident.

My special thanks once again to Stu Scorgie and the St Johns Ambulance crew, and all the people 'behind the scenes' who I could not thank in person.

WEYMOUTH KITE FESTIVAL

The 2nd International Weymouth Beach Kite Festival will this year be over two days Sunday 3rd and Monday 4th May. The location will once again be Weymouth beach with separate arenas for displays and a general flying area. International kitefliers have been invited to attend and it is hoped to have Doug Hagaman and Don Mock from USA, a Malaysian team as well as kitefliers from Europe.

Prior to the event an exhibition of kites will take place somewhere in Weymouth - probably the Pavilion Complex.

The proposed programme is as follows:-

Saturday 2nd May there will be a pre festival Civic evening in the Ocean Room, Weymouth Pavilion, where the Mayor of Weymouth will welcome all the kitefliers. Followed by a social evening where a selection of basket meals will be available. There will also be a pay bar until 12.30am. During the evening there will be a kite slide show, but the main idea is for it to be an time when kitefliers can just get together to socialize.

Basket meals available are:-

Sausage and Chips £2.15.
Plaice and Chips £3.60.
Breaded Scampi and Chip £3.75.
Vegetable Grills £2.15.
Quiche Lorraine, Salad and Chips £2.95.
Chicken Cordon Bleu £3.75.

All served with a salad garnish.

PLEASE NOTE if you wish to book for the meal, bookings should be made directly with Weymouth Council Leisure department on 0305 783225. Payment in advance will be required. Bookings will be taken until Friday 24th April. Please quote the Weymouth Kite Festival when booking meals.

Sunday 3rd May; opening of the kite festival. Programme to include all the usual mix of kite displays, plus some record attempts, including the most numerous teddy bear drop and a kite traction speed record. Competitions include the altitude sprint and a rather special Rokkaku Challenge - a charity challenge - the idea is to have betting booths set up along the prom where for a small payment (which will go to charity) members of the public can "bet" on the rokkaku team they think will win. If they are successful they will receive a small prize, like a packet of sweets for example, and their winning ticket will be put into a hat. At the end of the day tickets will be drawn for grand prizes such as kites.

This does mean that rokkaku teams will have to wear identifying garments although we do think racing silks might be going to far, but there is talk of a parade ring and handicapping So start practising now!

WEYMOUTH KITE FESTIVAL

On Sunday evening there will once again be an Entertainment show in the Pavilion Theatre, offered free of charge to interested kitefliers. This year we have managed to persuade them not to have the Yetties so instead there will be Mr Hugh Lennon and his Hypnotist show which we understand played to full houses during the summer season! After the show there will be a fireworks display and illuminated night kite flying.

The festival will continue on the Monday following the same format as Sunday.

This year accommodation in Weymouth will be available from a new "Pik 'n' Mix" event and accommodation hotline. Anyone wanting to attend the festival should ring 0305 765255 where a member of staff will complete a callers enquiry sheet and send an information pack. Reservations can be made on this number and includes all classes of accommodation, caravan, camping, hotels and B&B's etc.

Kiteflyers car parking will be the same as last year. Reserved parking, with car pass will be at the Pavilion Car Park.

The Kite Society are once again coordinating:-

Car Passes, please use form below.

Theatre Tickets, please use form below.

Trading, please contact the Kite Society for details

BUT NOT meal on the Saturday (for which you should contact Weymouth directly).

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE KITE SOCIETY, 31 GRANGE ROAD, ILFORD, ESSEX, IG1 1EU BEFORE 15TH APRIL.

Name _____

Address _____

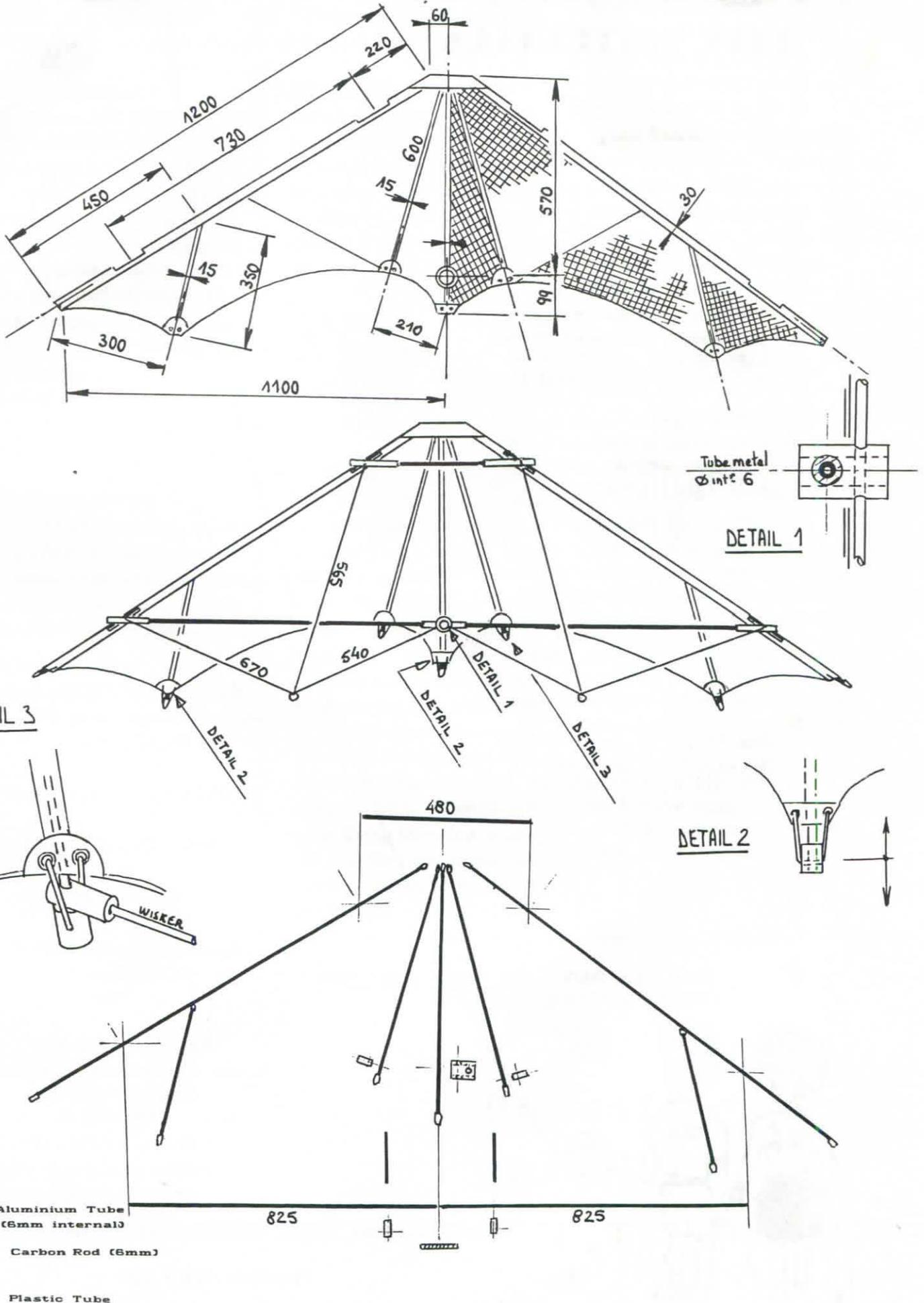
Car Passes Required _____

Theatre Tickets Required _____

Please enclose a stamped self addressed envelope.

THE RADIDO

This kite plan was taken from the French Kan Kite Magazine, where it states that this plan is for individual use only, i.e. not for commercial use.



KITEABILITY

HANDMADE KITES AND KITE MATERIALS

The turkey stew is finished,
The house is dry of drink,
Time to put your hats on
and have a jolly good think.

A New Year is upon us,
With lots of things to do,
You must obtain and check out
KITEABILITY'S list for '92'

In spring a flyers fancy
looks forward to a year
when the dark evenings creations
will eventually appear.

Dazzling colours of ripstop
sculptured for the sky
and other goodies listed
for you to come and buy.

One thing is remaining
so all be of good cheer,
for all at KITEABILITY
To wish you 'A HAPPY NEW YEAR'

P.S.

AVAILABLE SOON! THE KITEABILITY PIN.



2, Garfield Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 4RP Tel: 081-804 9080

Proprietor : Mrs. P. Dell

SPORTS KITE INSURANCE

It has taken some time to come, but most recognise that liability insurance is well overdue, as more and more kites take to the skies.

The Kite Company has negotiated a simple but effective insurance package, available through all good retailers, for anyone wanting to go out and fly, with peace of mind of a £500,000 Third party cover behind them.

The insurance policy is personal to the insured, that is, an individual can fly any sports kite in their bag.

FREE insurance is available on all kites distributed by The Kite Company (Retail over £50). These include:

HIGHFLYERS
TOP OF THE LINE
CHECKMATE
KITE INNOVATIONS
PEREGRINE

FLEXIFOIL
(Through Windsurf shops only)

QUARTET
SPYRO-JET
CYBORG

For further information and a list of retailers offering insurance and stocking our kites contact The Kite Company on:

Tel: 0275 892982 Fax: 0275 838900.

Unit 119, Central Park Business Estate, Petherton Road, Bristol BS14 9BZ.

GET SAFE - GET INSURED

THINKING OF TEAM FLYING TALK TO THE EXPERTS

The Kite Company with selected retailers is offering a comprehensive Team Support Programme in 1992 including Training with Paul Jobin and tailor made team sets (Kites & full accessories). Contact Paul Jobin at The Kite Company for further information on 0275 892982.

PIN PRATTS' PAGE

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>COLOUR</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Bristol Kite Festival 1989	200		August 89
Bristol Kite Festival 1990	200		August 90
Bristol Kite Festival 1991	300		Sept. 91
Martin Lester Legs	200	Red	Sept. 90
Martin Lester Legs	300	Blue	Sept. 91
Martin Lester Natalie Legs	200		Sept. 91
Kite Store Lite Flite	250	Lt Blue	August 90
Kite Store Lite Flite	100	Dk Blue	August 91
Kite Store Lite Flite Heavy	150		August 91
Kite Store Invitational Stunt	122		Sept. 91
Competition Bristol 1991			
Kite Store 10th Anniversary	102		Sept. 86
Kite Store 15th Anniversary	104		Sept. 91
World Cup Badge 1991	500		Sept. 91
Kite Society Badge	200		March 91
Kite Society Badge	300		August 91
Gill Bloom - "Sky Blooms"	200		Sept. 91
Katie Penguin Kiteflier *	-		1986
Kite Rally *	-		1981

* Katie Penguin Kiteflier was produced by Penguin Biscuits - you collected wrappers from the bars and sent off for the badge.

* Kite Rally badge. I have no information on this one except that it was either a bicycle or motorbike rally. Any information would be appreciated.

THE U.S. SCENE

If you are really interested in the U.S. pin scene it might be worth joining the Paint the Sky Kite Pin Collectors Club. But be warned - you do have to be patient - since I joined in August 1991 I have only received one copy of their Newsletter "Pinseeker" plus my Collectors Club badge. The newsletter does contain adverts for quite a number of pins for sale (actually that is nearly all it is!). Also available are "pin saver" replacement backs - these are lightweight plastic thingies that are far more secure than the normal backs of pins. They cost \$4.00 for 100.

Paint the Sky address is 828 N.W. 23rd, Portland, Oregon 97210, USA. \$15.00 should cover the cost of mailing to the U.K.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 1992

Well Kiteability (Pat and Ron Dell) are producing a Kiteability badge. There have also been rumours from Leading Edge and The White Horse Kite Fliers that they will be producing badges as well. The Kite Society will be producing badges for the U.K. Rokkaku Challenge and (possibly) a convention badge.

BADGE MANUFACTURERS

If you are interested in having an enamel badge made the following are companies who have produced most, if not all of the kite badges listed above, but be warned - some of the companies do take a long time so if you want a badge for a special date order early!

Jamy Ltd
17 Roman Way
Godmanchester
Huntingdon
Cambs
PE18 8LN

R.E.V.Gomm Ltd
16 Frederick Street
Birmingham
B1 3HE
Tel. 021 236 0818

Tantra Designs
Gas Ferry Road
Bristol
Avon
BS1 6UN
Tel. 0272 724708

COMPETITION

The Kite Society will be holding a Pin Challenge at the convention at Scunthorpe. Because most collectors are likely to only have a small number of badges the challenge will be based on the best display. This will be an ideal opportunity for swapping and exchanging to enhance your collection (at a push you might be able to buy!) and there will be a special badge prize for the winner.

(Please note - certain collectors, like myself, Andy King, Martin Lester and anyone else I think has had an unfair advantage will not be allowed to enter but will have to judge but are invited to come along and display their collections). So see you there!

The Pin Pratt, 31 Grange Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1EU.

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Was £90
Was £199
Was £155
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Now £69
Now £149
Now £129
Now £12.95
Now £44.95

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One only
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One only

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and kite-making materials ready for the
1992 season.



657 Watford Way, Mill Hill,
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Open 10am to 6pm Mon - Sat
Closed Tuesdays until Spring

VISA



I LEARNED ABOUT KITE FLYING FROM THAT - A CAUTIONARY TALE

In the RAF there was a flight safety magazine that had a regular feature titled "I learned about flying from that". Though kite flying tends to be less technical, there are parallels with aircraft.

We are all guilty of lapses of concentration, so this tale admittedly told through a third party is a good warning.

Do not get the impression that I am anti stunt kites, I am not. Stunt kites are the reason why kite flying has become so popular. This incident could have happened flying any kite.

This man went out to fly his new stunt kite in a field, but the farmer moved him on because the noise was disturbing the cows. So off he went to another site and launched his kite straight up into the 11,000 volt power cables that he was standing directly underneath!

The carbon fibre spars broke in half when they shorted and acted like fuses. The nylon melted onto what was left of the spars with the immense heat that had been produced.

The fact that this man lived is truly amazing, for it was raining at the time!

It is certain that this man has learned about kiteflying from his experience, though he may have been put off kites for life.

The rules are :-

Always keep away from power cables, half a mile should be enough providing the wind is coming from their direction.

Clues as to where power lines (cables) are:-

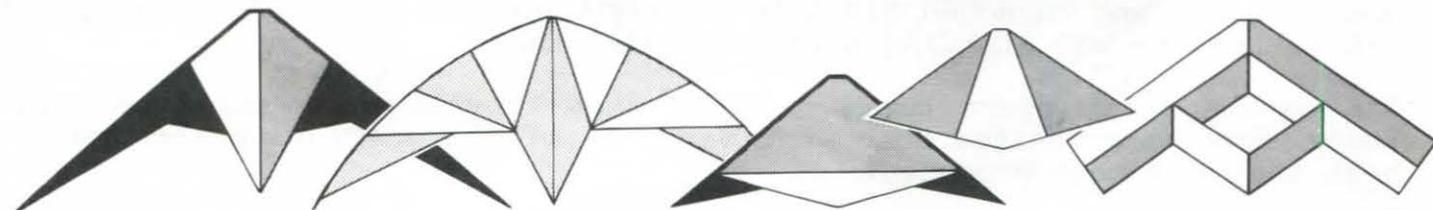
1. In the countryside a lone building usually has overhead cables somewhere near it.
2. Railways often have 25,000 volt cables.
3. Roads have often got power lines alongside.
4. Transformers are often stuck in the middle of nowhere.
5. Look above you.

If despite taking all reasonable precautions you still manage to snag your kite on power cables or associated equipment never ever try to recover it yourself. Always telephone the electric company or the railway, they seem not to prosecute, but they are rather vocal.

Never ever abandon your kite - it is a temptation to children.

DOUG JONES

BUZZ DESIGNS · BUZZ DE
GNS BUZZ DESIGNS · BUZZ
? DESIGNS · BUZZ DESIGN.



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0457 - 835432

BRITISH GAS KITEFLY '92

(The following is a press release sent out to all members of the ISRT - International Spinal Research Trust - giving details of the British Gas Kitefly '92 event taking place on Easter Monday 20th April. This event could be extremely good and we would ask that all of our members consider attending one of the events. If you would like to help the local organisers then please get in touch with them.)

British Gas Kitefly '92 promises to be a memorable finale to ISRT's 10th Anniversary year.

Thousands of people are being asked to fly their kites in aid of Spinal Research next Easter Monday. It is truly a national event, with five major venues already booked and plans to stage local kiteflys.

Run in conjunction with the Kite Society of Great Britain, each of the major kitefly venues will offer many visual treats, stunt kites and side shows to ensure an unusual and enjoyable day for all.

THE EVENT - British Gas are our generous sponsors for Kitefly '92 and participators will be able to pick up entry forms at any of the 670 Gas Showrooms nationwide. Anyone can take part - young or old, disabled or able bodied.

Special kite packs will be provided with easy to fly starter kites (tested and approved by ISRT members!). All the participants have to do is find sponsors and fly their kites on the day. Schools, scouts, youth clubs, and corporate entries are also being encouraged, with specially prepared kits to help them build their own individual and unique kites for the event.

We are also looking forward to lots of TV coverage, commencing January 1992.

Hopefully British Gas Kitefly '92 will be such a soaring success it will become an annual event. This years target is £1 million towards our research projects.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! - We are looking for Kite Society volunteers to work with the both the event organisers and the ISRT at each of these five locations.

Glasgow, Strathclyde Park. Sandy Maxwell 041 334 9503.

Manchester, Heaton Park. Ron Ogden 061 682 9308.

Bristol, Ashton Court. Martin Baker 0272 745010.

Birmingham, Cofton Park. Alan Gilbert 0533 891074.

London, Blackheath. Tony Cartwright 081 808 1280.

If you are interested please contact the local organiser to offer your help. Even if you can't help run the event please give your support by attending your nearest event and filling the sky with kites.

KITE SOCIETY CONVENTION 1992

The 1992 Kite Society Convention will be held on Saturday 23rd May at the Baths Hall, Scunthorpe, and is followed, on Sunday 24th and Monday 25th of May by The Kite Society International Kite Festival at Ashby Ville Playing Fields, Queens Way, Scunthorpe.

Scunthorpe is situated on the east coast about 20 miles south of Hull. Road access is good M1/M62 - M18 and the festival site is just 2 miles from the M181 motorway exit. There are also good rail links via Doncaster.

Pre-event activities include:-

4th April to 30th May - Sky Delights. An exhibition of work by leading British kitemakers at Scunthorpe Borough Museum and Art Gallery, Oswald Road, Scunthorpe. Admission free.

Kite Making Master Classes; 25th - 26th April 10.00am - 4.00pm Paul Morgan - Rokkaku building and trimming; 16th - 17th May 10.00am - 4.00pm Carole Peacock - Applique and decoration techniques.

Each class will cost £12 per person, which will cover materials and a packed lunch on both days. Participants are required to bring their own sewing machine.

Kite making Workshops (Novice Kitemakers); 6th May 10.00am - 4.00pm Tony Slater - Building and Flying a fighter kite; 13th May 10.00am - 4.00pm Jim Rowlands - Beyond the two stick sled - simple workshop kites. Classes will cost £3 which will cover materials.

Kite making Workshops (children). 5th April and 3rd May 2.00pm - 4.00pm. Workshop leader Stuart Beardwood.

All of the above will be held at the Scunthorpe Borough Museum and Art Gallery.

Both the exhibition and workshops are presented in conjunction with Scunthorpe Borough Council.

Provisional booking for the work shops is available now. No money will be required until nearer the date. Contact Jim Rowlands, 50 Old Brumby Street, Scunthorpe, DN16 2AN. Tel no 0724 859118.

The Convention is to be held at Baths Hall, Doncaster Road, Scunthorpe and as the name suggest the hall was originally designed as a swimming pool! However, the venue has three large halls and the convention will have its usual selection of Workshops and Lectures as well as The Kite Market where lots of interesting goodies can be purchased. There will a cash bar and snack/refreshment facilities for lunch. We are still working on the programme, but included will be Jim Rowlands doing kite workshops, Paul Morgan doing a Rokkaku workshop/forum where any interested rokkaku flyers are invited to come along and swop ideas and information. A stunt kite

KITE SOCIETY CONVENTION 1992

workshop, techniques of making and flying them, and half an hour set aside for a sort of general meeting where you the members are invited to throw questions at us and just generally discuss where the Kite Society is going.

Plus there will be a number of other talks etc when we can persuade a few more people! Plus we hope to have a kite pin exhibition with a pin challenge at the Dinner.

The Kite Society Annual Dinner will be in the evening of Saturday 23rd at the Bath halls commencing at 8.00pm. Proposed menu for the meal is: Choice of starter - Egg Mayonnaise or Melon Boats; Buffet of selection of cold meats, quiches, coleslaws and salads served with jacket potatoes and freshly baked rolls with butter; a choice of fresh fruit salad or gateaux; Coffee and mints. Cost for this will £10.00 per person £5.00 for children. Tickets for the meal are available from The Kite Society. Closing date 10th May.

There will also be a pay bar available. After the meal there will be the Kite Society Auction for which donations are always welcome and needed.

The Kite Society Kite Festival flying site is one of the best new sites we have seen for some time the Ashby Ville Playing Fields is made up of 70 acres of flat grass surrounded by a further 70 - 100 acres of rough land. There will be ample car parking and limited free camping will be available on site. There is a wide range of accommodation available within easy reach of both the convention and flying sites. An information pack is available, containing an accommodation guide, a map and some brief guides of the area. These are available from Jim Rowlands, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

The Festival promises to have the usual mix of displays and activities including a round of the UK Rokkaku Challenge. Trade stands will be available and if you are interested details can be obtained from the Kite Society.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN, WITH ANY PAYMENT, TO THE KITE SOCIETY, 31 GRANGE ROAD, ILFORD, ESSEX, IG1 1EU. CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO "THE KITE SOCIETY CONVENTION".

Name. _____

Address _____

Meal Tickets required: Adult ____ Child ____ Total payment _____

Auction Items _____

I will bring / send above items. (Delete as applicable).

Dimmer
Castle Cary
Somerset
BA7 7NR

Tel: 0963 51482
Fax: 0963 50461



The Kite & Buggy Co., are pleased to announce their appointment as U.K. agents for:-
Peter Lynn's Peels and Buggies.

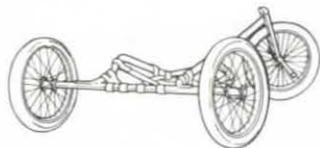
PEEL Power Kites



(High aspect ratio soft stunters). Developed (using our unique cross bridle system) for kite traction (stunt buggy, water skiing, kite sailing). If you want to win at stunt buggy racing these are the kites; their prime characteristic is to provide more pull at the edges without being too powerful in the middle. Totally soft (for safety and easy packing, quick deployment), "Peels" are also just plain fun kites to fly (great wing tip drags!). Look at the incredible Wind Range: 5 kn/hr (360's are possible!) to 60 km/hr (but can you hang on - please take care!).

3.6 m span 2.5 m ² wing area	£195.00
5.0 m span 5m ² wing area	£295.00

STUNT BUGGY Mark V



This is a new sport! Great on beaches (hard sand) and grass areas. Speeds to 70 km/hr so far and more to come. Not just for cross and down wind courses, Stunt Buggies are competitive with land surfers and land yachts on up wind courses. Race with other Stunt Buggies (ask us for tentative racing rules). Stainless steel construction, packed dimensions 0.85 m x 0.45 m x 0.15 m (unbolted), 9 kg. Use our especially developed "Peel" soft stunters or other suitable two or four line kites or stacks.

£375.00

All enquiries by post please, until my return in the spring.

Beware Kiteing can change your life.

TRADE NEWS

New is Street Kite run by Tim Gibson. Tim has produced a small range of new kites that are unique and individual. Although the range is small Tim promises some more new designs for the Summer. Most kites are bats, birds or insects and he also does a small range of traditional kites. Most of the designs have been based on Japanese or Chinese designs but using modern materials. Prices range from £7.50 to £39.00. For further information and catalogue contact Street Kite, 2nd Floor, 53 Ratcliffe Terrace, Edinburgh EH9 1SU (tel 031 668 1285).

Hifliers Kites, who used to trade from 6 The Wynd Arcade, have changed their name to Kiteways and have moved to 13 The Wynd Arcade - larger premises. Telephone and fax remain the same at 0462 684207.

The Leading Edge company now have a "New" manufacturing company called Fizz Sport Kites. Consisting of Tim Benson, Martin and Carole Thomas (although Benson Kites and Leading Edge will continue as separate entities) the new company is producing a range of high quality sport kites including the original Benson Phantom and Swallowtail and the Buzz designs High Profile.

Leading Edge also produce one of the most comprehensive kite supply catalogue from an English company. Fully illustrated, it is ideal for browsing and is educational as well. Leading Edge, 14 Rose Farm Rise, Altofts, Normanton, West Yorkshire WF6 2PL. Fax and tel 0924 897950.

Essex can now boast its very own 100% kite shop. Whaam! Kites, 152 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0LD tel 0245 495250. Run by Geoff Oval and Simon Nosworthy. Simon writes-we offer friendly expert advice to would be kite fliers. We will be setting up a club for stunt kitefliers in the new year and would be grateful to hear from anyone interested in joining or helping with the running of the club. We are also a contact point for team Merlin who are available for team display at shows, fairs, fetes etc. Simon and Geoff are both keen kitefliers and wish to promote kiteflying as a sport and leisure activity that is open to all, and also we hope to make lots and lots of money.....

Another new kite business is Hikites, 6 Riverside Grove, Wistaston, Crewe, Cheshire CW2 8QF. Tel 0270 67345. This is a mail order company run by Alan Webb who is offering a 10% discount to KSGB members and a free kite on club/friends orders, over a certain value. His aim is to promote kiting to all, at reasonable prices, being a kiteflier first and a business second.

A new kite shop - Airborne Kites will be opening in Newcastle in January. The shop will stock the usual range of single and sports kites, offering a 5% discount to Kite Society members. Run by Paul Webster, Airborne kites can be found at 18A Stratford Road, Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 5PB tel 091 224 2472.

In the last trade directory High as a Kite, 153 Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16 0UH had the wrong telephone number the correct number is 071 275 8799. Also Jeremy is now offering KSGB members 10% discount.

KITE SOCIETY TRADE DIRECTORY

Here is the first update to The Kite Society Trade Directory. The traders listed here are either new shops or have submitted changes to the previous listing.

This list is presented in Alphabetical order and not, as in the main directory, in county order.

Air Born Kites
97 Trafalgar Street
Brighton
Sussex
BN1 4ER
Telephone: 0273 676740

STOCK	FACILITIES	Kite Society Member Discount
A : yes	G : yes	
B : yes	H : yes	Cash: % Credit Card: %
C :	I :	
D : yes	J :	
E : yes	K :	
F :	L :	

Airborne Kites
18A Stratford Road
Heaton
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE6 5PB
Telephone: 091 224 2472

STOCK	FACILITIES	Kite Society Member Discount
A : yes	G :	
B :	H :	Cash: 5% Credit Card: %
C :	I :	
D :	J :	
E :	K :	
F :	L :	

Opened in January 1992.

Air-Crafts
47 Park Road
Hartwell
Northamptonshire
NN7 2HP
Telephone: 0604 863571

Hikites
6 Riverside Grove
Wistaston
Crewe
Cheshire
CW2 8QF
Telephone: 0270 67345

STOCK	FACILITIES	Kite Society Member Discount
A : yes	G : yes	
B : yes	H : yes	Cash: 10% Credit Card: %
C :	I : yes	
D :	J : yes	
E : yes	K :	
F :	L :	

Hikites of Cheshire is a mail order company specialising in our own single line kites and most major types of stunt kites at the lowest possible prices.

Leeds Kites
22 Eden Crescent
Leeds
Yorkshire
LS4 2TW
Telephone: 0532 789727

STOCK	FACILITIES	Kite Society Member Discount
A : yes	G : yes	
B :	H : yes	Cash: 5% Credit Card: %
C :	I : yes	
D : yes	J : yes	
E : yes	K : yes	
F : yes	L : yes	

Discount on "Leeds Kites" brand only & ripstop. Colourful quality handcrafted kites. Also stoneware Cups and Brooches (1991 prices maintained where possible)

The Kite Company Ltd.
Unit 119, First Avenue
Central Park Business
Bristol
Petherton Road, Hengrove
Avon
BS14 9BZ
Telephone: 0275 892982 Fax: 0275 838900

9 - 6 Mon - Fri. 24H fax.
Wholesale distribution only.

STOCK	FACILITIES	Kite Society Member Discount
A :	G :	
B : yes	H :	Cash: % Credit Card: %
C :	I : yes	
D :	J : yes	
E : yes	K :	
F :	L : yes	

Materials - Possibly ripstop.

Teams and sponsored printed kites. Wholesale, promotional and display teams.

Street Kite
2nd Floor
53 Ratcliffe Terrace
Edinburgh
EH9 1SU
Telephone: 031 668 1285

STOCK	FACILITIES	Kite Society Member Discount
A : yes	G : yes	
B :	H : yes	Cash: % Credit Card: %
C :	I : yes	
D :	J :	
E :	K : yes	
F :	L : yes	

The Mail Order Kite Company
P O Box 88
Portsmouth
Cosham
Hampshire
PO6 4PR
Telephone: 0705 374801

Mon - Sat 9.00 am till 6.00pm and 24 hour answerphone.

STOCK	FACILITIES	Kite Society Member Discount
A : yes	G : yes	
B :	H : yes	Cash: 5% Credit Card: %
C :	I : yes	
D :	J : yes	
E : yes	K : yes	
F : yes	L : yes	

We run a kite exchange and swop shop service.

We also run a local club, called the Portsmouth Power Flyers. A discount is available of 10% for all members. Application form from above address.

Whaam! Kites
152 Moulsham Street
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0LD

Telephone: 0245 495250

Monday to Saturday 09.30 - 18.00
Wednesday normally closed - phone first.

STOCK	FACILITIES	Kite Society Member Discount
A : yes	G :	
B :	H : yes	Cash: 5% Credit Card: %
C :	I : yes	
D : yes	J :	
E : yes	K : yes	
F : yes	L : yes	

Plus - Aerobics, frisbees, boomerangs, juggling balls

Proprietors Geoff Oval and Simon Nosworthy. Expert advice regular try before you buy fly ins, kite workshops and team displays.

Windthings
11 Cowgatehead
Grass Market
Edinburgh
Scotland
EH1 1JY

Telephone: 031 220 6336 Fax: 031 220 6336

Monday- Saturday 10am to 5.30pm (open Sundays during the festival and in December)

STOCK	FACILITIES	Kite Society Member Discount
A : yes	G : yes	
B :	H : yes	Cash: % Credit Card: %
C :	I : yes	
D : yes	J : yes	
E : yes	K : yes	
F : yes	L : yes	

Plus - Boomerangs, frisbees, juggling equipment, Dare Bear etc etc

Strong on 'ethnic' kites: kites from China (silk and paper) Bali, Thailand, India, Bangladesh

Worlds Apart
516 Wandsworth Road
Clapham
London
SW8 3JT

Telephone: 071 622 0171 Fax: 071 622 7975

Monday - Friday 9am - 6pm

STOCK	FACILITIES	Kite Society Member Discount
A : yes	G :	
B : yes	H :	Cash: % Credit Card: %
C : yes	I : yes	
D :	J :	
E :	K :	
F :	L :	

Worlds Apart are Britains largest kite manufacturer

A:General Mixture of Kites B:Mainly Sports Kites C:Mainly Single line Kites
D:Books/Magazines E:Kite Making Materials F:Workshop Supplies G:Mail Order
H:Festival Trading I:Catalogue Available J:Wholesale K:Workshops L:Displays

Ripstop A small quantity remaining of Br. Green and Flo Yellow Carrington Novare High Performance fabric (not seconds) £3.70 per metre post free.

Hotknife If anyone is seriously interested in an Engel (German) 75 watt trigger operated hotknife complete with two alternate blades, I can obtain a few at below trade price. They are expensive but excellent.

Contact R Swann, 10 Forest Road, West Moors, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 0EU. (Callers by appointment).

Rare-Air "Flash Rat" - Fluorescent Orange and Fluorescent Green - Excellent condition - £45.

Rare-Air King Cheetah C74 (one set of battens and two sets of stand-offs) - Pink and Blue - Excellent condition - £50.

Speedwing 5 panel - Black and Yellow - £20.

Rick Pattison "Asilomar" stunt kite (Similar flying to the Phantom) - Pink, Yellow and Blue - 2 small patches, otherwise good condition - £40.

Please phone (0272) 616343 Monday to Thursday after 6pm and ask for Nigel.

Mega Delta (12 foot)	£25.
Large Delta	£5.
Moon Dart	£30.
Stunt Pup	£10

All as new.

Phone Pete 985 5894.

IF YOU WANT TO ADVERTISE IN THIS COLUMN IT IS FREE AND WE JUST NEED TO HAVE YOUR COPY WITH US BY THE 15TH MARCH FOR THE APRIL ISSUE.



ADD ON PACKS AVAILABLE

Manufactured and distributed by RSM Leisure Company
35 Burley Grove, Downend, Bristol BS16 5QB, Great Britain.
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Kite Workshops and the Children Act

Those with an eye on the news, particularly around the end of October 1991 may remember one or two items concerning a new piece of legislation - The Children Act. Most of it concerns legal procedures and the rights of children, their parents and the social care network, but tucked in at the back is the notorious Paragraph 71 which is already causing havoc, amongst children's day care centres, local authority leisure services and which kitemakers involved with the presentation of workshops just may fall foul.

Most of para 71 concerns children aged under eight and is designed to protect them against abuse or neglect. It not only covers child minders and day care centres but any activity which children attend or are likely to attend. In essence it requires that if the activity being organised which involves children under eight and the building in which it is held is used for such activities for six or more times per year, and the activity last two hours or more then :-

Kitefliers presenting workshops just may fall foul of the new Children Act

or other responsible adult is your legal responsibility. You are responsible for all aspects of their care and safety.

It is in your interests to ensure that the premises in which the activity is taking place are registered, that you and the organisation for whom you are working

are aware of their responsibilities under the Children Act. You should also ensure that there is sufficient supervision for the children, a ratio of eight children per supervisor would seem to be the recommended level.

- The premises in which the activity takes place must be registered with the local authority; They will want to know about safety, fire exits, toilets and washing facilities and they will impose a restriction on the maximum number of child who may attend.
- A register, including the names and address of the children must be kept. This will be used to contact parents in the case of an emergency and should also contain details of children suffering particular allergies or illnesses for example epilepsy
- All persons coming in contact with the children must have police authority to do so. This is designed to ensure that persons having criminal convictions involving children are not allowed to have further unsupervised contact.

One simple answer to this particular piece of legislation is to restrict attendance to children aged eight or more unless they are accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. This, sadly is the option which many local authorities are taking, which will obviously restrict attendance but it is a realistic and practical option.

Additional Reading

Children Act 1989
London HMSO 1989

Department of Health
Children Act : Guidance and Regulations
Vol 2 Family support, day care and educational provision for young children
HMSO 1991

Payne G
The Children Act 1989 and its effects on mobile projects working with children under eight
BUSFAYRE 1990

The only exception would appear to be outdoor events such as- cub, brownie and beaver summer camps, although this is as yet a very hazy area.

Local authorities are more than well aware of their responsibilities under this act and if you are working for a library or museum services your only responsibility will be to complete a standard form requesting your name and address, any previous addresses, and on which you must declare any convictions for any offences involving children. However having completed this form you are not allowed to send a substitute, nor are you allowed to bring anyone else as your assistant unless they also have police authorisation.

If you need any further help or guidance your local authority should be able to offer advice otherwise you can contact

National Play and Recreation Unit
359-361 Euston Road
London NW1 3AL

Jim Rowlands

If you are working with other organisations, or are presenting the workshop yourself - this for example will apply to retailers who offer a programme of workshops - then you must be more careful. You must be sure that you can provide the level of supervision required. Any child under eight attending the workshop and not under the supervision of a parent

KITE SOCIETY - GROUP DIRECTORY

This is our second Group Directory. This information has been supplied to us as a result of a questionnaire that we sent to all groups known to us. As with the Trade directory we will be issuing updates as needed. If your group is not listed either no form was returned (the normal situation) or the Great Post Office has done it again!

In this directory where a code is not shown then no answer was given on the form. The other main point is the workshops answer. The question was whether members would be available to do workshops during the working week.

Alcester Kite Fliers
Fred Taplin
20 Henley Street
Alcester
Warwickshire
B49 5QY

0789 762350

A: Alcester Rugby Club 3rd Sunday each month. Tewkesbury Festival (Week 24 every year) we hope!

B: Worcester Countryside Centre, Easter Monday.

C: 8.00 D: 5.00 E: 10.00 F: Included

G: Receive The Kiteflier as part of subscription.

H: Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire

I: Afternoon Only. Within the Gloucestershire area. Some demonstrations within the area.

J: We are a small group. We make our own kites and fly them. We enjoy our flying, with a light hearted outlook to the hobby and so welcome all new comers. We also try and support as many events as possible organised by other groups.

Avon Kite Flyers
R A Wright
35 Burley Grove
Downend
Bristol
BS16 5QB

0272 571089

A: Fly-ins 1st and 3rd week of each month. Organisers of One Sky One World in Avon More in discussion for 1992.

B: Still in Discussion

C: 5.00 E: 7.00 F: Included

G: Regular Newsletter

H: South West

I: Yes given notice.

Black Country Kitefliers
26 Springfield Road
Brierley Hill
West Midlands
DY5 3RD

262732

A: Highgate Common on Sundays from 1.00pm till dark.

G: Free membership. This is purely kite flying for the love of the sport.

H: Midlands West

I: Yes

J: Open for invitations from other kite groups.

Brighton Kite Flyers
Ray Oakhill
Spindrifft
6 Hartfield Road
Saltdean
Sussex
BN2 8RE

0273 306842

A: Brighton Kite Festival in May each year. Fly-in 1st Sunday of month Hollingbury, Brighton, 3rd Sunday of month Telscombe Tye, Saltdean.

B: Brighton Kite Festival 16th, 17th May.

C: 8.00 F: 5.00

G: Includes full membership of The Kite Society.

H: South Downs - East and West Sussex.

I: Yes - weekends only except in school holidays.

J: Members organise kite making workshops for themselves and for the public.

Chiltern Kite Group
Roger Lawton
Karensa
3 The Dell
Stockenchurch
Bucks
HP14 3SD

0494 482743

A: Fly-in 3rd Sunday every month alternating between Pinkneys Green, Maidenhead and Maidensgrove Common, Near Henley.

E: 4.00 F: Included

G: Membership per household per year. Newsletter.

H: Bucks, Berks and Oxon centring on the Chilterns.

I: Yes

J: The group was formed with 5 members, this has now grown to approximately 100 households. All are welcome at the regular fly-ins.

A: Regular Events B: Special Events C: Adult Rate D: Child Rate E: Family Rate F: Insurance G: Benefits H: Area I: Workshops J: Comments

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KITE SOCIETY - GROUP DIRECTORY

Clyde Kites
Sandy Maxwell
Top Flat Right
69 Hyndland Street
Partick
Glasgow
Scotland
G11 5PS

041 334 9503

A: List of sessions in regular mailings. We hope to run a series of one day (Sunday) mini kite festivals at Strathclyde Park next summer.

B: British Gas Kite Fly 1992 - Easter Monday

C: 4.00 D: 2.00

H: Strathclyde - Central Scotland.

I: Possible

Devon Kite Friends
J M Skinner
12 Oak Road
Bishopsmead
Tavistock
Devon
PL19 9EZ

0822 616196

A: Fly-ins on 2nd Sunday of the month at Pork Hill West Devon. Also fly-ins on the 4th Sunday on other sites.

B: None as yet.

C: 1.00

H: Devon, Cornwall, Somerset.

J: Just a small group enjoying themselves.

Duchy Kite Fliers
5 Pondhu Crescent
St Austell
Cornwall
PL25 5DT

0726 67954

A: We meet formally every first Thursday in the month and informally every Thursday evening and Sunday afternoon.

B: No exact date yet but an event during July for the local "White Gold" festival.

C: 10.00 D: 5.00 E: 20.00 F: Included

G: 10% discount at local kite shop also social membership of St Austell Rugby Club (Bar, grounds, toilets, events, floodlights in winter).

H: Mainly East Cornwall but all welcome.

I: Yes but mainly weekends

Eastbourne Kite Club
40 Peppercombe Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN20 8JN

25064

A: Fly-ins held every 2nd Sunday of the month at Beachy Head.

B: None as yet.

C: 5.00

G: 10% discount at 2XS. Bi-monthly News Letter

H: East Sussex

I: Tuition and Demonstrations available in school Holidays and weekends.

J: The Eastbourne Kite Club is the home of the "Wind Shadows" team.

Essex Kite Group
Kathleen Pike (Secretary)
34 Mortimer Road
Rayleigh
Essex
SS6 9NX

0268 780516

C: 1.50 F: Included

G: Two magazines a year. Insurance cover when flying with the group.

H: Essex

I: Yes

J: We now have 106 paid up members.

Great Ouse Kite Flyers
Bob Piron
8 Bowhill
Bedford
MK41 8EF

0234 261835

A: New Years day at Grafham Water. AGM on 1st Sunday in November at St Neots. Other months on 2nd Sunday, various locations. (April and October combined with Old Warden)

B: Exhibition at Peterborough Arts Centre 16-23 May. Ditto in Bedford Central Library 29 June - 11 July. East of England show, Stunt Demos, Static Display, Workshops 21 - 23 July.

C: 6.00 F: Included

G: Public Liability insurance to £500,000 at club meetings. Occasional newsletter and magazine. Sub increasing to £7.00 from

A: Regular Events B: Special Events C: Adult Rate D: Child Rate E:
Family Rate F: Insurance G: Benefits H: Area I: Workshops J:Comments

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KITE SOCIETY - GROUP DIRECTORY

1/10/92

H: Great Ouse Valley (Bedford to Huntingdon) Plus Peterborough

I: Yes

J: Stunt team(s) being formed. Single line fliers still very active.

Hereford Kite Group
Steve Gibson / Peter Metcalf
91 Baysham Street
Hereford
HR4 0EJ

0432 359999

A: Informal meetings at least once a month. Main site Westhope Hill, North of Hereford. Ordnance Survey Ref Map 149 - 497/518

B: Margam Park Kite Festival - June 13th & 14th 1992, near Port Talbot, South Wales

G: No membership charge - Yet!!

H: Mid-West

I: Available for demonstrations only outside working hours.

J: Small in numbers but big in plans.

Highly Strung Kite Club
Graham Holdstock (Hon Sec)
63 Cranleigh Drive
Whitfield
Dover
Kent
CT16 3NW

0304 820623

A: Monthly Fly-ins on first Sunday in the month on Hythe Green, Hythe, Kent

B: No programme for 1992 yet - winter League competition in progress

C: 6.00

G: Newsletter 3 or 4 times per year. Newsheets and competition details as required. League competitions held - fun days, club days

H: South East Kent and beyond

I: Events Secretary Barry James - owns and runs Look Kiteshop and gives demonstrations, lessons on flying - visits schools

J: We are a small (18 members) club but very friendly and have many regular, non - members flying with us. Being only 1 year old we feel that we have been together for years.

Kent Kite Klub
Fiona Addy (Secretary)
95 Seagull Road
Strood
Rochester
Kent
ME2 2QJ

0634 727238

A: Club meets the 3rd Sunday of every month at Tonbridge Recreation Ground

B: Festival in Kent - September. Several small events within the county.

C: 6.00 E: 10.00 F: Included

G: Rent of flying area, newsletter, tuition in all aspects of kite flying and making etc.

H: South East

I: Yes

J: We are extremely friendly and welcoming. We have a nucleus of members interested in all types of kites.

Kites North
Adam Sutherland
20 Durham Place
Barley Mow
Chester-le-street
Co Durham
DH3 2AY

091 410 4723

A: Monthly fly-ins on the first Sunday of every month at Ropery Lane, Chester-le-Street and other venues around the North East. Phone for details.

B: A series of talks and workshops each 2nd Weekend of the month at Washington Arts Centre Feb - May. Autumn programme to be decided. Various kiteflying displays around the area.

G: Group magazine minimum of 6 issues a year.

H: Northumberland, Durham, Cleveland, Tyne & Wear, Cumbria.

I: Yes

J: We are an open friendly active group who welcomes everyone who wishes to share the joys of kiting and encourages the involvement of all its members.

Midland Kite Fliers
26 Evesham Road
Leicester
LE3 2BD

0533 891074

A: Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield 1st Sunday every month. Other fly-ins in the Midlands at various venues will be advertised in the MKF Extra.

B: British Gas Kite Fly 1992. Others to be arranged later in year. Workshops etc.

C: 12.50 D: 7.50 E: 15.00 F: Included

G: Senior Citizen Family - £12.50, Senior Citizen Single £10.00, Unsalariated Single £10.00. 4 issues of The Kiteflier, MKF extra for year, Club directory of members.

A: Regular Events B: Special Events C: Adult Rate D: Child Rate E:
Family Rate F: Insurance G: Benefits H: Area I: Workshops J: Comments
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KITE SOCIETY - GROUP DIRECTORY

H: Midlands (East & West)

I: Membership would need to be canvassed.

Northampton Kite Flyers

Ian Brett - I.C.Kites
12 Willow Close
Spratton

Northampton
NN6 8JH

0604 843374

A: Regular Fly-in - first Sunday of every month 10.00 am to 4.00 pm - Northampton 'Racecourse' - St Georges Avenue, Northampton.

B: The Northampton Hot Air Balloon Festival is on our flying site - so we join in.

G: We encourage membership of The Kite Society and maintain a register of members. We have approx 30 regular people each month.

H: Northamptonshire

I: Yes

J: We all enjoy flying - informal throughout the year. All walks of life.

Northern Kite Group

Ron Ogden (Secretary)
41 Ashfield Drive
Clayton Bridge

Manchester
M10 6WJ

061 682 9308

A: Festival in September. Monthly fly-ins third Sunday in the month.

B: Festival September.

C: 5.00

G: Magazine 4 times a year. Discount at some kite traders. Enquiries being made about insurance.

H: Area South of M62, North of M62 East coast to West Coast

I: Yes to both questions

J: Membership at present 60. Founded November 1978.

Portsmouth Kite Club

David Howe
42 Gladys Avenue
North End

Portsmouth
Hampshire
PO2 9BG

0705 661987

B: Helping with the Portsmouth Kite Festival.

H: 30 mile radius Portsmouth

I: Talks and Kite Workshops for children.

Shropshire Kite Group

Tony Slater (Sec.)
128 Meadow Farm Drive
Harlescott

Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY1 4JY

0743 235068

A: Annual Shrewsbury Kite and Boomerang Festival. Flyings every weekend unless we are at a festival!

B: Lots of local shows for schools, church fetes etc.

G: No fees. Mutual benefit of exchange of ideas. Helping each other. Socialising. Individuals arrange their own insurance. No Magazine required as we keep in close contact with each other.

H: Shropshire and Welsh Borders

I: Yes

J: Founded 1977. Youngest members 15 months. Oldest member 78 years. Owners of the eldest lady stunt team member!

The Vectis Flyers

Vivien Ellis
Charisma

14 Sandown Road
Lake

Sandown
Isle of Wight
PO36 9JP

0983 402871

A: Most Sunday Afternoons at Yaverland (Sandown). Carisbrooke (mid June) organised by Trevor Wadsworth)

B: Not decided apart from One Sky One World and Carisbrooke.

G: No subscription levied as yet (under discussion). Discount from some suppliers. "Flying Doctor" service - kite repairs rebuilding and spares.

H: Isle of Wight

I: Yes

Thorpe Kite Flyers

Kevin Appleton
37 Eastern Avenue

Thorpe St Andrew
Norwich

NR7 0UQ

0603 31964

A: Regular Events B: Special Events C: Adult Rate D: Child Rate E: Family Rate F: Insurance G: Benefits H: Area I: Workshops J:Comments
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KITE SOCIETY - GROUP DIRECTORY

A: Weekly flying on a Sunday Morning. Thorpe Recreation ground, Laundry Lane, Norwich 9.30 - 12.30
B: Great Yarmouth Beach Kite Festival 14th June.
C: 5.00 F: Included
G: Monthly Newsletter
H: Norfolk
I: Yes
J: Friendly informal group of kite flyers. Mixture of free flight and stunters.

White Horse Kite Flyers
David Robinson (secretary)
61 Bridge End Road
Stratton St Margaret
Swindon
Wilts
SN3 4PD

0793 824208

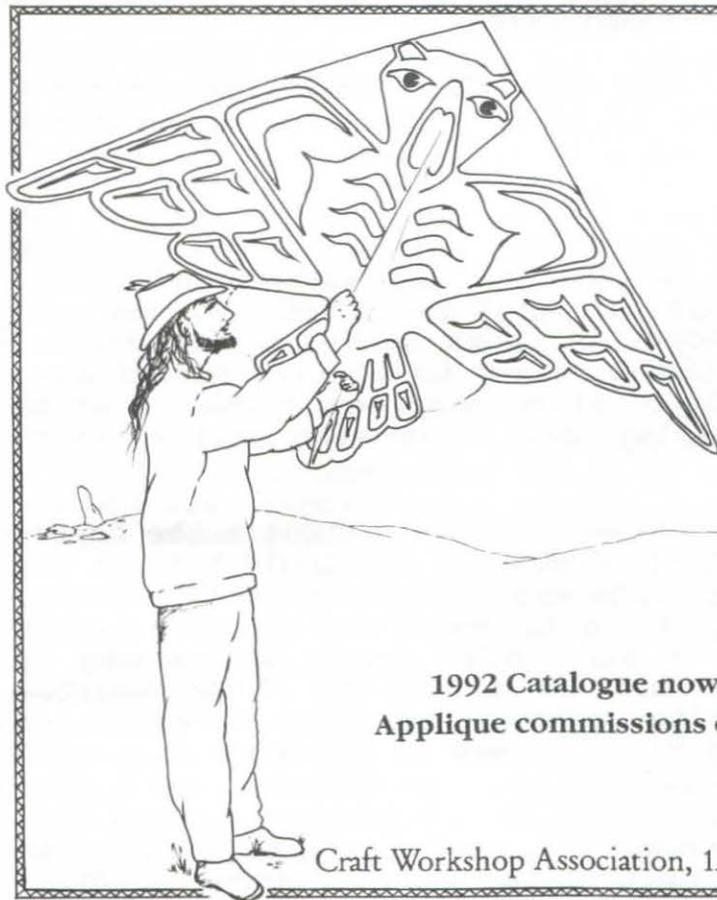
A: Meet 2nd Sunday of each month at Barbury Castle Country Park (on the Ridgeway) Wroughton, Nr Swindon from 9 am to Dusk.
B: Swindon Kite Festival at Lydiard Country Park 9th/10th May 1992, also helping to organise "Berkshire Kite Festival at Greenham Common Airbase 21st June 1992
C: 3.00 E: 3.00 F: Included
G: (November to November) Individual or Family. This includes insurance when flying as a Group and a quarterly newsletter.
H: South West Midlands
J: We are a friendly Group that welcomes kiteflyers of all persuasion - whether novice or experienced. Come and join us!

York Kite Flyers
Anne Hoskins
2 Dewsbury Terrace
York
YO1 1HA

0904 631566

A: Regular monthly fly-in - 1st Sunday
G: Voluntary Subscription
H: North Yorkshire

J: A small but enthusiastic group who are this winter concentrating on making individual and team rokkaku kites to fly at the Scunthorpe Kite Festival in May.




*Flight
Fantastic*
(0392) 221643

Happy 50th Issue to the Kiteflier
and
a very Happy New Year to Everyone
from Chris & Alan

1992 Catalogue now available
Applique commissions our speciality

Craft Workshop Association, 1A, Hamlin Lane, Polsloe Bridge, Exeter EX1 2SA.

A: Regular Events B: Special Events C: Adult Rate D: Child Rate E:
Family Rate F: Insurance G: Benefits H: Area I: Workshops J: Comments
THE KITEFLIER - JANUARY 1992 - PAGE 27

Ask people what they associate Florida with and they will probably say "Disney World, Miami Vice and sunshine!", but if you are a kiteflier you can also add great flying sites and good kite shops - including the ultimate - a shop selling kites open 24 hours a day and with an excellent flying site on the beach just yards away, so if you happen to be in Cocoa Beach visit "Ron Jon Surf Shop" for a good kite selection. Of course all this happened after our main reason for going to Florida - the American Kitefliers Association's Annual Convention being held at Jacksonville, Florida during the first week of October.

Well loaded with kites and hot weather clothing we arrived at Orlando Airport just after 12 midnight one day in October. Whilst attempting to learn the controls of our new (6 miles on the clock) Dodge Van (necessary for those long kite bags!) we didn't really notice the weather except that it had obviously been raining rather hard.

The next morning, while we were watching one of the numerous channels on the TV, we saw that something unusual seemed to be happening with the weather - shots of flooded roads did give a hint and then we heard that Jacksonville had broken the weather records with 6 inches of rain in one day. Still slightly jet lagged we emerged from the air conditioned hotel to be hit by a solid wall of 84 degree one hundred percent humidity, quite a shock, thank goodness for air conditioned cars!

So we made our steady, but excruciatingly slow (the speed limit is a bit low) journey towards Jacksonville. The approach to Downtown (Town Centre to us English) Jacksonville was almost like coming home, with a large commercial centre sited on a large river (St Johns River) making the area look like the City of London. The Marina Hotel, where the convention was being held, was situated in an area equivalent to the London Docklands where money has been spent trying to revitalise a depressed area. It was a shame that the hotel hadn't had a similar refit as the Atrium area bore a striking resemblance to a multi-storey car park complete with exposed concrete beams. However, this drab backdrop was to be transformed by a superb and constantly changing display of kites which was perhaps just as well because few of the kites on display were to be seen on the flying field.

After registering and saying a few hellos we decided to explore the flying site, problem number one was trying to find someone who could tell us how to get to the site by road. The flying site was situated across the river and there was a small ferry for kitefliers to go across so they didn't think people would use their cars (in America?). Anyway we managed to obtain directions of some sort and set off. We crossed one of the numerous bridges that spanned the river and after a couple of miles it felt like home. If anyone is familiar with the River Thames at Woolwich they will have a very good idea of the area, disused docks, gasometers, and a grim inner city landscape, but with little touches of the South - spanish moss on the trees and blacks hanging around the liquor store. Finally we discovered the flying site, situated next to the local football stadium.

Park the car first - Where? Is there any parking - yes under the raised 4 lane freeway which borders the flying site, nothing wrong with that of course although 25 metres is perhaps a trifle close, and then of course there is mud - true, 6 inches of rain would make anywhere slightly muddy, but the flying field (which by the way is only the stunt field - more on the single line field later) is in fact a toxic waste infill site so the drainage was not the best. Apart from the fact that in places the site resembled a paddy field it had the added bonus of a large dock area with some large super structures of ships on one side and on the other a large tv aerial and on the fourth the River. Our reaction was one of amazement, we had travelled thousands of miles for this!

We all know that kiteflying sites are not always ideal but surely the organisers must have seen that this site was dangerous and should never have been used. It must be said that during our time at the convention this sentiment was expressed to us by many people, and we feel that whoever made the initial site inspection must have been wearing a very large pair of rose coloured glasses. It was fortunate that during the convention there was a no wind situation for almost the whole time and when the wind did blow it was coming from the freeway towards the river so no dangerous situations occurred.

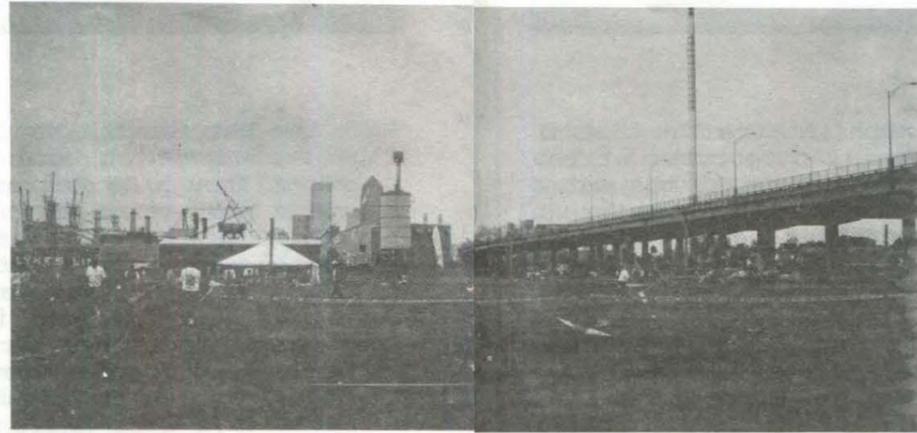
After investigating the stunt field - on to the single line field. The stunt kite field had been adequate if not over large but the single line

1. Don Mock with his prize winning kite based on an American Indian design.
2. Jon Burkhardt with the "Mama Sans" Rokkaku.
3. "Stacked Deck" - maker unknown.
4. A plastic bird ornament with wings.
5. Jacksonville "Skyline" Rokkaku made by Sarah and Oscar Bailey.
6. Paul Garber being greeted by Cory Jensen at the group photo. In the foreground are two, original skins, of Paul Garbers Target Kite.
7. Team Legs Rokkaku made by Martin Lester.
8. Western version of a Balinese kite.
9. A multicelled tetrahedral made by Randy Tom.
10. The Flying Site - view towards the freeway and docks corner.

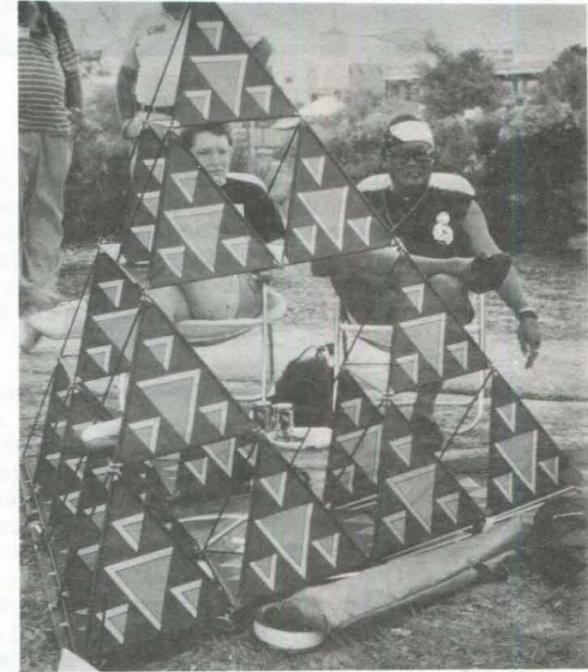
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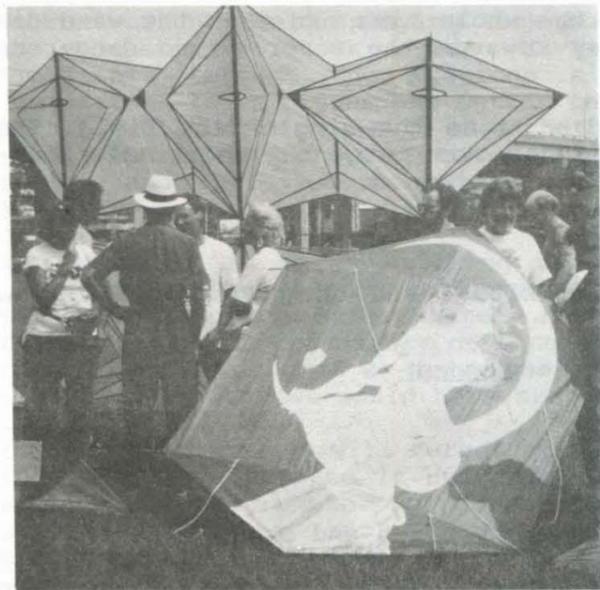


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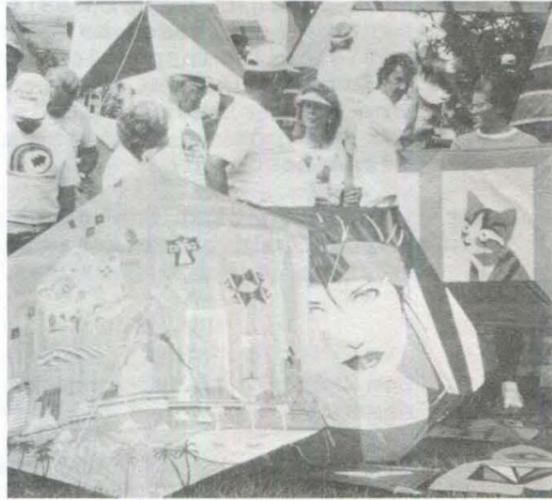


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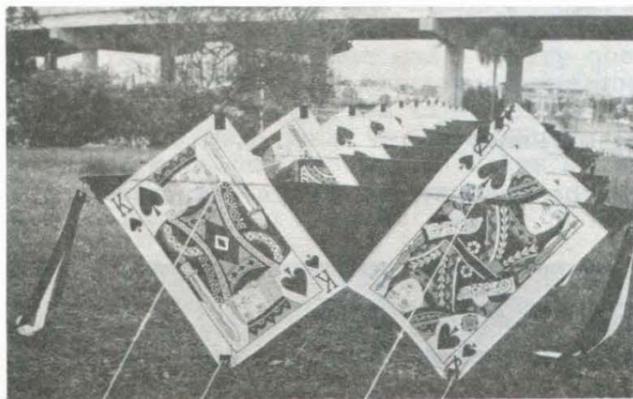
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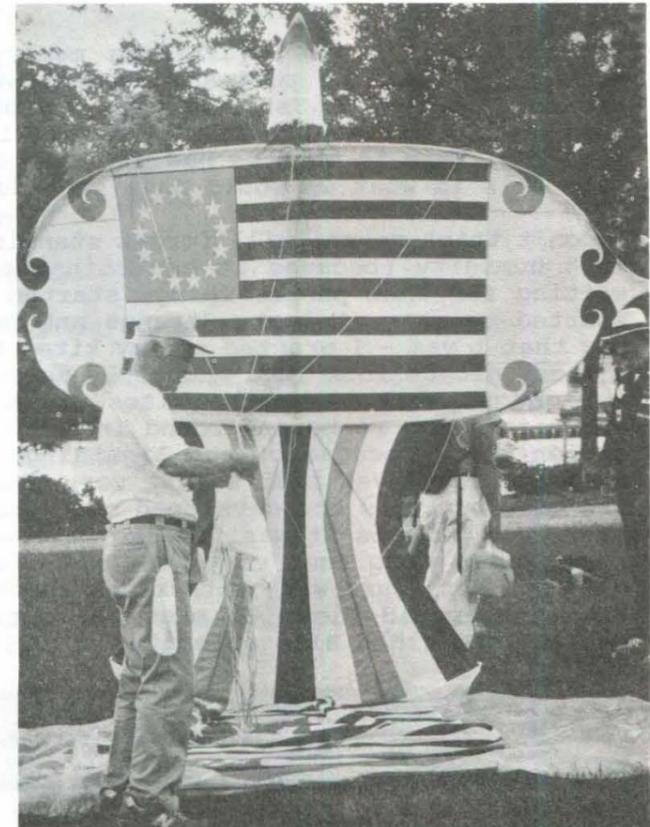
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field was quite bluntly a joke. Imagine a natural amphitheatre the size of a cricket field with a large stage and various aerial structures at the bottom. It did have the added advantage of being on a slope so the water did drain somewhat - although this did mean there was extra deep water at the bottom, but it did have the disadvantage of preventing a clean airflow for the light breezes that occasionally flitted across the site and don't forget that behind we had that nice four lane freeway (which did have it uses - but more on that later).

But perhaps we left the best to last - the creatures that lurked in the crouch grass (no turf here - cant stand the weather) Fire ants! Poor innocent us having only been exposed to nice English ants didn't really take much notice of the ant nest when laying out our kites but we soon learned that fire ants need to be looked upon with a great deal of respect. This had the added disadvantage of reducing the number of sites that you could park your gear and the concrete path area soon became quite crowded.

Despite all this the kitefliers came through, most of the socialising and to some extent the displaying took place at the hotel and somehow most of the competitions took place. Having only been exposed to American Kitefliers through the American kite journals we had expected the competition to be bigger and better than anything that takes place here in Europe. Well it just goes to show that you shouldn't believe everything you read. The competitions were the same or, in some cases, worse than European ones - and there are certainly as many talented kitemakers/fliers in Europe.

For us there is one overriding memory of this flying site. The group photograph, using a panoramic camera, was scheduled to take place on the Saturday at Midday. Unfortunately few of the stunt kite fliers heard about this so it consisted mainly of single line fliers, but what kites emerged for this. This is what we had expected at the convention, and given a good site this is what we would have seen during the last few days.

I don't think anyone will forget standing in the sun in the 90,'s with the 100% humidity (because it had rained off and on for the last four days) waiting for that photo. Things started to look up after this as the wind started to stir at last. Strange and beautiful creations appeared, and - mug that I was - I erected all my kites to display. Early afternoon arrived - those clouds look like thunder - no perhaps not, then the heavens opened - might as well leave the kites up it will soon stop - trouble is this storm is going round and round in circles and although there was wind you couldn't fly because of the lightning. At last that freeway had a use as a shelter but even that wasn't very good. I don't know how American roads are made but this one developed some good leaks and the gutters started to overflow. Perhaps it was time to make a run for it. Sometime later in the hotel there were four very wet Brits (at least at 90 degrees you are not cold and wet, just wet) with kites spread out in the bedrooms and anywhere else they could find. It must be something to do with being British as Martin Lester had also attempted to fly his mega legs and drying them out

consisted of suspending them in the lift well so that you had a very interesting view of Martins crutch everytime you used the lift and the plants in the display below must of thought that there was a good tropical down pour going on. The legs were still there the next day and were still not dry - Mad English.

Away from the flying site the American kiteflyers provided splendid hospitality and the convention lectures and workshops were interesting and well attended with over 600 attenders (all of which had paid at least \$100 to attend). Another interesting event was the Flymarket where a host of interesting goodies were displayed by a number of kite shops and manufacturers. The majority of them seemed to be displaying numerous variations on stunt kites but the displays were an ideal example of how to put the most kites in the least space with each kite pivoting on a wing tip and stacked rather like posters are displayed in racks. Other goodies - well how about the ultimate kite accessories for your home - kite cushions in the shape of flexifoils, revolutions etc, and for personal wear a Gold North Shore Radical pendant complete with diamond - this didn't seem to be a very good seller. Something that did sell like hot cakes were some beautiful stain glass kite pictures. Business was brisk most days but a great number of bargains could be had on the last day when there were a large number of reductions on many items including those gold pendants.

Evening activities were very well attended, with the Auction being one of the main events. Here it was gratifying to find that their auctions go on for as long, and are as boring, as ours. About the only difference being the prices paid, for most items it was at least double those raised in Britain. There were many more unique items for sale. (Guess who brought a copper kite sculpture and had to bring it back on the plane?) Perhaps the most boring event was the awards ceremony which seemed to go on for ever. The highlight was Martin Lester being awarded the Jalbert Kite Innovation Award, a new annual award presented by the Jalbert family to a kitemaker who most represents new innovation in kite flying. (That was someone else who would have trouble with his hand luggage). That evening finished with a slide show to music provided by the photographer who had been on duty throughout the event - typically American i.e. sugary. It did however, show the sprit of the convention which is very much the same wherever a group of kitefliers gather - camaraderie, a great deal of information exchanged and also great fun.

Next years event is to held at Lubbock, Texas, where attenders are promised good winds - apparently Lubbock is one of the windiest places in America - and good Texan hospitality.

On a personal note my best kite moment was after the convention. On One sky One World day, we decided to fly on the beach, but what a beach. Part of the Cape Canaveral National Shoreline i.e. natural, completely unspoilt beach. Imagine the scene - temperature approx 84f (also the sea) gentle breeze of approx 10 miles an hour and a local osprey coming to investigate the aerial intruder on its patch - now that is what you can call paradise.

Aerial Photography

Sent in by Mark Hewitt, a small article which appeared in the October issue of Practical Photography. Basically a photographer was using a folding reflector outside in a windy situation and the said reflector was swept off, and after half an hour of searching the photographer managed to find it. This gave him the idea of tying a line to the reflector and making it into a kite. Apparently it worked like a treat and, as the article finishes, it says "Now I have something to keep the kids occupied while I wander around the park with my camera. Even better, if I need a reflector I just ask them to haul it in for a few minutes". Personally we think it is rather an expensive way to make a kite, still it takes all sorts!

Some information regarding aerial photography using kites tracked down by one of our members, Dr Slater.

An article entitled Kitography by Henry Short appeared in the Olympus Camera Club news. Kitography is Henry Short's trademark for aerial photographs from a kite. Mr Short has taken three years to develop a simple and very portable system for taking commercially acceptable photographs - that is the equivalent of those photos taken by helicopter. The equipment weighs only 11lb 4oz and can be packed into a camera case 18"x 14" x 7" which includes everything needed to take photographs including a self inflating kite. Mr short does not send out information on his system but he does offer a one day introductory course on how to take

aerial photographs and at the end of the day offers the option of purchasing the equipment required to take photographs with a simple camera. After mastering this he can then offer another advanced one day course, using an Olympus Mju-1 with a protective case and the option of a further kite. If the attender already has satisfactory equipment, such as a suitable kite, line and reel or radio transmitter the equipment cost is reduced accordingly. Costs for these courses is £75 and an initial equipment package for kitography, which includes a cyclops frame with radio equipment and wind vane, delta kite, deep sky reel and line, radio transmitter, anchor, spring balance and pulley, plus disposable camera, and carrying case costs £295.

Further details can be obtained from Mr Short, East Fossil Farmhouse, High Street, Winfrith Newburgh, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 8JN. Tel 0305 853538.

Kite Case?

Another snippet sent in by Colin Franklin - I have seen in the Cheltenham branch of Habitat a carrying tube presumably designed to transport rolled up drawings/artwork but which looks to be equally suited for carrying kites. It sells by the name of "M H Way-Zoom Case" and comprises two plastic tubes each with one closed end, one of which fits into the other. A carrying strap is strung between the two tubes. Diameter is approximately 3 inches and length expandable between approximately 2 1/2 and 4 foot. Price is just short of £10.

Form a Group?

Nick Wake writes - "I have recently moved to Porthcawl and find 'Rest Bay' (approx 1 mile from the town centre) an excellent flight area. There is a good car park, and a cafe and toilets nearby. You can fly either in the rugby field behind the car park, on the head land, or best of all when the tide is out, the vast expanse of sand. You get a good, generally on-shore breeze, although the off shore breeze, when it comes is fun for skimming your kite across (and occasionally into) the surf.

If there are other flyers in the area who would like to get together for some flying, it would be great to hear from them. Contact Nick Wake, 4 Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan, CF36 3HG.

Things to Buy

Whilst in America we saw a number of rubber stamps on sale depicting kites and kiteflying. The types of stamp ranged from Parafoil, Conyne, Japanese kites, Chinese Kites, Stunt Kites and naked women flying kites! Prices range from \$3.50 to \$7.00 plus postage.

All of these are produced by David Bogie, The Artery, 1411 North 25th Street, Boise, Idaho 83702, U.S.A.

Wandering around the craft fairs before christmas we spotted the following items.

The first is recycled paper and envelopes printed with children flying kites. They also do pads of A4 paper and folders all with the same design. Prices range from £1.65 for A5 pads to £4.50 for a

folder containing 25 A4 sheets and 20 envelopes. Postage is extra. If you are interested then write to Paper Tiger Co-operative Ltd., 26 Bullar Street, Southampton, SO2 0NH.

The second were three prints, which are part of The Edwardian Collection. The first two are of children at the seaside flying kites and the third of two teddy bears flying kites. Prices are from £6.90, with just a mount surround to £20.90 for a solid wood frame as well. Write to Whittakers of Brighton, 28 East Street Square, The Lanes, Brighton, BN1 1HL. Telephone 0273 773883.

Also spotted, in the pre-christmas buy, exclusive to Boots a complete set of Disney Baby articles showing Micky and Minnie flying kites. They do a plate, cereal bowl, feeder cup and cutlery. Prices from around £2.00 to £5.00.

KITE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Membership to the Kite Society, Costs £5.00 for Individuals, £7.00 for Family (living at the same address).

Membership includes four issue of the Magazine, as well as discount at various kite shops and free entry to selected kite festivals.

The Kite Society of Great Britain
31 Grange Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1EU

EVENT NEWS

April 18th, 19th & 20th

Tony Cartwright has sent us some details of the competitions and events taking place with the Blackheath Easter Kite Festival.

The Blackheath Pairs Ballet Competition, Saturday 18th, Church Field, Blackheath. Pilots meeting 12 noon, Start 1.00pm. Entry charge £10.00 per pair. Cheques made payable to Blackheath Kite Association, 78 Dongola Road, London N17 6EE. Closing date April 1st. Maximum of 20 pairs. Only STACK members using STACK/AKA rules. Maximum music time 4 minutes. Head Judge Viv Walters.

The Leading Edge Triathalon 1992

Easter Sunday 19th April, Church Field, Blackheath. Time for the Individual Stunt Precision League Style; Pilots meeting 9.30am - Start 10.00am.

The other two disciplines will use the results from the Kite Society's Individual Rokkaku Challenge and the Blackheath's Indian Kite Fight. These will be held during the festival subject to weather conditions. The result from each competition will be calculated as follows:-

- 1st will be awarded 6 points.
- 2nd will be awarded 4 points.
- 3rd will be awarded 3 points.
- 4th will be awarded 2 points.
- 5th will be awarded 1 point.

No charge for entry, open to all comers, entry closes at pilots meeting. However if you write to Leading Edge confirming that you want to enter, which will help with our planning, you will be sent the compulsory figures. 3 no (surprise figure on the day).

The only rule is that you must compete in each competition.

Send your registration to The Leading Edge. 14 Rose Farm Rise, Altofts, Normanton, West Yorkshire, WF6 2PL.

KITEABILITY are running the "Kiskeedee Car Race" entry on the day. Open to all comers, all types of electrical model vehicles. Concept - the vehicles are raced towing a kiskeedee kite. Objective - to have lots of fun! Tip - make sure your batteries are charged up. Time - Easter Sunday or Monday or Both.

Also we will have the Kite Society Rokkaku Challenge Team event, The Blackheath Pageant, Peoples choice of Static Kites, Teddy Bear Parachuting, various Stunt games and Displays.

May 1st, 2nd, 3rd

EVENT NEWS

Castiglione del Lago (Perugia) will take place on the above dates. There are a number of innovations to this year's event. The exhibition will be held from April 16th until May 3rd. Included exhibitors are Tsutomu Hiroi, Peter Lynn and state of the art American kites.

Special guests invited, and some already accepted, include Tsutomu Hiroi, Peter Lynn, James White, Clyde Cook, Valerie and Mel Govig. Peter Lynn will be demonstrating his new Kite Sailing Boat.

During the 3 days the 2nd Castiglione del Lago Cup, a STACK sanctioned event will be held. Friday night will have a diner in honour of the overseas kitefliers. Saturday, after the official reception, will be the first Italian Kite Auction.

June 13th & 14th

The Alcester Kite Fliers Kite Festival will take place at the same venue as last year, Tewkesbury School Sports Centre, just off junction 9 of the M5. Some trade stands have been invited to attend.

Toilets and showers available, camping on site £3.60 per unit for the weekend, Bar-B-Q on Saturday night (there will be a small charge for this). Passes for camping etc will be available at a later date.

Also; There will be a fly-in at Worcester Countryside Centre on Easter Monday. There is camping in a separate field for those who wish, from Thursday onwards. There is a car boot sale on the Sunday morning, so there will be no flying until 2pm that day.

For detail of both events contact Fred Taplin 0789 762350.

June 13th & 14th

Margan Park, near Bridgend, South Wales. Situated just off the M4 junction 38. This 800 acre site has ample room for all flying tastes- no matter how many lines you like to pull!!

The facilities on this council owned park are excellent - the full list is quite long and more details about the park will be available, once their promotional leaflet has been issued for 1992. Briefly, the grounds contain one of the worlds largest mazes, a sculpture park, remains of an Abbey and Castle, an 18th century Orangery, a road train (so you don't have to walk very far with kite equipment), loads of attractions for the kids - so while us adults fly, they will be amused! What more can we say, the facilities are terrific - even a campsite, with a shower block and barbecue area. Free entrance passes for kitefliers will be available otherwise there is a small entrance charge to the grounds. The camping charge is £1.20 per night. Margam Park is not very far from the Gower peninsular so why not plan a holiday around the kite festival?

EVENT NEWS

Traders - the pitch is free, but as NSPCC hope to benefit from the two days, a large donation to their funds would be appreciated. Spaces will be limited and by pass only, so let us know, fairly soon, if you are interested. Trade should be good though, as the park gets a lot of visitors during the summer months, also between now and June the event will be promoted.

Plans include, Stunt Kite demonstrations, a sponsored Rokkaku challenge cup (get your entries in now!), kite workshops for children and possibly an exhibition leading up to the festival. The park want this to become an annual event, so all contributions and ideas are very welcome.

The coming year looks like it could be a busy one for festivals - so put this one in your diary now!

Further details are available from Steve Gibson on 0432 359999 or Peter Metcalf on 0432 263737.

June 14th

Plans are now well advanced for a beach kite festival at Great Yarmouth on Sunday 14th June organised by Thorpe Kite Fliers.

Taking place in the centre of this popular east coast resort on an extensive clean golden sandy beach. All facilities are near at hand including the Marina Centre with swimming pool and other sport facilities. Why not bring the whole family?

C.A.A. height clearance will be applied for and a full arena programme organised. There is ample room for both single and stunt kite flyers. Several well known traders have already booked trade space.

Any traders interested in booking space, teams interested in flying in the arena or clubs/individuals wishing to attend are asked to contact the organisers c/o Kevin Appleton, 37 Eastern Avenue, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich. Telephone 0603 31964.

June 21st

Berkshire Kite Festival, Greenham Common Airbase, near Newbury. This festival is being organised by Thatcham Rotary in conjunction with the White Horse Kite Flyers. We hope to attract kitefliers of all persuasion and it is planned to have demonstrations by some of the country's top kiteflyers. There will be all of the usual attractions such as teddy bear parachuting, Rokkaku fighting etc.

Car passes will be available to Kite Society members. For these and any further information contact Dave Robinson, 61 Bridge End Road, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4PD. (Stamped self addressed envelope please).

EVENT NEWS

It is hoped that if this event is a success it will become an annual event perhaps even two days. So please support it.

July 5th

A Family Kite Flying Day, Concord Park, Sheffield. Building upon the success of 1991's event, when kite flyers from as far afield as Exeter and Exmouth joined us, we should like to invite any interested kite organisation to contact us. We will be able to offer accommodation, for the weekend of 4th and 5th July as part of our 'Homestay Programme'. There will be ample room for trade stalls etc. and the opportunity to be included in a programme of display flying.

Within the day's activities we are planning a Mediaeval Battle, displays of falconry and, weather permitting, a hot air balloon lift off in the evening as well as masses of other entertainment.

Can you come and join us? If you are interested please contact Pauline Eveleigh, Festival Office, PO Box 797, Sheffield, S1 2SF. Tel 0742 726304.



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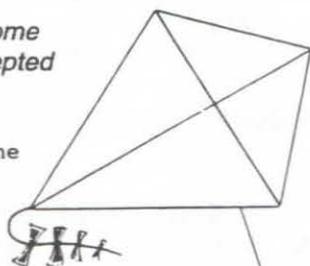
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**TRADE ENQUIRIES
WELCOME**

EVENTS LIST

MAJOR KITE EVENTS - U.K.

April 12th	Old Warden, Biggleswade. <u>Contact</u> Ron Moulton.
April 18th - 20th	Blackheath Easter Festival. <u>Contact</u> Tony Cartwright.
May 3rd, 4th	Weymouth International Kite Festival. <u>Contact</u> The Kite Society.
May 9th, 10th	Swindon Kite Festival. <u>Contact</u> Dave Robinson.
May 16th, 17th	Brighton Kite Festival. <u>Contact</u> Ray Oakhill.
May 23rd	Kite Society Convention, Scunthorpe.
May 24th, 25th	Kite Society International Kite Festival, Scunthorpe.
June 13th, 14th	Alcester Festival at Tewkesbury. <u>Contact</u> Fred Taplin.
June 13th, 14th	Margam Park, Bridgend, Wales. <u>Contact</u> Steve Gibson.
June 14th	Great Yarmouth. <u>Contact</u> Kevin Appleton.
June 21st	Berkshire Kite Festival, Greenham Common. <u>Contact</u> Dave Robinson.
June 28th	Blackheath Summer Rally. <u>Contact</u> Tony Cartwright.
July 4th, 5th	Shrewsbury Kite Festival. <u>Contact</u> Tony Slater.
July 5th	Family Fun Day, Sheffield.
July 11th, 12th	Cardiff, Wales. <u>Contact</u> Kite Store.
July 18th, 19th	Wales International Kite Festival, Monmouth, Wales. <u>Contact</u> Kite Store.
August 16th	Hengistbury Head, Dorset. <u>Contact</u> David Webster.
August 22nd, 23rd	Portsmouth, Hampshire.
September 5th, 6th	Bristol International Kite Festival. <u>Contact</u> Bristol Kite Store.
October 4th	Old Warden, Biggleswade. <u>Contact</u> Ron Moulton.

MAJOR KITE EVENTS - EUROPE

April 11th, 12th	Berk sur Mere, France.
April 25th, 26th	Le Touquet, France.
May 1st - 3rd	Castiglione, Italy.
May 9th, 10th	Oostdunkirk, Belgium.
June 11th - 15th	International Kitefliers Meeting, Fano, Denmark. <u>Contact</u> Ranier Kregovski.
June 20th, 21st	International Kite Festival, Scheveningen, Holland. <u>Contact</u> Vlieger Op.
July 11th, 12th	Ostende, Belgium.
September 12th, 13th or September 19th, 20th	Dieppe, France.
September 26th, 27th	Damp, Germany. <u>Contact</u> Wolkensturmer.
September 26th, 27th	9th Berlin Kite Festival. <u>Contact</u> Michael Stelzer.

LOCAL EVENTS

The White Horse Kite Fliers have fly-ins on the second Sunday of every month. These are held at Barbury Castle Country Park, Near Wroughton, Swindon. Contact Ron Gunther.

The Great Ouse Kitefliers have regular meetings throughout the year.

EVENTS LIST

February 9th Riverside Park, St Neots.
March 8th Nene Country Park, Peterborough.
May 10th Grafham Water, Cambs.
May 16th-23rd Exhibition, Peterborough.
May 24th Nene Country Park, Peterborough.
July 12th Priory Country Park, Bedford.
August 9th Nene Country Park, Peterborough.
September 13th Grafham Water, South Side, Cambs.
November 1st GOKF AGM Lunch, Riverside Park, St Neots.
December 13th Priory Country Park, Bedford.

Contact Bob Piron.

The Blackheath Kite Association meet on the second Sunday of each month at Blackheath, London. Contact Tony Cartwright.

The Essex Kite Group have meetings throughout the year.

February 2nd Southweald Park, Brentwood.
February 16th Rivenhall Aerodrome, Silver End.
March 1st Thorndon Park, Brentwood.
March 29th Southweald Park, Brentwood.
April 5th Great Bentley Green, Colchester.

Contact Kathleen Pike.

The Nomansland Kite Fliers meet on the fourth Sunday of each month at Nomansland Common, Wheathampstead. Contact Carole Peacock.

The Alcester Kite Fliers meet at the Alcester Rugby Ground on the third Sunday of each month. Contact Fred Taplin.

Kite North meet on the 1st Sunday of each month at locations around the North of England. Contact Adam Sutherland for location.

The Devon Kite Friends meet on the second Sunday of each month and during April to September they also meet on the fourth Sunday. All events are at Pork Hill, Mid Devon. Contact John Skinner.

The Midland Kitefliers have fly-ins on the first Sunday of each month at Sutton Park. Contact Alan Gilbert.

The Thorpe Kite Flyers meet every Sunday morning on Thorpe Recreation Ground, Laundry Lane, Thorpe, Norwich between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Contact Kevin Appleton.

The Northampton Kite Fliers meet on the first Sunday of every month at The Race Course, St Georges Avenue, Northampton. Between 10.00am and 4.00pm. Contact I.C. Kites.

The Aberdeen Kite Flyers meet on the second Sunday of each month at the Bridge of Dee. Contact Garry Clarke.

The Vectis Flyers meet every Sunday, weather permitting, at Yarland, Sandown, Isle of Wight. Contact Mrs Ellis.

The Highly Strung Kite Club meets on the first Sunday of each month.

EVENTS LIST

Contact Graham Holdstock.

The Northern Kite Group have meetings as below:-

February 16th Heath Common, Wakefield.
March 15th Blacksnape Playing Fields.
April 19th Stainland Recreation Ground, Near Halifax.
May 16th, 17th Ashton Park, Blackpool Road, Preston.
June 21st Thurston Country Park, Wirral Peninsular.
July 19th Saledine Nook School Playing Fields, Huddersfield.
August 16th Temple Newton House and Grounds, Leeds.
September 20th Heaton Park, Manchester.
October 18th Baildon Moor, Shipley, near Bradford.
November 15th Littleton Road Playing Fields, Salford.
December 20th Norland Moor, Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire.

Contact Ron Ogden

The Brighton Kitefliers have meetings throughout the year. See Aerodyne pages for details. Contact Ray Oakhill.

The Chiltern Kite Group have meetings as follows:-

Maidensgrove - 15 March, 17 May, 19 July, 20 September, 15 November.
Pinkneys Green - 16 February, 19 April, 21 June, 16 August, 18 October, 20 December.

Contact Roger Lawton.

EVENTS IN KENT

August 15th, 16th Teston Bridge, Maidstone. Contact Ron Dell.
August 30th Shorne Country Park, Gravesend. Contact Ron Dell.

CONTACT DETAILS

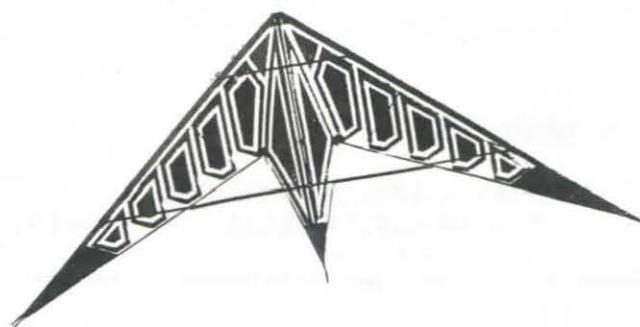
Tony Cartwright, 78 Dongola Road, London N17 6EE. 081 808 1280.
The Bristol Kite Store, 39 Cotham Hill, Bristol, BS6 6JY. 0272 745010.
Graham Holdstock, 63 Cranleigh Drive, Whitfield, Dover, Kent, CT16 3NW.
John Skinner, 12 Oak Road, Bishopsmead, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 9EZ.
Ron Gunther, 12 Glevum Close, Purton, Swindon SN5 9HA. 0793 770784
Kathleen Pike, 34 Mortimer Road, Rayleigh, Essex.
Fred Taplin, 20 Henley Street, Alcester, Warwickshire.
Alan Gilbert, 23 Evesham Road, Leicester, LE3 2BD.
Carole Peacock, 61 Windmill Avenue, St Albans, Herts AL4 9SJ.
Bob Piron, 8 Bowhill, Bedford, MK41 8EF. 0234 261835.
Kevin Appleton, 37 Eastern Avenue, Thorpe-St-Andrew, Norwich NR7 0UQ.
Ron Moulton, 2 Avenue Rise, Bushey, Watford, Herts, WD2 3AS.
I.C. Kites, 12 Willow Close, Spratton, Northampton, NN6 8JH. 0604 843374.
Adam Sutherland, 20 Durham Place, Birtley, Tyne & Wear, DH3 2AY.
Mrs Ellis, Charisma, 14 Sandown Road, Lake, Isle of Wight. 0983 402871.
Rainer Kregovski, Sievekingsallee 114d, 2000 Hamburg 26, Germany.
Vlieger Opl, Weteringskade 5a, 2515 AK Den Haag, Holland.
The Kite Store, 48 Neal Street, London WC2H 9PA. 071 836 1666.
Dave Robinson, 61 Bridge End Road, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4PD. 0793 824208.
Ray Oakhill, 6 Hartfield Road, Saltdean, Sussex, BN2 8RE. 0273 306842.
Steve Gibson, 91 Baysham Street, Hereford, HR4 0EJ.
Tony Slater, 128 Meadow Farm Drive, Shrewsbury, SV1 4JY.
David Webster, 16 Brackley Way, Hammonds Green, Totton, Hants. SO4 3HN.
Wolkensturmer, Hansastrasse 52, 2000 Hamburg 13, Germany.
Michael Stelzer, Eisenacher Strasse 81, 1000 Berlin 61, Germany.
Ron Ogden, 41 Ashfield Drive, Clayton Bridge, Manchester, M10 0WJ.
Ron Dell, 2 Garfield Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN3 4RP.

WIND THINGS

WIND THINGS - THE NORTH'S LEADING KITE SHOP would like to wish all our customers a happy and prosperous New Year. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce a few of the new kites in our extensive range for 1992.

CHINESE KITES

Authentic Chinese kites, created by skilled kitemakers from Wiefang using traditional techniques. Detailed coverings of handpainted silk on split bamboo frames. Beautiful to display indoors, yet remarkable in the air.



Sirex

PAIMPOL-VOILES FRENCH SPORT KITES

A range of superb affordable kites that come in sizes from 3ft to 12ft, complete with handles, line & carry bag. Designs, colours & printing project a classic French elegance. Frames in fibreglass or carbon.

NEW TECH SPORTS BOX KITES

A range of rainbow hued box kites that come as stars, double pentagrams and flaix. Made from black plastic sleeved dowelling & ripstop. Complete with handle & line. Sizes 2ft-3ft+.



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WE ALSO STOCK A FULL RANGE OF JUGGLING EQUIPMENT.

action-kites, brookite, vertical-visuals, high-flyers, flexifoils, revolution, jester, catch-the-wind, rare-air, peter-powell.

morgan, liteflite, martin-lester, totl, dan-leigh, condor, nick-james, high-fly, skybird, speedwing, quicksilver, boomerangs, frisbees.

ROMAN CANDLE 23.



The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad, The International Brotherhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils, Arguably the most Photocopied piece of 100% Mindless Drivel in Kiting Today.

Hello you rotten lot, how yer doing? , good?, Gordon Bennett what a Bummer, still nows the time to Polish Up yer 'Ard 'Ats, 'cos though its Official Winter Kip Time once again, it wont be long before its Bear Bombing Time, and you might have to take heed of that Warning on our Masthead, or you could end up wiv a Mega Migraine.

In our last issue, we said that the FOTY Trophy 91, Winner had been chosen, but that we could'nt name the Winner 'cos the Trophy had not yet been presented. We can now reveal all. The Winner of the BMISS Fauna of the Year Trophy 91 (a Pewter MiniMug with a Bear on the Handle) is 'BIG BEAR' who owns Vic Walker. Funny thing was that when the BOF did the Presentation at OWII, B.B. was nowhere to be seen. Vic said that he was a bit Brownd off and was down the Boozer, getting thoroughly Faced. Be that as it may, amongst the the numerous reasons for awarding B.B. the Trophy was those immaculate descents under his 20ft Cargo Chute. The almost double deployment that chute goes through is amazing.

On the December edition of BBC TV's Crimewatch programme, it was stated that 4,000 Harrods Teddy Bears had Dun a Runner, you know, they fell of the back of a Lorry. These Bears looked well Poncey, with the 'ARRODS Logo embroidered on the sole of one Foot, so if any of our Members out there come across Bears who talk so far back, their almost horizontal, its almost certain that they are one of them, no, not one of them, one of them.

We can either give 'em Sanctuary plus a Chute, or better still, turn the Toffee Nosed Twerps in to the Feds and Cop the REEWARD Dosh and have it away down the Pub.

Funny enough, Ding Dong has got a load of Santa Claus Teddies in stock, we know that these aint Toffee Nosed Twerps, 'cos Rastachat took the Mickey out of one of them, and the little Sod promptly gave him a Paw Sandwich and a right Gobfull.



■ SAFETY FIRST . . . seven-year-old Sharn Smith's teddy bear is well prepared for his parachute jump

Teddies take a tumble

PROUD owners watched as their favourite teddy bears parachuted from the top of a church tower.

Scores of youngsters took their cuddly toys to the Autumn Extravaganza at St Mary's Church, Knox Road, Wellesborough.

One of the highlights was the parachute jump for teddies from the top of the 70ft tower, which was built at the turn of the century.

Priest in charge, Fr Alan Robinson, said: "The parachuting proved popular with the children and each owner received a certificate to mark the event — just as in a real parachute jump."

A steel band played during the afternoon and stalls were set up in the church and grounds.

Cash raised will help upgrade the church's kitchen facilities which are also used by the community as a whole.

This Photo, left is another one in our series 'Cant those Tabloid Hacks get anything Right' The Pic actually shows our Member Blue Bottle, who owns Dropnik Billings, pretending to be owned by a young Lady with a remarkable line in Eye Make Up. From all accounts the Church Tower Bash went off O.K., as did our Members, thereby raising a few Bob for an essential cause. GRUB..Yoo Wot.

Whilst it is very nice to be Electrified when you are nailing chutes tog-ether (BOF's Singer, last Ish)

It comes as a sudden shock to discover that the Singer Baulks when asked to do something that the Ayteemundred an 'ows yer Farva simply takes in its stride. It would seem that the all singing Singer does'nt take kindly to being asked to bash its way through Twenty Layers of Ripstop, plus a Nylon edge Tape (Double Hemplus Spar Pockets on a Two Metre Rokkaku) that the BOF has just been nailing together.

It would seem that those oldie Hand Machines still can do the Biz.

THE COMPLAINTS KEEP COMING....

Ballooning bears in Channel challenge



Shropshire hot air balloonist Mal Ferguson was today waiting for the right weather to fly him across the English Channel.

Mal, from Oswestry, will raise money for the Hope House hospice appeal with his trip - and get into the Guinness Book of Records.

He is joining more than a hundred other balloonists who are raising money for charities all over the country by having the greatest number of balloons crossing the channel.

The balloons will carry thousands of teddy bear "passengers", each sponsored to the tune of £100.

The "bearonauts" get a certificate to prove they made the trip and the money will go to a charity of the owner's choice.

Mal's own bear has donated his sponsorship money to the Hope House. He was given a send-off by children from Oswestry infants school in Middleton Road, who are giving proceeds from their Harvest Festival to the Hope House, too.

"At the moment we're hoping to go tomorrow morning, but it depends on the wind direction and speed on the day," said Mal.

"All the balloons will be carrying life-rafts and flares but we hope we won't have to use them."

Saab UK, through Westbury garage, Shrewsbury, have agreed to lend Mal their balloon and will also be donating £100 to the Hope House appeal.

Around 20 balloons carried hundreds of teddy bear passengers.

Liz and Mal's efforts raised £100 for Shropshire's Hope House appeal, with the sum matched by Westbury Garage.



Pilot Mal Ferguson and balloonists Liz Meek and Amanda Holland with teddy bears and children from Oswestry.

These two cuttings, lifted from the Shropshire Star, were sent in by Dropnik Slater who complains bitterly about the Fate that almost befell the Hundreds of Teddy Bear passengers who went on this Balloonatic Jaunt.

Its obvious, he goes on to say, that the Bears didn't have a single Parachute or Lifejacket between them, and its a Racing Cert that not one of the Bears even had a Passport, thereby leaving themselves open to being done for illegal entry into France

As well as no parachutes, Lifejackets etc, Dropnik Slater doubts if even one of Bears possessed a word of French. This is a bit doubtful as I dare say any Parabear can recite the Universal

Phrase "Bonjour, Soixante Neuf Biere Blonde s'il vous plait, hang the expense, Jettez Le Chat another Kipper, Squire" after all no Bear is a complete Nitwit. Be that as it may, as Dropnik Slater says, Ditching in the Oggin would have been a disaster as we now could all be Eating BEAR FILLETS if someone had TRAWLED that lot up and flogged 'em to Capt. Birdeye.

FIRST OREGON BEAR FORCE DROPS IN.....

News is to Paw of "THE FIRST OREGON BEAR FORCE" yoo wot, yes you did read it correctly. Deciding that it was about time that the State of Oregon was represented by its own Para Fauna Force, Dropnik Don Counce, recently sent us details of what his Mob are up to way out West in the U.S of A.

First off, from the photo's supplied, Dropnik Counce appears to be your average Dropnik, i.e., he looks "Raving Mad Pal", definately a suitable case for treatment. The pics also show a nice selection of P.F.S.C.T variety, with pride of place going to one "Blue Bear" who must be all of 5ft tall and probably weighs 'Alf Undredweight (56lb) one pic shows Don carrying B.B. on his shoulders and it looks as if hes struggling.

Don also has some other good looking Fauna, namely Merlin Bear, Sidney Bear and a neat Cabbage Patch Young Astronaut, by the name of James Kirk Jnr. We did suggest that B.B. is used for doing Totals above the Car Park, singling out the Stunters Cars for best effect. then Don went and blew it, by saying that he flies Team Cyborg also. First Schizoid Drponik?

HOWLING MAD, OR RAVING BARMY.....

BMISS H.Q. is well used to a goodly assortment of Right Raving Rubbish dropping through its Letter Box, but even we were a bit Flummoxed when we read a Letter from someone who signs himself, Lord Colin of Checkley, House of Stafford, Ulster King of Arms, aka Howling Mad. (checkup from the neckup

It would appear that 'Lord Colin' is a local Rep for the Medieval Combat Society based somewhere in Feltham, Middx. Apart from Drinking each other under the Table, a bit of Semi Professional Pillaging, Kite Flying and a bit of Singing, it would appear that the M.C.S., who by the way depict the times of King Edward III, are heavily into Teddy Bear Whanging. They do this to the poor Teds in order to Toughen them up a bit, as well as whanging, the Teds are subjected to Combat Training with a variety of weapons, and also to Paraglide on Flexifoils, and to Freefall without a Murmur. The end result of all this is to transform the average Ted into the Furry equivalent of the S.A.S.

Why, you may ask are these Teds subjected to all this Palava. Well, once they are fully trained up. the Teds are sent on the most Dangerous Mission of all. They have to Drop into the Lives of Handicapped and Underpriveleged Children. The Bears have to be tough says Lord Colin, because the Teds are out to replace some of the lost Childhood that the Kids Predicaments have Robbed them of.

Lord Colin concludes his letter with the usual threats that should BMISS ever cross Swords with his Bears, Gawd help us. Ha,Ha, wot a Joke, the poor mutt does'nt realise that when the Chips are down, we bears stick together, and its only the fact that the M.C.S. is involved in good Deeds with the Kids, that prevents BMISS from invoking the Curse of the Small Furry Objects, and Legging it for Feltham, armed with a load of Honey to Glue his kneecaps together with, Yoo Wot.... Dropping our Brothers and Sisters sans Chutes is almost Grounds for Total War.



EYES AND EARS TAKE THE STRAIN....

AAARGHHH... Shock, Horrer, Gordon Bennett, would you believe it? you better had, 'cos we kid you not. Also through our Letter Box came these two rather Shocking Polaroids of one of our Members being subjected to violent assault by Newspaper, if you can call the Sunday Sport a Newspaper and Clothes Line. Our apologies to those of you out there of a

Nervous disposition. Para Bar Steward is a Member of the 'EXISTS, THEREFORE AM' persuasion, i.e. we dont know anything more about him than the Photo captions impart. We have had to Censor the captions slightly, personally we would have liked to have

left them as supplied but we realise that some of our readers would have found the Expletive undeleted, a Tad offensive. Be that as it may, the Pics were anonymous in that we dont know who sent them, or who would do such a thing or things to an inoffensive Bear.



'B [REDACTED]' BEAR READS ABOUT WORLD WAR II FAUNA - FOUND ON MOON - WITH PARACHUTE. OXFORD 1991.

Is someone, somewhere trying to turn him into a Rabbit the hard way, or do his Minces in?



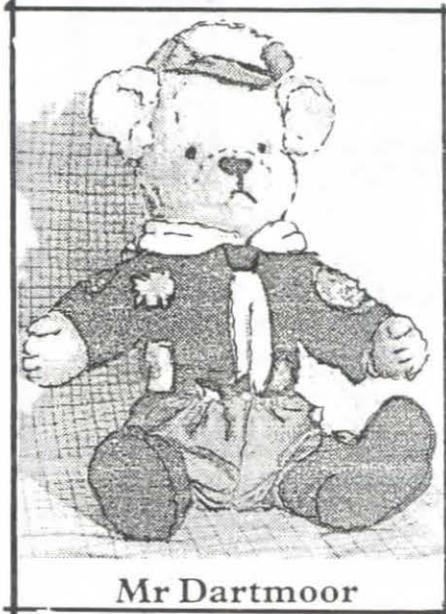
PARA 'B [REDACTED]' BEAR DISCOVERS HEIGHT. OXFORD 19.9.91.



Apart from the fact that Bar Steward Bear is from from Oxford, and that they were taken this year, the Polaroids tell us zilch.

Will we get any more shockers like this? will the Sod who did this Own Up? we'll let you know.

DIB, DIB, DIB DOB, DOB, DOB



Mr Dartmoor

Dropnik Dibble, or should that be Officer Dibble, of Thatcham in Berks sends News of what he and his Para Fauna are up to . Possibly our first Boy Scout Member, no Carl, not you, the Bear. Mr Dartmoor, for that is his name is Toggled up in Official, Dib , Dib, Dob gear, complete with the all important Woggle. How, you may ask does a Bear get name like Dartmoor?.

We are assured that the name Dartmoor is from Carls Scout Troop, but in all probability Mr Dartmoors Dad at one time was doing a 10 Stretch in that infamous Slammer on the Moor and when he and his Missus had their first Cub, they got all nostalgic, and the rest is History.

We are also informed that Mr D, was also involved in a Fund

raising exercise recently to help send his dropnik to a Jamboree in Korea. One of Mr Dartmoors friends was involved in in a weird escapade of late. He was forced to spend a night stuck up a Tree after going off course abit. However he was eventually rescued.

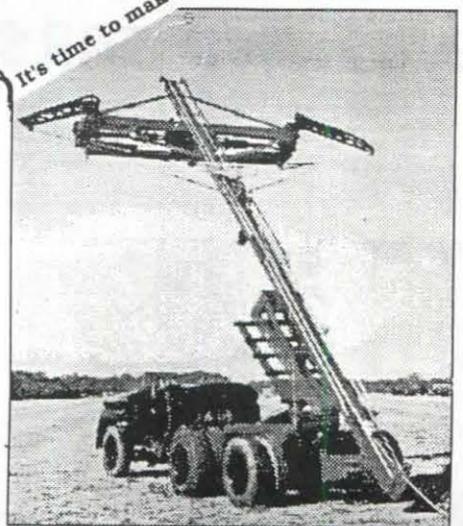
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS, PUNKIN' KIND

By now you may have noticed the Warning Notices around and about this Newsletter. We are indebted to Theodore Edward O'Bear of New Jersey for these. We said once before that Theo was smarter than the average Bear, and these Notices prove it. Knowing that we were becoming awash with stupid Directives from those overpaid Eurocrats in Brussels, Theo decided to launch a pre-emptive strike. Guessing that it was only a matter of time before Euromitters and their ilk decided that Bearbombing was harmful to your health, Theo had the warning notices printed, on the principle that as these Eurocrat Nutters are like Rust, i.e. they never sleep, we ought to get in first.

We'd also like to thank Theo and his mate Len for this piece of Punkin Chunkin' Info. It would appear that around November time when people are up to the back teeth with Pumpkins, they have a PUNKIN CHUNKIN' competition, to see how far they can be fired (over 1,000 ft) when the Competition is over, the Greater Delaware Valley Kite Mob borrow One Eyed Jack for Bearbombing in a no Wind situation. We dont have full details of how the GDVKS are getting on at this, but we have heard Rumours of strange Furry U.F.O's being reported by Aircraft en route to Newark Airport



THE PUNKIN' CHUNKIN' ANTHEM
It's punkin' chunkin' time again.
Come on all you neighbors and friends,
It's time to make them punkins fly.
Rain, snow or blow—they punkins are gonna go.
You won't believe your eyes,
There goes Mama's punkin' pie
Over Sussex County skies.
It's time to make 'em fly.



ABOVE: One-Eyed Jack, the world's largest hydraulically-powered crossbow can chunk a punkin' 1,000 feet. or fauna a mile...



4 PAGES OF MINDLESS DRIVEL YOO WOT!

Yes, a bumper Bundle of Mindless Drivel, you should be so lucky. Suppose you could say we're just a bit Barmier than we usually are , fact is, we can dish out, what we get in, no more. So its up to you dear Readers, after all, we know that the Pø Faced Kitters are a soft touch, but this is the second straight issue where we have'nt had a go at them, possibly a reflection of the amount of info you are sending us, so keep it coming, CHEERS.... The usual to the usual. 48 Laurel Lane. West Drayton, Middx, UB7. 7TY. U.K. (The Teddytorial)

← VIA DING DONG

Will you feel the "Winds of Change" in 1992?

*Help Us Organise a National Kiteflying
Event to Raise Funds for Charitable
Projects.*

Those of you who sell kites, organise a festival or run a local kite group should have received a letter and questionnaire from *Balance of Nature*. (**Please call us if you haven't!**) The response to date has been enthusiastic, as it has been from the boomerang and frisbee fraternities. If you are wondering what *Balance of Nature* and "**Winds of Change**" are all about, here (briefly) is the story so far...

Balance of Nature is a company which organises events for sponsors and non-profit organisations, and markets ethical products and services as a cause-related business. Our proceeds, less costs, go to a range of beneficiaries spanning cultural, environmental and social projects. We are currently examining the feasibility of a new project for 1992, "**Winds of Change**", which aims to increase the awareness and profile of kiteflying and other "air sports", while fundraising for a number of beneficiaries.

On The Road...

Throughout next summer we are planning a *Balance of Nature "Roadshow"* to visit kite festivals, plus many other venues- for example seaside resorts- where we would like the help of local groups and enthusiasts to arrange displays. As a "**finale**" we plan to create a *New Weekend Event* featuring:

- Kite Displays
- Hot Air Balloons
- Parachutes
- Boomerangs
- Frisbee Tournament
- Environmental Displays
- Kite Competitions
- Airships
- Paragliding
- Wind Energy
- Balloon Race
- Beneficiary Exhibits

Naturally the exact format, nature and size of the entire project will also depend on the commercial sponsorship we attract, but if well-supported in 1992 "**Winds of Change**" could become an on-going project promoting kiteflying and other "airsports", initially throughout the UK but potentially further afield as well.

Your Ideas Please

YOU, the kiteflying enthusiasts of Britain, should have a say in how the event can be mutually beneficial to kiteflying and *Balance of Nature* - suitable ideas can then be incorporated early on. One idea is to produce an educational package for schools and youth groups, so ideas from your experience with childrens' workshops, scout groups, etc., would be especially welcome. We also hope to produce a magazine to accompany the project, and this will include directory listings of kite events, local groups and suppliers- but what else would you like to see in it? Give us the benefit of your experience and . . .

CALL US FOR A QUESTIONNAIRE!

*This Is An Event Where **You** Can Pull
The Strings!*



BALANCE OF NATURE

Please address all correspondence to:
Andy Ridler, Balance of Nature, 93 Lion Road,
Twickenham TW1 4HT
Tel: 081-744 1555 Fax: 081-744 2698

CHANGES AT THE TOP OF THE LINE

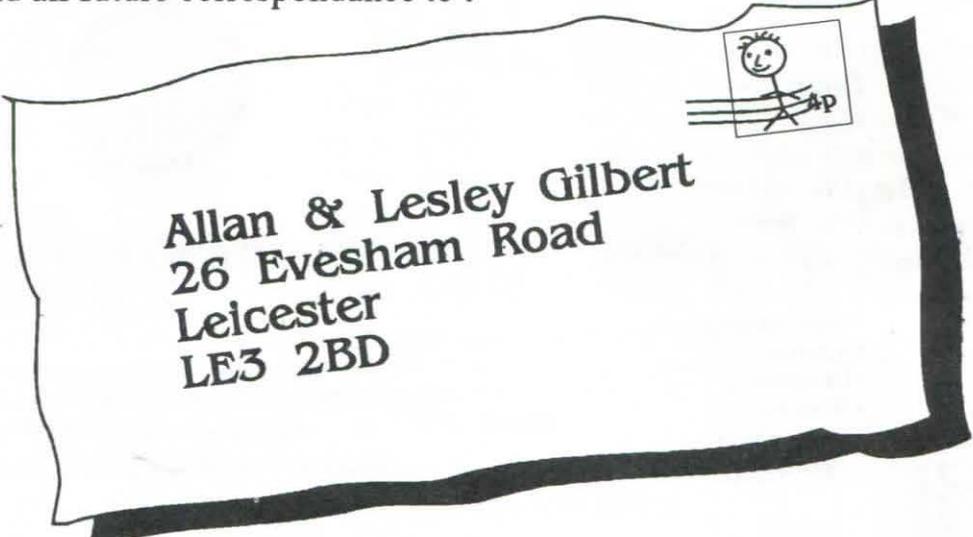
When Derek and Chrissie Kuhn took on the jobs of Secretary, and Treasurer of the Midlands Kite Fliers they had a "very hard act to follow". Bill and Rena Souten had held these offices since the birth of the club and had done a sterling job over the years. However, Derek and Chrissie very quickly made their mark, and have been instrumental in developing the club to its present stage of evolution, i.e. a club with a strong membership and a number of major projects "under its belt", including two international festivals.

Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, (like a new addition to the family, Derek setting up his own computer applications consultancy, etc...) they have found it no longer possible to continue to give the Club the time and effort they believe it deserves. They therefore, all be it reluctantly, announced their resignations at the club Annual General Meeting, on 17th November, 1991.

Derek and Chrissie - from the whole club, and myself, a VERY BIG thank you for all you've done, have a well earned rest!

Don Eccleston
Chairman
Midlands Kite Fliers

Please send all future correspondence to :-



Allan & Lesley Gilbert
26 Evesham Road
Leicester
LE3 2BD



Allan Gilbert Treasurer MKF & Lesley Gilbert Secretary MKF

Allan and Lesley Gilbert first began flying kites three years ago. **It all started on holiday in Cornwall when their daughter suggested getting a kite to fly on the beach.** "Kites are stupid they never fly for me" said Allan. However not deterred they bought a small two line kite and sure enough it wouldn't fly for Allan - mainly because he didn't know his right hand from his left. In fact it is reported it performed like a whirling Dirvisher the minute he got his hands on the handles. They also bought three small Brookites and he was soon hooked on a delta and spent the remainder of that holiday looking at bigger and better kites. Thus fired he decided to look at making a kite and by chance found Schimmelpfennig's 'Making and Flying kites' in the library.

In another book he found the address of Malvern Kites and on a visit there saw the Bristol Kite Festival advertised and that's when Lesley got hooked - approaching the festival site and seeing all those magnificent kites in the air really fired her enthusiasm to 'have a go'.

They joined the MKF in January 1990 and started making initially very simple, single line kites of all types, getting to know the various properties of

each one. They graduated on to bigger kites and have now started to decorate some of those earlier models. They have both made and bought some two line kites but both will say that their first preference is for single lines, for Lesley the interest is in making them, seeing they fly well and then going on to the next project. Allan is the one who will stand out in all weathers at every opportunity with a kite up aloft. He, by the way, is the fellow with the floppy leather hat. Lesley, by her own admittance, is a fair weather flyer.

In 1990 they visited the Dieppe festival and went on to the first festival to be held in East Berlin on the following weekend. They have flown at most of the festivals held in England and in September this year were part of a group which represented the MKF at Belfast.

Lesley and Allan are both social workers. Allan's other interests are; officiating at competitive swimming galas, sitting for hours in front of a computer and he's a school governor. Lesley enjoys gardening and dossing. They have four children, three cats and an open house at Leicester if you happen to be in the area.

Ian Meredith Publicity/News Editor

Unfortunately, there is no known photograph of Ian Meredith and so I will attempt to describe him. Ian professes to have a kite although no-one has ever seen it. Due to his quiet,

reserved nature he is virtually unknown outside of the MKF club. He keeps fit due to the fact that he doesn't eat junk food or drink alcohol and he is best described as a fair weather flyer. Err erm that's about it.

Kevin Conkright



Don Eccleston Chairman MKF

Don Eccleston, having for many years been the local kiteflying eccentric of Stafford, joined the Midlands Kite Fliers in 1979, shortly after it was formed. The first real club activity in which he participated was project KARA (Kite Altitude Record Attempt) in 1980.

Don has a very wide taste in, and collection of, kites. His interests range from single liners to quad line stunt kites, and from Indian fighters to bird kites, to big beasts like the Jorvik Serpent kite (over 500 metres long!).

One of his favourite pastimes is chin-wagging with fellow kitefliers at kite meetings and festi-

vals, (so have your latest kiting stories ready for when you see him).

He became Chairman of the Midlands Kite Fliers in 1978, at the same time Derek and Chrissie Kuhn took on the responsibilities of Secretary and Treasurer. The three of them worked very well together until Derek and Chrissie's retirement at this year's AGM.

Don says he is sure the new "team" of himself, Allan and Lesley Gilbert, and Ian Meredith (Publicity Officer) will work equally well together to make the club better (if that is possible!!!). He has set out below how he sees the job of Chairman.

WHAT DOES THE CHAIRMAN DO?

When asked by Ian Meredith, our new Publicity Officer, to do a brief resume of how I see the job of Chairman, I was tempted to come out with the old one liner "as little as....." However, in fairness to Ian I'll try to be a little more helpful, and list some of the more important things I feel the club Chairman should try to do.

- " Listen to the membership and guide the club's activities towards the requirements identified.
- " Be prepared to give encouragement/guidance to new members in the early stages of their kite flying development. And encourage other established kite fliers to do the same.
- " Represent the Club at Festivals, and promote the interests of its members.

Encourage contact and the communication of ideas about the sport/hobby of kite flying to other kite fliers, clubs, organisations, and the general public.

Now if any of this sounds pompous to you, I'm sorry, it ain't intended that way.

Don Eccleston
Chairman, Midlands Kite Fliers

Changes

As you may or may not have realised "fings aint wot they used to be". The changes of the MKF officers also means that there will inevitably be some changes in the way that things are done.

Subscriptions

Previously, one years membership of the MKF ran from January to December, this in some cases deterred people from joining the club during the year. However, this situation has now changed (due to computerisation) and a one year membership will last for one whole year from the time of joining.

Subscriptions will remain the same for 1992 as they were for 1991.

Club Newsletter

A new club newsletter will be published at a regular period, it is hoped to provide a minimum of four issues a year, more if contributions are forthcoming.

What You Get

Membership of the Midlands Kite Fliers will now entitle you to the following benefits:-

Fours Issues of the Kiteflier

MKF Club Newsletter

Club Directory

Public Liability Insurance

(at all the club's Fly-Ins and Festivals.)

Membership Cards

(allowing discount at most kite retailers throughout the country.)

If you are interested in more details and an application form, then please write to Allan & Lesley Gilbert.

Directory of Members

A club directory will be produced in 1992, and this will be available to the MKF membership only. Each member will be allowed one entry into the directory, and this will consist of :-

Name
Address
Tel. No.
Kite Flying Details,
Transport

The Name, Address and Telephone number is optional and it is assumed that the information is not used unless otherwise stated.

Having a directory allows members to be able to get in touch with each other and also indicates to new members who to turn to for help and advice.

Another useful feature is Transport, this will indicate whether a member would require a lift to festivals or other flying sites thus helping out with the costs of the journey and also being able to attend extra events.

Festival

British Gas Kitefly 92

As I am sure all of you now know, there is going to be a country wide kite festival on April 20th 1992 in aid of Spinal Research. Birmingham is taking part in this event and once again it will be situated at Cofton Park, Longbridge. The events around the country will receive the most amount of publicity ever known for a kiting event, this is due to the fact that it is all in aid of charity and is sponsored by British Gas.

The Spinal Research charity will hopefully raise their target from these events and the profile of kiting in the UK will certainly be on the tips of everyones tongues, tele's, radios and newspapers. If every member of every UK club attended their local event and the expected number of children participate then there will be more kites in the air in one day than anyone has ever seen.

If any traders or kiteflyers wish to attend the Birmingham event then please contact Allan and Lesley Gilbert.

And Finally.....

Happy New Year From

The

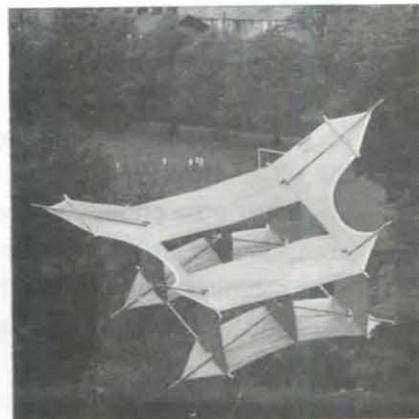
Midlands

Kite Fliers



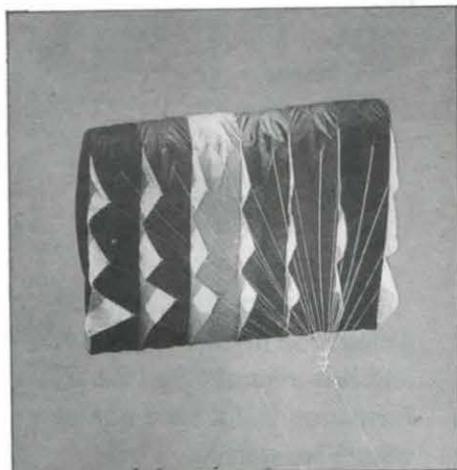
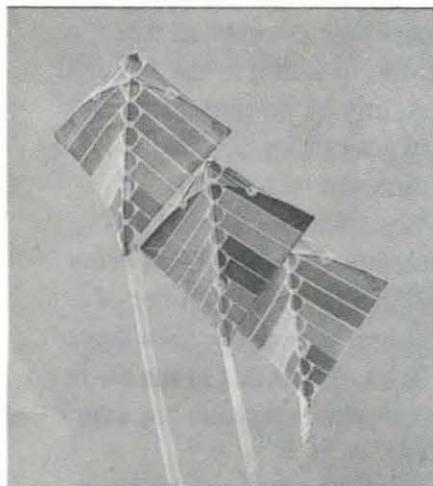
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 Worthing
 West Sussex
 BN11 1UA
 Tel: 0903 207525

Aerodyne

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS AGM 20th October 1991

Thanks to all, including Jake the Dog, who braved the cold to attend our AGM at The Downs Hotel, Woodingdean, and also to Maurice Sawyer and John Hill for their suggestions by way of letter. The agenda and outcome are as follows:-

Vacant posts to be filled:- Magazine Editor:- Having battled through a frenzy of enthusiastic volunteers I have landed the job - so here I am like it or lump it! (who says no one else was willing to take it on)?! Secretary:- No response as yet - so where are all you budding enthusiastic secretaries hiding? Watch this space.

Permanent fly-in site and frequency of fly-ins:- After many years of varying our sites fortnightly throughout Sussex, it was agreed that with effect from 1st January 1992 we will fly on:-

1st Sunday in the month at Hollingbury (Grid Ref.198TQ 324 083)
3rd Sunday in the month at Telscombe Tye (Grid Ref.198TQ 392 017)

The main reason being that our previous ten sites were meant to accomodate our more far flung flying members - but as the same die-hards turn up at most of the fly-ins there seems little point in all that unnecessary travel. The general concensus was that the new arrangement is easier to remember (where have all the brain cells gone)? and also to pass on to enquiring Joe Public/potential members rather than having to fumble for a complex and varied fly-in list, which I'm sure I am not the only one never to have it in my back pocket when required!

Competitions at fly-ins:- Yes - all agreed this would be a fun idea and from the New Year we will be running a solo Rokkaku fighting competition on the 1st Sunday and an altitude challenge on the 3rd Sunday of each month. A minimum of six events in each must be attended and each competitors cumulative six best scores in each event will be totalled to qualify for an end of year trophy.

New Club logo:- Oh yes - we need one - all ideas in by 1st March 1992 please. Bear in mind that it has to work at all sizes, i.e. letterheads, badges, and tee shirts - which brings me neatly to the next point.

Club tee shirts:- When a new logo has been decided upon we will invest some money (if we have any by then) in printing club tee shirts / sweatshirts for sale to members and also for sale at the festival to raise club funds.

KITE EXHIBITION AT HOVE MUSEUM

Unfortunately notice of this six week summer event was too short to go into the July issue of the magazine. It was a small exhibition of Asian kites from India, Malaysia and China - well displayed and well described in English and Chinese, and complemented by a series of related events - talks, workshops, demonstrations and videos. Tim Wilcocks, the Curator, contacted me in early June to see if the Brighton Kite Flyers could run any kite workshops to complement the exhibition. Having never done this before I consulted with colleagues and we decided to "go for it". Danny Steer was the only one with any experience, having assisted Takeshi Nishibayashi several years before. We set up an adult workshop and childrens workshop in morning and afternoon sessions for each, plus invitations to fly-ins on the Downs and an afternoon demonstration of all types of kite flying in the local park. The adult workshop was very successful, despite the small numbers who attended (six). With Ray, Toody, Andy, Mik and Danny helping, everyone made a small fringed delta from Tyvek, which took about 2 hours. I tried to avoid any use of a sewing machine, but was forced to use it for the spine pocket - everything else was glued with PVA or Sellotaped. The afternoon was spent flying on Hove beach in a fresh breeze. One girl, left in charge of her boyfriend's kite, tried to wind it in and accidentally let go of the handle, which kept the kite ballasted as it flew across the town. It was last seen flying from a TV aerial!

Ray Oakhill.

CHILDRENS WORKSHOP

Having breezed nonchalantly through the adult workshops on a virtually one to one basis (this is a doss I thought)! - we were somewhat shocked on arrival to find both childrens sessions fully booked and one crucial member of our team still in bed to boot! (phew - not me this time)! Now twenty four children may sound like peanuts to those of you well versed in the workshop scene (thinks - all hail to The Master, Bill Souten - how did you manage 700 at Bristol)?! But we poor novices had never done this before. We made Jim Rowlands pocket sleds from brightly coloured plastic and tape - which were eagerly decorated on completion. Despite our anxieties we found both groups a delight to teach, bar the inevitable little herbert persistently wanting to know at what stage the machine guns should be attached to the creation! Following each session the children test flew their kites, which with great excitement, flew without exception - a miracle to be sure - mostly due to Jim's superb design, Ray's forward planning and Andy's preparation and presentation - (so all those years of watching John Noakes eventually paid off). At the end of a tiring but totally exhilarating day we felt that we had easily learned as much, if not more, than our valiant young students! Thanks to Andy, Mik, Peter and Derek.

Workshops:- It was decided that in months with five Sundays we hope to hold a workshop of some description on the "odd" Sundays, possibly at Cardinal Newman School, Hove. The dates will be:-

May 31st 1992 - August 30th 1992 - November 29th 1992
Times and projects to be decided and notified in the next issue.

Changing the bank account to a Building Society:- A unanimous "yes" - we need all the interest we can get.

Kite Society associate membership:- Presently BKF subs stand at £7.00 per member for associate membership of The Kite Society, which entitles you to the quarterly "Kiteflier" magazine, but no other benefits. Therefore it was agreed to raise the BKF sub to £8.00 with effect from May 1992, entitling everyone to the full benefits of The Kite Society, ie. free entry to Old Warden twice yearly (currently costing £3.50 each and rising annually), also nationwide shop discounts. Plus the benefit of having a gold card to flash in your wallet of course!

So we got through it in the end with the help of a few beers. We hope that you all approve of the outcome - but if not then perhaps you should have been there to air your views.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year and fair winds for 1992. We welcome your contributions be they festival write ups, kite designs, general tips, cartoons, jokes or just scraps of info - please send them in we welcome anything (just about)!

Toody Oakhill
Editor.

Co-ordinator - Ray Oakhill
Membership Secretary - Peter Jones
Editor - Toody Oakhill
Treasurer - Toody Oakhill
Competitions Manager - Mik Jennison
PR Officer - Andy Dalglish
Festival Safety Officer - Danny Steer
Secretary - Vacancy, watch this space.

Festival Marshalls - do you fancy yourself in a red baseball cap fluorescent yellow waistcoat? All posers please apply!
Seriously though - we do need more help at the Festival.

All articles for inclusion in Aerodyne should be addressed to:-
Toody Oakhill, The Editor, Brighton Kite Flyers, 6, Hartfield Road
Saltdean, Brighton, East Sussex. BN2 8RE.

BRIGHTON KITE FESTIVAL 1992

Advance notice of this event to be held at the usual venue -
Waterhall Playing Fields, Patcham on Saturday 16th and Sunday
17th May 1992. Further details and car passes will be in the
April edition of "The Kiteflier".

TALKS ON KITES.

"Tale of the Kite: 3000 Years of Kite Flying" by Danny Staples. This was an excellently compiled, comprehensive history from the year dot to around the Peter Powell era - well illustrated with slides. It is a pity that it stopped there, considering the dramatic developments of recent years. However time was limited, even though some of us could quite happily have stayed all evening. Sorry if the BKF mob caused you to go rather pale Danny when you realised that we were in attendance - we really don't know everything about kites - honest - some of us just think we do!

"Kites Over Kelantan" by Bill Farrington. This was a truly fascinating account - what this man does not know about Malaysian kites really can't be worth knowing! An information packed talk covering all aspects was complemented by a show of Bill's own slides, all delivered with such an effervescent enthusiasm that it couldn't help but rub off on his audience. Of particular interest was Bill's collection of Malaysian kites - especially the collapsible Wau Bulan and samples of the various stages in traditional Malaysian kite decoration. Those intricate hand cut paper layers/stencils had to be handled to be believed.

KITE DEMONSTRATION

Thanks to a brilliant PR job by the museum, our August kite demo at the Neville Recreation Ground, Hove, was very well attended. We crammed the available sky with as many and varied collection as could be mustered from the murky depths of our combined kite bags in order for the uninitiated to "have a go".

Needless to say a fair amount of time was spent patching up the remains of kites that were brought along in varying states of disrepair. This proved to be a very rewarding activity - I am always gobsmacked when anything that I have a hand in mending actually flies! Ray, Mik and myself put on an impromptu teamer.....well I don't think it really qualified for the description "display" - we don't fly together so often - but we gave the general idea of team flying anyway - (such modesty)!

Much fun was had by all - shame that the press and film crew didn't turn up then instead of the following morning at 9.00am at our Race Hill fly-in - only to find one lone die hard, early bird member, Peter, in zero wind conditions! I don't know quite what amazing display they were expecting to discover at that time on a Sunday morning - especially without notice - who were those guys anyway? Oh well - yet another chance for fame and fortune blown away!

Toody Oakhill.



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New for '92

Well, at present (Dallas Kite Trade association show next week!) the only major new items for 1992 are Stunt Kites and Still Air Toys. Single line kites seem to be almost totally out of favour with manufacturers for now.

In stunt kites we have the (new) Lite-Flite Radial, the (new) Chicago Fire Bee Dart, the (almost new) Skynasaur Ultrawing 96, the (new) Silent Speedwings and (old) Top of the Line Kites (at new reduced prices!).

The **LiteFlite Radial** is our own precision/freestyle kite- the kite is a low aspect ratio indented, battened sail swept wing with sail stretchers on front & rear cross spars and a unique self-adjusting moving point bridle system. What all this means in practice is that the kite will fly from about 5mph to 25mph, is unstallable, can be launched from nearly **any** position (except face down, nose into wind) and does a number of totally unreasonable things that were previously in the province of 4 line kites. It's not cheap (fancy ultra strong 5.9mm carbon etc), but I suspect we'll sell all we can make!

The **Chicago Fire Bee Dart** is the english assembled version of the original design. A large wing stunter, the Bee Dart has been flown in Competition by the Chicago Fire team for the last two years with great success (see 1991 Great Lakes video- they are flying three stacks!). Sparred in Beman 5.5mm carbon, the CFBD is immacu-

lately finished and available in a number of different colour combinations (worker, drone, queen etc).

By cutting slightly more billow into the sail of the **Speedwing** it has been found to be possible to eliminate the trailing edge buzz that can be rather annoying to some people. All Super Speedwings are now silent and a silent small model is available (as well as the standard "noisy" small model). Speed & light wind performance appear to be unaffected by this change although mixing silent and noisy in train might not be a good idea- we've yet to try this.

As last year we have a separate colour stunt kite catalogue describing most of our "standard" stunt kites (called- imaginatively- Stunt Kites 1992)- we also have 50-60 other stunt kites that don't make it into this catalogue (and spare parts for these!)- if you are looking for something do ask- we wouldn't normally list something unless we have 5-10 in stock- we have a **lot** of 1-3's of various things.

For when the wind drops (or if you just feel playful) we now stock a limited range of Estes model rockets and accessories (plain rockets- no SF models & no military). Powered by small solid fuel, electrically fired motors these rockets can be either plain fun or serious- they make a small rocket launched camera and a number of payload lifting models. Separate list/notes should be available now.

**The Kite Store Ltd, 48 Neal Street, London WC2H 9PA.
Tel; 071 836 1666 Fax; 071 836 2510.**