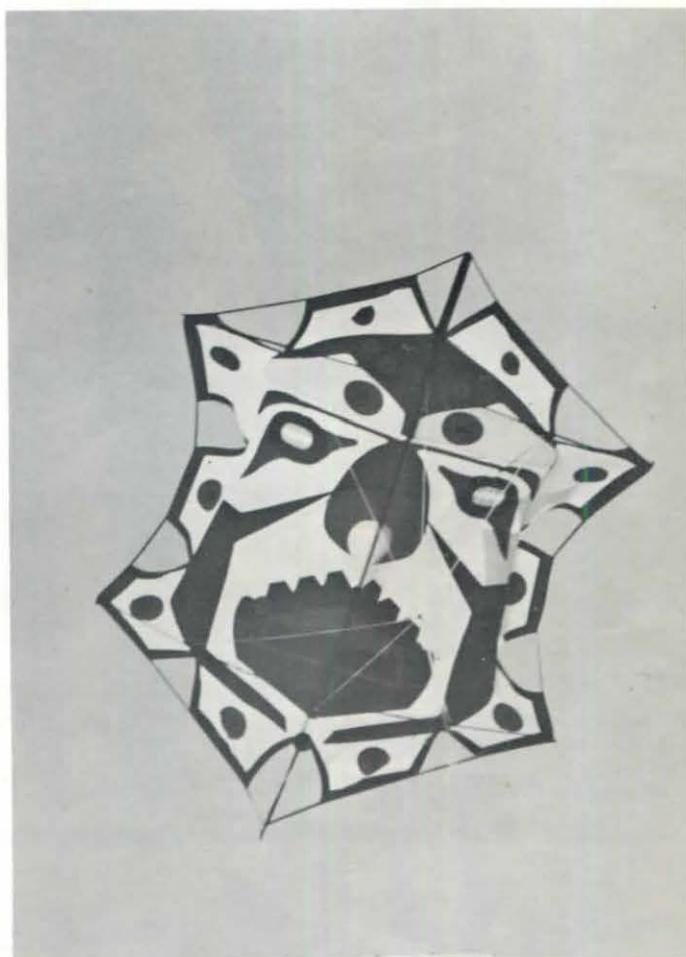


THE KITEFLIER

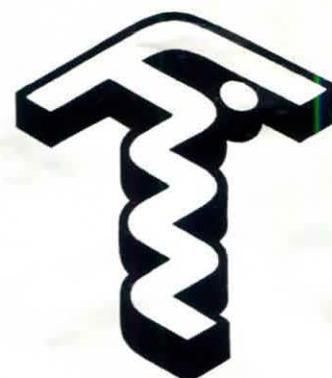
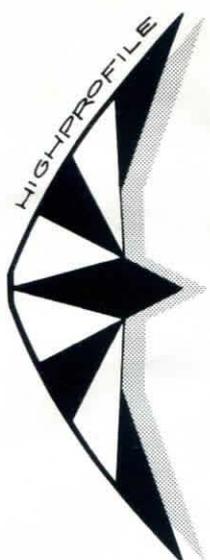
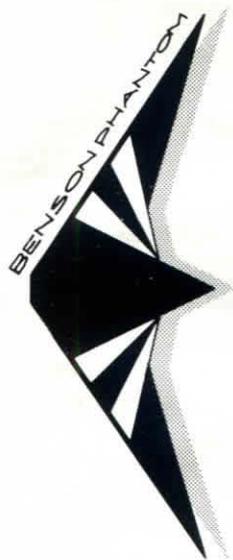
ISSUE 51

- APRIL 1992 -

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OF
THE KITE SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN



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EDITORIAL

First of all we would like to wish everyone a pleasant and successful years kite flying. The number of events that are happening this year should allow all walks of flier to enjoy themselves.

The first major event is the British Gas Kitefly '92 which is taking place on Easter Monday April 20th. Please support this event. As you can see from the following pages the money raised goes to a very worthwhile cause.

Many people have expressed an interest in joining in with the Rokkaku challenge but have been a bit put off by lack of knowledge. For a beginner the ideal opportunity to find out more is during the Kite Society convention where Paul Morgan will give a talk on this subject. Remember you can join in any time - you don't need prior experience.

Rokkaku Challenges will take place at; Blackheath (Easter and Summer); Weymouth; Swindon; Scunthorpe; Shrewsbury; Monmouth; Washington; and Bristol - a total of nine events. All events will have both individual and team challenges.

Finally don't forget the Kite Society Single Line Championships which will take place at Bristol - more details in the July issue of the magazine.

Just to remind you again - don't forget the Convention - it is organised for your benefit - you should be there.

The cover shows two of Don Mocks Indian Motif kites to be seen at Weymouth and Swindon.

BRITISH GAS KITEFLY '92

The British Gas Kitefly '92, which is taking place on Easter Monday April 20th, is well under way with 5 major events and 14 local events having been organised. You will find a complete list of the events below we would ask that you give your support to these events. In addition 36 Haven Holiday Parks are organising Kitefllys as part of their Easter Monday programme of events.

Another way you can help is to use the sponsorship form enclosed with your magazine and fly your kite on the day - there is no need to attend any of the events just go and fly your kite where you want.

The money raised by the Easter Monday Kitefly is to go to the International Spinal Research Trust, a British based charity whose aim is to find a cure for paralysis caused by a broken back or neck. The target of £1 million will be used to fund medical research, most of it in the U.K. and ensure that the results of research, new techniques and information from all over the world is shared so that no effort is wasted.

There have been a number of publicity events around the country with the childrens Saturday programme 'Motormouth' being at the forefront on the national publicity effort. BBC Childrens TV intend to broadcast live from Blackheath on Easter Monday starting at 9.00am.

Among the events planned at the major venues are Rokkaku Fighting, Parachuting Teddy Bears, Blackheath Pageant Kite Display, Stunt Kite Demonstrations, Corporate Kite Competitions, Indian Kite Fighting, Japanese Kite display, Boomerang Demonstrations, Jugglers, Chinese Kite Display, British Gas Pipe Band etc etc. (Obviously not all events are taking place at all locations - the above is just a cross section). We have also heard that Derek Kuhn is attempting a sponsored drive between all of the events on the day.

All of the main events will have Stalls selling Kites and Kite Accessories and, where permitted, food stalls will also be available. Toilets will be onsite or nearby so there should not be any problems.

VENUE	LOCATION	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
London	Blackheath	Tony Cartwright	081 808 1280
Bristol	Ashton Court	Martin Baker	0272 745010
Birmingham	Cofton Park	Ian Meredith	021 565 4206
Manchester	Heaton Park	Ron Ogden	061 682 9308
Glasgow	Strathclyde Park	Sandy Maxwell	041 334 9563
Chelmsford, Essex	Hylands Park, Chelmsford	Simon Nosworthy	0245 495250

BRITISH GAS KITEFLY '92

VENUE	LOCATION	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
St Austell, Cornwall	Rugby Football Club, St Austell	Alan Dibb	0726 67124
Worcester	Worcester Countryside Park	Fred Taplin	0789 762350
Portsmouth, Hampshire	Buster Hill, Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Horndean, Petersfield	Simon Bassett	0243 512552
Brighton, Sussex	Waterhall Playing Fields, Patcham	Paul Thody	0273 676740
Bedford	Priory Country Park	Bob Piron	0234 261835
Peterborough	Ferry Meadows, Nene Park	Bob Piron	0234 261835
Suffolk	Long Melford Hall, Sudbury	Bob Piron	0234 261835
Kent	Hythe Green, Folkestone	Barry James	0303 220855
Reading, Berkshire	Theale Green, Reading	Kreative Kites	0635 72186
Wokingham, Berkshire	Dinton Pastures Country Park, Reading	Tradewind Kites	0734 568848
Leeds	Nunroyd Park, Guisley	John Baker	0532 789727
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Town Moor, Newcastle	Harry Peart	0325 284077
Welwyn Garden City	Stanborough Park		

If you have any questions regarding the above then you should contact the organiser listed above. For more general enquiries about the organisation contact the PR company, Chambers Cox on 071 631 5414. If you want more information about the International Spinal Research Trust then you should contact the Trust at PO Box 138, Moulton House, Pondwood Close, Moulton Park, Northampton, NN3 1WB.

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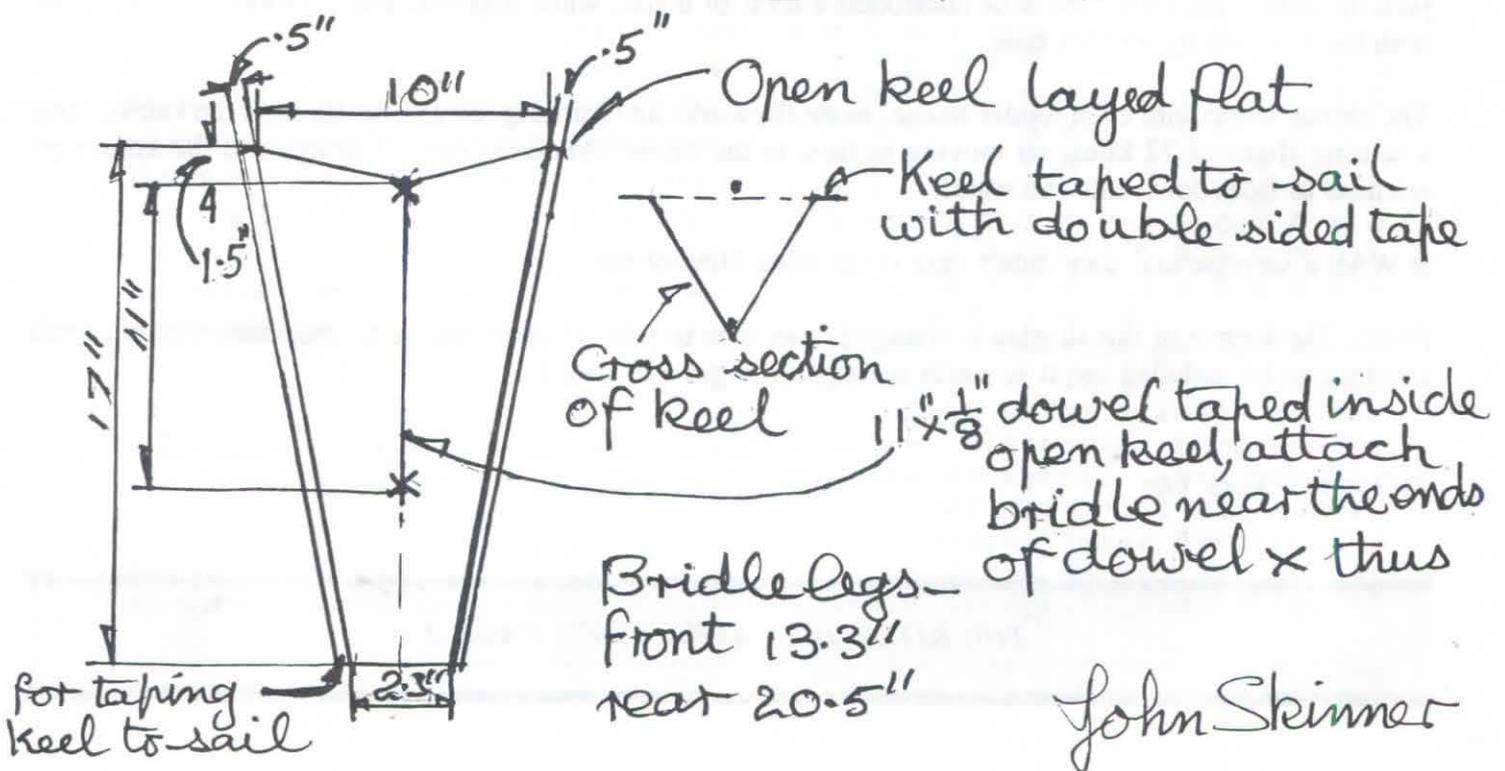
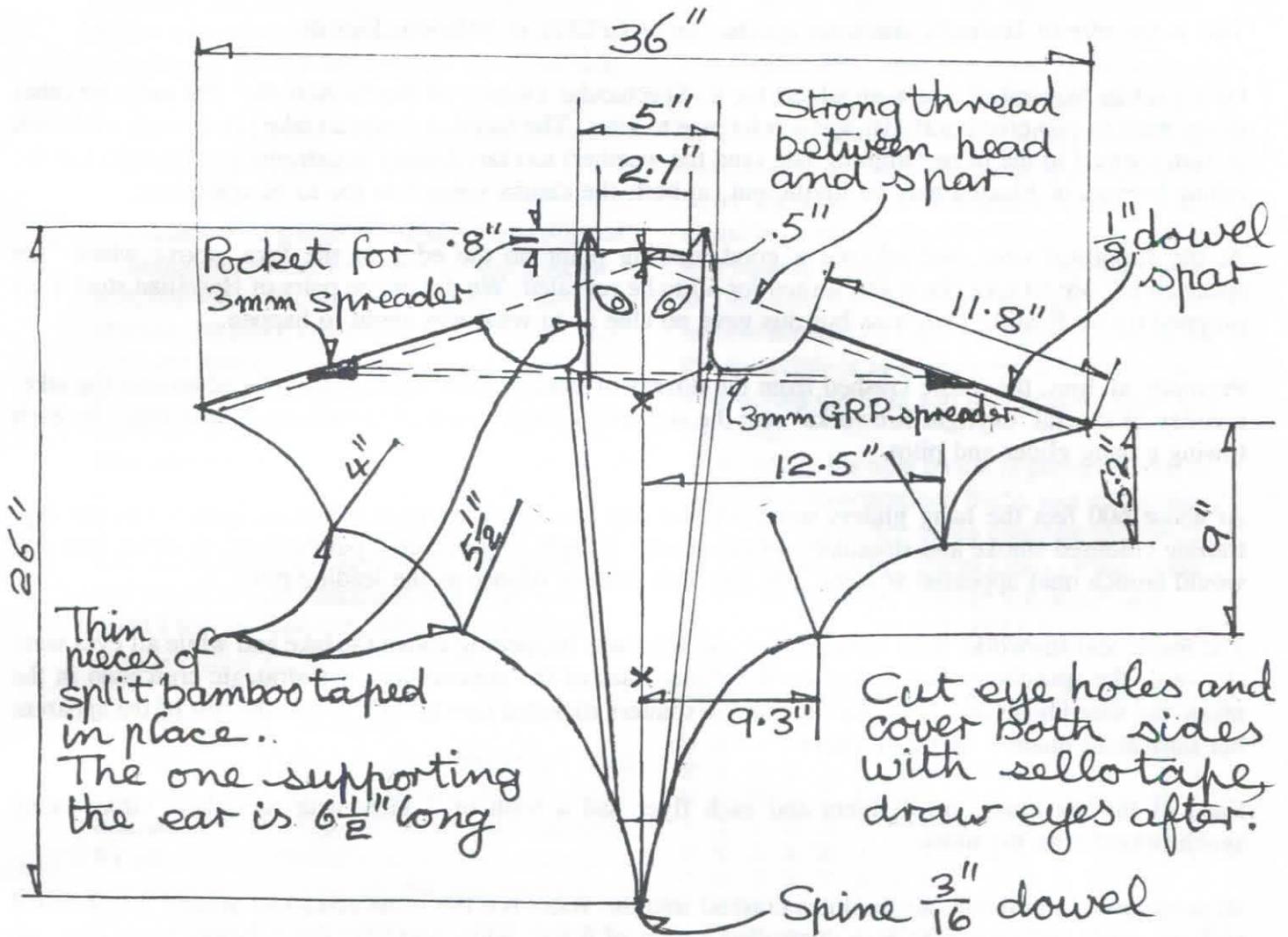
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Bat Kite

Bat cut from black dustbin liner



John Skinner

AERIAL EXTRAVAGANZA

This is the title of Disney's afternoon spectacular at EPCOT in Orlando, Florida.

On a visit in November, I saw an advert for a "Spectacular Display of Aerial Activity" and amongst other things such as powered parafoils, was a reference to kites. The fact that it was to take place every afternoon at 3pm seemed to me to be tempting fate (and the weather) too far. Disney is extremely influential and the balmy breezes of Florida may be idyllic but, at best, the claims seemed to me to be optimistic.

At the appointed time, we selected a good viewing point on the edge of the lake, above which "the spectacular" was to take place and waited for all to be revealed. We did notice pairs of Hawaiian stunt kites propped up on floating platforms but this gave no clue as to what was about to happen.

Promptly at 3pm, the music crashed from the dozens of loudspeakers strategically placed around the lake, a volley of special 'daylight fireworks' rent the sky and six high powered speedboats roared into life, each towing a hang glider and pilot.

At about 600 feet the hang gliders were released and proceeded to weave intricate patterns in the sky, trailing coloured smoke and streamers. Miraculously, a flight of 8 powered parafoils (think about how you would launch one) appeared at some 200 feet with Mickey Mouse as the leading pilot.

The music and fireworks were orchestrated into what was happening above the lake and while all eyes were skyward, the speedboats had picked up the flying lines of the stunters and at a strategic crescendo in the music the speed boats accelerated away and the stunters rocketed into the sky to join the rest of the apparent but intricately planned mayhem above.

Each of the six boats had 2 flyers and each flyer had a train of 2 kites with the whole circus being synchronised with the music.

At some precise moment, all the kites crashed into the water but the boats screamed around to concealed pick-up points and each flier now controlled a train of 6 red, white and blue Peter Powell stunt kites, all with their streaming 45 foot tails.

The climax came with even louder music, more fireworks and hurtling towards us through the smoke came a soaring flight of 72 kites, all moving in time to the music. Another crash of drums and the kites were released to float down into the water.

It WAS a surprise and they didn't care if the wind blew or not.

[Note: The format of this display is changed from time to time so there can be no assurance that kites will continue to be included but it is worth seeing if you get a chance.]

Alan Bole

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 Kite Festival at Ashby Ville Playing Fields, Queens Way, Scunthorpe.

The Convention is to be held at Baths Hall, Doncaster Road, Scunthorpe. The venue has three large halls and the convention will have a 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. The event starts at 10.00am and will run until 5.00pm when the formal part of the event finishes. The programme includes:

Jim Rowlands doing his kite workshops.

Paul Morgan is presenting "An open discussion on various methods of Rokkaku Construction, rigging and fighting during which, it is hoped, there will be questions and comments of experience from the floor (or the audience)".

Stafford Wallace will give a talk about Indian Kite Fighting the kites and the fighters. In particular Stafford will discuss the techniques used when flying these kites.

Martin Thomas, Andy King and Tim Benson will give a Stunt Kite Seminar. This will be a general introduction to stunt flying. They will discuss choosing a kite, the choice of line and the care and maintenance of the equipment. Special techniques - including trick flying will be discussed as well as Quad line flying techniques. Finally they will talk about forming a stunt team and the techniques required.

(This session will extend to the Sunday, at the festival site, with a Hands On practical session where you will have the opportunity to be guided by some of the best stunt fliers in the U.K. You will also have the opportunity to test fly most of the top stunt kites available. These test models will be provided by The Leading Edge Kite Supply Company).

Alan Wenham of Flight Fantastic will present a workshop on Applique Techniques. Alan is well known for his appliqued kites. He will show his techniques supported by slides and partially constructed kites.

Andy Ridler from Balance of Nature will give a short presentation about the organisation, "Winds of Change" and what they wish to achieve.

Plus we will be having a kite pin exhibition with a pin challenge during the lunch break (approximately 1.00pm).

The 'A.G.M.'

There are a number of reasons for this session of the convention.

Firstly is to discuss the financing of the K.S.G.B. The current situation is that funds are generally short when taking into account the requirements that we need to satisfy for non-member activities such as responding to general enquiries from the public and providing information to other parties. In general we put our hands in our pockets and fund these things ourselves - should this continue or would the members help by being willing to pay a higher subscription.

Finally the convention itself. We have run these, with only local assistance, for five years (including this one), and, to be honest, it is becoming a burden. Obviously we would like to thank those people who have helped locally but we now feel that more has to be done.

There are two main factors:

- The organisation of a convention
- The content of the convention

What we would like to see is a 'Convention Committee' consisting of a number of people who would co-ordinate and organise future conventions. This would include locating a venue and, either joining in with a festival, as we have done at York, Bristol and Weymouth, or organising a festival as well, such as Scunthorpe. The K.S.G.B. convention account would be made available to the committee together with the funds in that account. The committee would, of course, have to report the accounts for each years convention.

Obviously we would still be involved but to a much lesser extent. We would report the event in the magazine and assist the committee with our own experience.

THE KITE SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER AND AUCTION

The Kite Society Annual Dinner will be in the evening of Saturday 23rd at the Baths Hall commencing at 8.00pm. 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. **REMEMBER** you can attend the auction without attending the meal - the auction should start around 9.00pm.

THE FESTIVAL

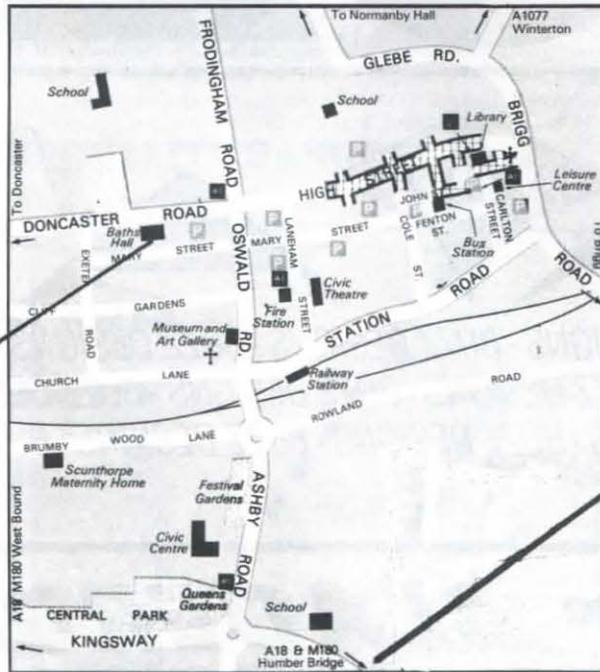
The Kite Society Kite Festival flying site is one of the best new sites we have seen for some time the Ashby Ville Playing Fields is made up of 70 acres of flat grass surrounded by a further 70 - 100 acres of rough

KITE SOCIETY CONVENTION 1992

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, 50 Old Brumby Street, Scunthorpe DN16 2AN. 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.

Convention 23rd May.
10.00am- 5.00pm.
Baths Hall, Doncaster
Road.



Kite Society Kite
Festival. 24th,25th
May. 10.00am -
5.00pm. Ashby Ville
Playing Fields. Located
on right of Queensway
(A18) approx 1 mile.

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".

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Address _____

Meal Tickets required: Adult _____ Child _____ Total payment _____

Auction Items _____

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

I started flying kites in Lucknow, India when I was about five years old. I was so obsessed with it that during the next ten years I became known as 'the mad kite boy' and my parents were constantly receiving reports about me having accidents on my bicycle because I was looking up to the sky and not the road. They also worried about me when I flew kites from our roof, because there were lots of accidents to youngsters who became so involved with the fights that they fell off the roofs. Lucknow is probably the kite flying capital of India and kites are flown throughout the year. Yes there are some kite festivals but that only means that more people fly from wherever they are and it is predominately a participatory sport so there is no one place where people go to fly kites.

When I left India I brought six kites and some manja (sharp cutting line) with me which stayed in the bottom of my suitcase for 25 years till I discovered the Kite Society and other kitefliers. I have returned to India twice, to fly and buy kites and lots of people have asked how kites are flown in India, so I have decided to put pen to paper.

During both my visits I flew kites at various levels. I was invited to compete in a match between Lucknow and Kanpur, which is the highest level of competition with rules and an agreed code of conduct. Two teams situated approximately 250 metres apart compete. The equipment consists of several boxes of large, tournament size, kites, several reels of manja (6000 metres per reel) and several reels of cotton line (8000 - 12000 metres per reel). Each flier launches his kite with about 500 metres of manja then breaks the manja, attaches it to the reel of cotton and hold his kite steady at about 800 - 1000 metres. Whilst the other kites remain steady in the sky, one flier from each team makes manoeuvres towards his opponent trying to get his preferred position. A fight takes place at low level. Some prefer having their kite at the bottom whilst others prefer being on top, and if both fliers prefer the same position a lot of manoeuvring takes place. Both fliers keep spinning their kites and letting out line, this enables a quick slicing action in any direction. When the lines cross, which can be at about 1500 metres, some fliers prefer pulling and others letting line out till one kite is cut.

The winning kite rises proudly and a frantic effort is made by onlookers to catch the losing kite. Some use a long pole with branches tied at the top, some use a stone tied to a line which is swung upwards to bring down the floating thread and others fly a kite with knotted wire to entangle the losing kite. When your kite is cut your line drops and every little boy along the route grabs as much as he can, which he subsequently uses to fly a kite which he has caught or bought. Over 1000 metres of line is lost in each fight. While the losing flier gets another kite out, another member of the team challenges the winner and there is another fight, and this continues usually until it turns dark.

As well as organised competitions there are fights taking place all around the city and of course the 'rooftop dogfights' with unknown opponents and no code of behaviour. You have to be very alert because as you fight one opponent at 250 metres another flier from behind tries to cut your cotton line near your hand. Considerable skill is required here and, quite honestly, I preferred the rooftop fights with the dozens of kites all around me. There are cut kites falling on the roof and others floating overhead which all add to the excitement.

If there are any fighters or potential fighters who would like to learn more and develop their skills, please

KITE FLYING IN INDIA by STAFFORD WALLACE

contact me. Perhaps we could go to some quiet part of the festival site and indulge in 'friendly' fights and maybe form a club where we can practice this great sport. I can be contacted at any major kite festival or by phone on 0780 86389. Based on the interest shown at kite festivals I believe there are lots of potential fighters out there

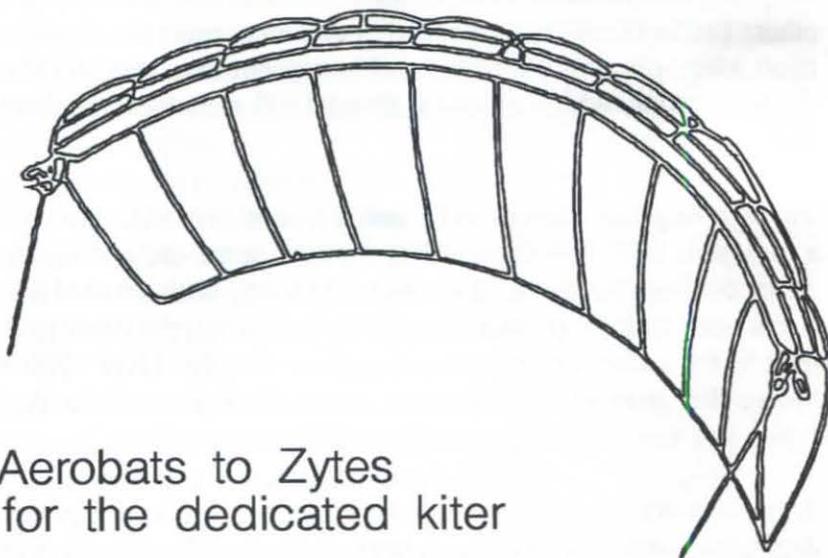
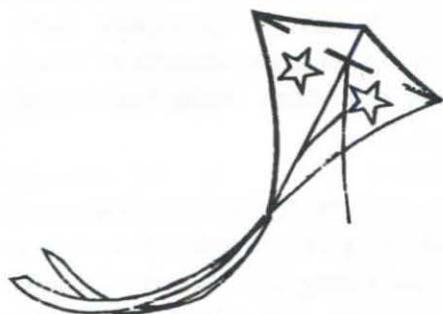
(Stafford is going to be giving a short talk on Indian Kite Fighting at the Kite Society Convention at Scunthorpe - see the Convention pages for more details)

FIGHTER KITE NEWS

Ric Merry from Seattle, Washington, has announced the formation a new association devoted entirely to fighter kites or single line manoeuvrables.

The first newsletter says that there are already 70 members in 5 countries. The fees have not yet been set but if you want some more information contact: Ric Merry, 3520-28th Avenue, Seattle, Washington WA 98199, U.S.A.

The other piece of news is the fact that the American KiteFliers Association is in the process of publishing a Fighter/Rokkaku contest Manual.

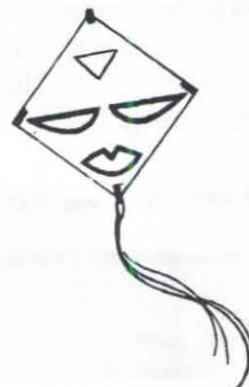
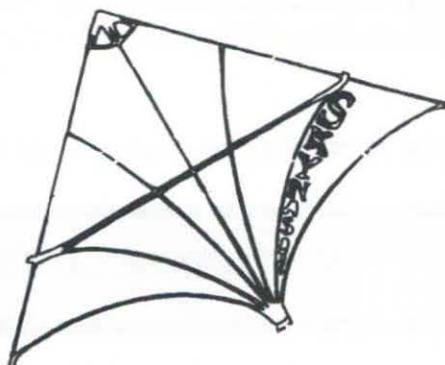


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A look at some of the latest kite patents

Jim Rowlands

If there is any trend to be seen in this crop of patents it is that much of the design thinking of late is going into the development of stunter kites. Almost three quarters of this year's patents refer to stunters and single line kites seem to have lost out completely.

But by far the most ingenious of this batch is however not a stunter at all, but a rather pompous sounding "large area single surface kite" by Wesley Allee US 4988059. Ingenious, not only in respect of its design and simplicity of manufacture, but because it is timed exactly right to meet the growing demand for advertising kites. In essence it is a multi-sled, which supports a large sheet, or if you like a wide tail, on which slogans or logos may be printed. But unlike other advertising kites, serpents and rokakkus, this one is very light, and will fold down to almost nothing.

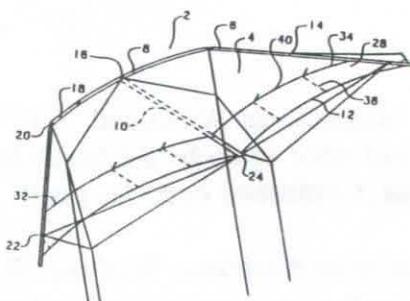
There are two new patents this year from Arien Lawrence US 5018117 and US 5012458 both describing something called "racing gates". In the preamble the author states 'the sport of racing kites is becoming increasingly popular' and continues by describing what kite racing is all about - moving the kite at speed across the sky. This is the first I have heard of this 'increasingly popular sport' and really wonder whether it exists outside the imagination of the author. The great advantage of the swept wing stunter and its great success in competition flying is its ability to fly *slowly*, under the control of the pilot not the *speed* of its flight. As for speed contests, the new Speedfoil so outclasses everything that kite racing ceases to be a contest at all!

Searching through the patent literature each year I occasionally come across kites which are very similar to those already patented or otherwise well known. Three of this year's patents fall into this category. US 5000491 by Salvatore Barona US describes a very simple kite. Take two pieces of light rigid material, balsa or expanded polystyrene. Cut one into a triangle to make a keel, and the other into some pleasing shape such as a diamond, a heart or a star. Cut a notch in the latter to accept the keel, and there you have your kite. US 5011099 by Rudolph Harburg describes yet another variation of the Malay/Diamond in which dihedral is induced in the cross spar through tension in the sail. In this case however, the cross spar is featured forward of the sail.

To those who have been flying kites for some years the origin of US 5011100 from Richard Gerstein is also obvious. Described as kite stable in a wide range of wind conditions and suitable as a fishing aid, this kite bears a more than passing resemblance to the Lewis Pocket Sled, (for which there was a patent application in 1978) except that Gerstein has added two vertical spars - something of a retrograde step, I thought.

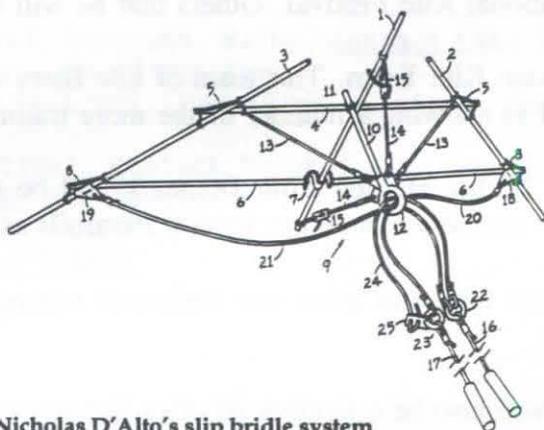
Of the five new patents relating to stunters US 4981273 by Charles Petteys probably has the greatest chance of being developed into a marketable product. The author claims that current swept wing designs cannot be controlled effectively in gusty conditions and require the pilot to take compensating action. The solution, he goes on, is to add a second lifting surface - and "air baffle", fitted over the lower surface of the kite, towards the lower spreader bar and in the same plane. It works by introducing 'boundary layer recharging', that is causing an increase in the air speed over the upper surface, allowing the kite to fly in light winds and accommodate changing wind conditions. Why I think it will succeed has

however got nothing to do with aerodynamics, but that I think it offers the strongest challenge to the Revolution's domination of the quad line market. Watch out for it this summer!



Charles Petteys' quad line kite

In US 5000403 Nicholas D'Alto describes a most complicated bridling system for a stunt kite. Slip bridles have never been particularly popular, due to the wear and abrasion on the lines, and this invention doesn't even begin to solve this particular problem. Lines from each side of the kite are drawn through a ring at the end of a rod held perpendicular to the spine. To move the kite to the left, that is shorten the left hand bridle, it appears that you pull on the right hand line and vice versa.



Nicholas D'Alto's slip bridle system

A rather clever device for controlling power kites is described in US 5026007 by Donald Gellert. Imagine a Flexifoil control bar with connections for three lines, one at each end and one at the centre. The lines are drawn round each end of the spar, and through the centre hole to a ground peg. What possible use is this you may ask? Hidden in amongst text is in fact the description of an extremely practical device, to achieve a controlled launch, or decent gradually feeding the line, through the centre hole. So rather than lowering your Flexifoil or Peel by crashing it, leading edge to the ground and running the risk of splitting the seams, with this device you can achieve a more controlled, and by implication, a safer decent.

Another rather neat little device receives an airing in US 5024401. from Hiroshi Nakashima. Those who have mastered the flying of quad line kite still have, or perhaps had one major difficulty - the fast winding, unwinding and storing of the lines, without tangling. Nakashima's device, if I have understood the drawings correctly would seem to solve this problem quite adequately.

There isn't enough space to feature all the patents published this year, and I've not been able to obtain many of those from Japan and Australia. Those featured are concequently no more than a small selection. If you have any queries, or would like any further information about kite patents I shall be happy to assist.

The 2nd International Weymouth Kite Festival is taking place on Sunday 3rd and Monday 4th May. The location will once again be the beach at Weymouth with separate arenas for demonstrations and a general flying area. Confirmed overseas guests are:-

Don Mock from Aberdeen, Washington U.S.A. He will be flying and demonstrating his unique and unusual shaped kites that are inspired by Northwest Indian Art Motifs. These are strong graphic designs that convey a story or the lineage of the family who owned the original mask. One of the kites will be a new kite that has not been flown in any U.S. event.

Don has been flying kites for many years but has only been designing and sewing kites for five years. During that time his kites have won awards for being unique works of art. He won a first and second place at the American Kitefliers Association annual event last October. This is an international event with top name kites entered. One of the kites Don will be flying won People's Choice award at the Washington State International Kite Festival. Others that he will be flying were also awarded firsts at this same event.

Malaysian Kite Team. This team of kite fliers will be demonstrating their skills at both team Stunt flying as well as showing a number of the more traditional Malaysian kites.

Jorgen Muller Hansen from Denmark will be showing a number of his kites which have strong graphic designs on them. There are several Parafoils as well as trains of kites.

Jan Pieter Kuil and Janne van Nederpelt will again show their three dimensional castles, cars and railway engines.

There will also be a number of other European Kite Fliers in attendance.

The events over the weekend are:

Saturday 2nd May - a pre-festival Civic Reception will be held in the Ocean Room of the Pavilion Complex where the Mayor of Weymouth and Portland will welcome all of the kitefliers. This is a social evening where a selection of basket meals will be available. There is also a pay bar available until 12.30am. During the evening it is hoped that Don Mock will give a short presentation about his kites and kite flying in the U.S.A. But the main idea is for kitefliers to talk to each other and socialise.

Sunday 3rd May - opening of the festival. Programme to include all the usual mix of kite displays, plus some record attempts. Competitions include an altitude sprint and a round of the U.K. Rokkaku challenge.

During Sunday evening there will be an Entertainment show in the Pavilion Theatre, tickets are available free of charge to interested kitefliers. This year Mr Hugh Lennon and his Hypnotist show is taking the place of the Yetties. After the show there will be a fireworks display, including the worlds tallest firework, and night kite flying.

WEYMOUTH 1992

The festival will continue on the Monday with a similar format as Sunday.

If you want to book accommodation then you should contact 0305 765255 where a member of staff will be able to help you. Reservations can be made for all classes of accommodation, caravan, camping, hotels and B&Bs.

The kitefliers car park will be the same as last year, just behind the Pavilion Complex, but a car pass is required.

If you require a car pass or theatre tickets then you should send an S.A.E. stating your requirements to:

The Kite Society
31 Grange Road
Ilford
Essex IG1 1EU

Applications should arrive by Monday 27th April. Note that spaces are limited so don't delay.



Rare-Air 'King Cheetah C74' (one set of battens and two sets of standoffs) - Excellent Condition - Blue and Pink - Only £35.

Phone 0272 616343 Monday to Thursday after 6pm and ask for Nigel.

For sale due to change of direction, complete stunt flying outfit.

T.O.T.L. Rainbow North Shore Radical 2 Hours use.

T.O.T.L. Full Size Hawaiian. Nil Hours.

T.O.T.L. 3/4 Hawaiian. Well used.

Moon Dart. 20 hours.

Plus all the handles, lines, tails, books, many unused plus hard lockable kite case for air transport. Holds 3 kites. The lot cost \$900 US. Buy now for £400 or may split if you want 2 or more kites. Phone Brian Leighton on 0243 375522 for further details. (This is a real bargain for somebody).

I have a limited number of copies of a 'Picture History' of 'Alexander Graham Bell at Baddeck' by Chris Wing. A rather strange soft back booklet (50 pages) about Bell generally. Price is £2.50 including post. Contact Paul Chapman on 0460 62970 for availability.

For Sale. Several Kites including 1 - 6' Brookite Box Kite housed in shoulder carrying case. Also Highland Reel and lines. Offers to T Parkinson. Telephone Warwick (0926) 400512.

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

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KITES LIKE YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE

AND FOR THE ADULTS WE HAVE AN EXCITING RANGE OF FULLY AEROBATIC 2LINE & 4LINE SPORTS KITES INCLUDING THE FASTEST KITES IN THE WORLD, POWER KITES, AND OTHERS CAPABLE OF DRAGGING THE FLYER.

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We specialise in one-offs and limited edition kites.

All our kites are made individually, with care and attention to detail for quality and performance.

A repair service is also available.

For further details please contact Keith Alan. Telephone 0708 342655.

Badge Fever is growing! Already I have had letters and phone calls wanting to know how to get certain, and in some cases, any badge - that's half the fun - tracking down that elusive badge and I am pleased to say that since the last issue three new badges have appeared on the scene and there are at least four badges in the pipe line.

The three newcomers are:-

The Avon Kitefliers Badge (I'm not too sure that this is actually an enamel badge but its close enough). 250 of these were produced and are available from The Bristol Kite Store, 1b Pitville Place, Cotham Hill, Bristol Avon BS6 6JY. Cost £1.50 please enclose an S.A.E.

The Kiteability badge - produced by the Dingley Dell team - (I just hope they don't get sued by Michelin!). 300 of these badges were made and costing £2.75 they are available from Kiteability, 2 Garfield Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 4RP or from The Kiteability Stall at Festivals.

Last but not least two badges which are already proving to be hot little items with lots of trading already taking place. Produced by the Morgans at Skybums the badge comes in two colours - Pink, of which 100 were produced and can be purchased, price £2.50, from Skybums, 1 Bugle Lane, Victorian Arcade, Maradol, Shrewsbury Shropshire SY1 1PU. The other badge comes in Black and only 50 of these were produced and these cannot be bought and are only given away to those persons Paul thinks worthy of such a gift - perhaps we have here the equivalent of "A Penny Black" or is it a Black Bum!

For those of you who want to obtain an instant collection of Badges - The Kite Store, 48 Neal Street, London WC2 9PA, have the answer. They stock at least 10 different badges including Bristol 91 and World Cup Badges as featured in the last issue.

Don't forget The Pin Exhibition and Challenge that will take place during the Convention at Scunthorpe. Andy King has been busy dusting down his collection, constructing the secure case and employing body guards so that his 300+ collection can be seen by all and of course the Pin Pratt will be in evidence.

The Pin Challenge is just a fun event for the best display and will not be based on the number of badges, so think up some unusual way of displaying your badges and who knows you might win! Also there will be a swapping/exchanging/buying session.

Coming soon - The White Horse Kite Fliers Badge £2.50 available from David Robinson, 61 Bridge End Road, Sratton St Margaret, Swindon SN3 4BD. (Enclose S.A.E.)

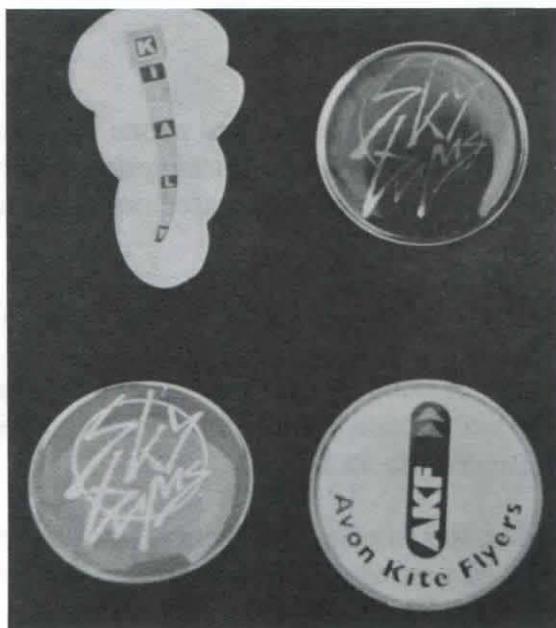
Weymouth International Kite Festival badge and The UK Rokkaku Challenge badge. Also a Balance of Nature "Winds of Change" badge.

This page is here for the collector to advertise their wants - just send your list and it will be included. Also

PIN PRATT'S PAGE

advertise your badges. Write to:

The Pin Pratt
31 Grange Road
Ilford
Essex
IG1 1EU



Clockwise from
top right corner

Black SkyBums
Avon Kitefliers
Pink SkyBums
Kiteability

BOOK REVIEW

The long awaited book by Paul and Helene Morgan has finally appeared, called "The Book of Kites (the complete guide to choosing, making, and flying kites)". Published by Dorling and Kindersley and costing £10.99. It is available from most kite shops.

I must confess to have had a small hand in this book as I did help read the text, and so I know that most of the text that Paul and Helene wrote was ruthlessly cut by the Editors, this goes a long way to explaining why the book seems to fall short in some areas.

Certainly this book is visually very exciting with excellent colourful illustrations featuring most of today's designs. But the biggest disappointment is that it only contains five kite plans, and these are fairly basic - with only the tumbling star and stunter really offering something new. But all the designs are clearly explained and would be ideal for the novice kite maker.

Most of my contact with Dorling and Kindersley books have been through my young daughters school books and I would say that this book is essentially aimed at the older child / young adult or beginner adult kite flyer and for this purpose this book is an excellent introduction to kites and kiteflying, but I suspect that many experience kite fliers will buy the book simply to have such a good collection of kite photos. I just hope that Paul and Helene can be persuaded to write another book - this time with a greater number of kite designs!

G.A.B.

KITEABILITY

HANDMADE KITES AND KITE MATERIALS

A new season is upon us,
with thoughts of sunny dayzzzzz
and what's new for 92?
for those with the kiting craze.

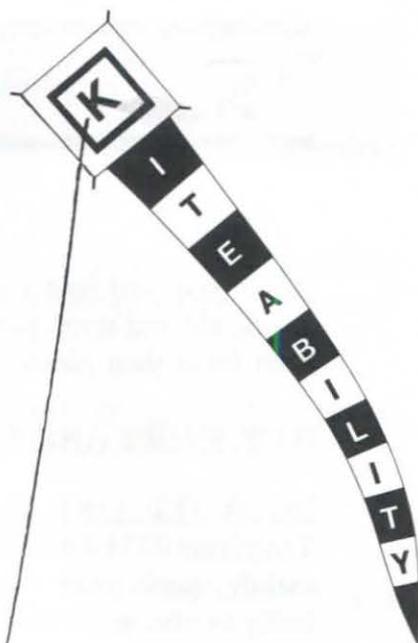
A book by Schimmelpfennig,
and one by Helene and Paul,
a pin by KITEABILITY
available from our stall.

Plus all our usual goodies,
of ripstop, string and sticks,
plus hooks and rings and whatsits,
and other useful bits.

So don't forget to visit
the KITEABILITY stall,
just ask us for our price list,
by letter or telephone call.

P.S.

If you think you can do better,
than our little rhyme,
Drop it in the post to us
to reach us well in time
for inclusion in the Kiteflier
Number 52,
and for the published effort,
a little gift for you.



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

Proprietor : Mrs. P. Dell

TRADE AND GROUP UPDATE

Below you will find a mixture of new shops and groups. These are the ones notified to us during the last three months. Remember if you run or know of a shop or group that has not been listed then please let us know so that we can add it.

NEW SHOPS AND UPDATES

HOLD THE LINE, 7 Burbage Close, Openwoodgate, Belper, Derbyshire, DE5 0DW. Telephone 0773 820268 after 6pm and weekends. Stock held is a general mixture of kites but mainly sports kites. Mail Order and festival trading are undertaken. There is a catalogue being produced for the Summer. Kite Society discount is 5%. "We want to provide a quality service to all ranges of kitefliers from young children to the more experienced fliers. But specialising on good advice to all our clients".

WITH FLYING COLOURS, 9 Wharf Road, Frimley Green, Camberley, Surrey, GU16 6LE. Telephone 0252 836241, Fax 0252 838361. Open Monday - Friday 8.30am to 6.00pm. Saturday 8.30am to 5.00pm. Sunday - telephone. All ranges of kites are supplied. Mail Order is possible. Kite Society members can have 10% discount for cash and 5% discount for credit card. "Time and Wind permitting, flying field available for trial flights on kites held in stock".

APEX KITES, P.O. Box 188, Crawley, RH10 1GF. Open 10 - 6 7 days a weeks. During the summer also at Smarts Amusement Park, Little Hamton, West Sussex. Open 10 - 6 Weekends. Stock a general mixture of kites. Mail order, festival trading and catalogue. Kite Society discount of 5% available.

WEST CORNWALL SPORT KITE CENTRE, 5a Green Market, Penzance, Cornwall TR18 2SG. Telephone 0736 331233. Open 10.00 - 6.00 six days a week. Sports Kites, Single line kites. Specialises in Cornish manufactured kites - Hifliers, Rare Air.

NEW GROUPS AND UPDATES

CHELMSFORD SKYLINERS, Stunt Kite Club. Glenn Cole is the contact at 105 Sandford Road, Chelmsford. They meet most Sundays at 11.00 on Galleywood Common, near Chelmsford.

WINDSOR KITE CLUB. Syd McDonald is the contact at Ashdown, St John's Road, Ascot, Berks SL5 7NH. They meet regularly in Windsor Great Park.

WESSEX KITE GROUP, Contact is David Webster, 16 Brackley Way, Hammonds Green, Totton, Hampshire SO4 7HN.

THE KITE SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Kite Society of Great Britain was founded in 1979 and, since then, has grown to be recognised as the leading organisation for kite flying in Great Britain with over 1500 members worldwide.

The main vehicle of communication between members is the quarterly publication "THE KITEFLIER", which is published in January, April, July and October every year. THE KITEFLIER contains news of forthcoming kite festivals, kite retailer news, kite plans, kite group news and a comprehensive events list.

In addition the Kite Society organises an annual convention, and kite festival, where guest speakers are invited to talk about their specialist area of kites making and flying. At the same time the Annual Dinner and Kite Auction is held giving members the opportunity to obtain rare and unusual kites at reasonable prices.

Other benefits of membership include free, or reduced, entry into selected kite festivals in the U.K., special parking arrangements where possible, discount - from 5% to 15% - on all kite purchases from the majority of kite retailers in the U.K.

A membership "year" runs for four issues of THE KITEFLIER, plus other occasional mailings. Each member receives a membership card entitling them to free entry and discount.

If you wish to join the Kite Society please fill in the form below and send it, with your payment, to the address shown. All cheques, postal orders and money orders should be made payable to The Kite Society and, for overseas members, should be drawable in the U.K. and be in sterling.

Membership Type	Fee
Individual	£5.00
Family - all members in the same household.	£7.00
Overseas - Europe and Surface mail.	£7.00
Overseas - Airmail	£10.00

Name _____

Family Members

Address _____

Post Code _____

Telephone _____

(*) This is a RENEWAL / NEW MEMBERSHIP. (For renewals please give old membership number _____).

(*) New members please state which issue your membership should start with JANUARY / APRIL / JULY / OCTOBER.

Please send this form with payment to:

THE KITE SOCIETY of GREAT BRITAIN
31 GRANGE ROAD
ILFORD
ESSEX, IG1 1EU.

The information given above will be held on computer. The sole purpose of this is to send you your magazines and other occasional mailings from The Kite Society. (*) I have / do not have objections to the above information being held on computer.

(*) Delete those not applicable.

Jim Rowlands has sent the following information.

My research project for the British Library finished in November and I was left with a number of options, the most attractive of which was to extend my kite making activities and establish a business to design and manufacture a number of 'wind' products. I am trading under the name of INFLIGHT and based in a workshop to the north of Scunthorpe. Exclusively wholesale.

Several designs are now available and should be in the kite stores this summer. I am near to concluding an agreement with both a British and US manufacturer to produce a 2.5 metre version of the 'Whale' kite. The retail price has yet to be agreed but will probably be in the region of £70 - £100.

I am producing the 'Bladerunner' - a very fast and powerful parafoil stunter. Most people who tried the prototypes expressed amazement at its speed and manoeuvrability, and it has even been used for precision manoeuvres in the local stunt league. It will retail, without lines at around £70. Bladerunner Super around £110 and Bladerunner Junior £45. Bladerunner should be available in the United States late summer early autumn.

Prototypes of a new four string parafoil should be available for test flying during the summer and I hope to develop a number of other play products and a couple of new inflatables.

I shall be happy to consider commissions for single kites and for production runs of screen printed kites, windsocks, banners etc.

If you are interested in any of the above then Contact Jim at 50 Old Brumby Street, Scunthorpe, South Humberside DN16 2AN.

'Kites and Windsocks' by Jim Rowlands. Published by Batsford and due in early August. £12.95 hardback.

The long awaited new book by Jim Rowlands is due for publication in August. It is the first book to concentrate exclusively on soft kites - parafoils and inflatables and contains a host of hints and tips on construction techniques.

The main text will tell you how to choose rip stop nylon and the best ways of cutting; how to get the best from your sewing machine and how to construct your kites to achieve that professional finish. There are eleven detailed designs for kites, taking the reader from the simpler soft sleds, through the construction of the parafoil to two unusual inflatables - the Whale and the Frog. There are additionally seven designs for windsocks - including sculptured windsocks - caterpillar, soldier, raspberry twist and several different designs of drogue.

If you (or your offspring) like Sugar Puffs then you should buy them from Kwik Save where, with 2 proof of purchase plus 20p you can obtain a Honey Monster Kite. The kite is 100 x 75 cm in size, made of polythene and comes with 50 metres of line and a plastic handle.

Alan Bole has sent us a copy of a draft submission for a kite flying badge for the Girl Guides. It has been approved by the local district commissioner and is being sent to the 'Badge Secretary' of the Girl Guides Association. His local Scout Group have asked for a copy and Norman Booth of the NKG is also using it to provide to his local scouts. We will keep you informed of the progress of this submission.

Zara Adams has written about the kite society she

is setting up with some friends at Edinburgh University. She has been a kite flyer for a few years and enjoys Flexifoils.

Calling themselves 'Wind-Soc' they will be open to students as well as non students.

If anyone wants to give them help or join in then write to: Zara Adams, Flat 6, 64 Broughton Street, Edinburgh EH1 3SA.

The Spring 1992 issue of the Royal Mail's magazine 'Despatch' has a couple of pages on kite flying. The article is nicely put together and, for a nice change, doesn't forget to emphasise the safety aspect of kites and kite flying. There are several colour pictures including a George Peters 'Catman', Martin Lester 'Legs' kite and a few more. This magazine is distributed to company mailrooms so although it may be difficult to obtain you can ask around the larger companies.

Harry Peart has written about a new kite group.

North East Kite Fliers is an open group whose main aim is to promote the hobby of kite flying.

It welcomes anyone to join in their activities regardless of age or experience, it caters for everyone from the absolute beginner up to the most experienced kite flier.

The members meet regularly at venues around the North East to fly kites, they also run workshops in kite making to help people get into the hobby or to extend their skills, members share their knowledge and expertise in a friendly atmosphere.

The group offers its services to put on static and flying displays or run workshops at fetes, carnivals, etc or for schools, youth groups and the

handicapped.

Kiting is a rapidly growing hobby that combines the best of creative arts and crafts with an environmentally friendly outdoor activity.

For details contact:

H Peart
92 Beaconsfield Street
Darlington
Co Durham
DL3 6ER

Telephone 0325 284077.

Martin Baker has written to say that Roy Wright has, unfortunately had to resign as chairman of the Avon Kite Fliers and that his position has been taken on by Tom Oates, provided he gets elected!. All membership correspondence should be directed to Tom Oates at 3 Mayfair Avenue, Nailsea, Bristol BS19 2LR. General enquiries should be directed to Martin Baker at The Bristol Kite Store.

TELL TALES - hot from under the foot of the sewing machine.

Reports from our undercover agent, A. Nonymouse - these are the things that the rest of you can't be bothered to tell us.

Word has it that Ron Moulton's eagerly awaited new stunt book has now gone to press and will be available later this year. A further volume to add to the list of books soon available is Bill Cochrane's book on box kites. Bill is a well known authority on the works of Cody and is also a founder of the new kite group North East Kite Fliers.

The Northern Kite Group are offering limited editions of their own publications including Chris Wainwright's detailed instructions on building a Centipede Kite. In addition there is also a set of kite plans reproduced from many of the back issues of the club newsletter "Kite". Further information can be obtained from Stuart Beardwood, 38 Salisbury Place, Boothtown, Halifax, West Yorkshire.

Congratulations to Andy King for becoming this year's president of the Kite Traders Association. This very prestigious position has never before been held by anyone outside of America. Anyone wanting information relating to the International benefits of membership of the KTA should contact Andy via The Kite Store, 48 Neal Street, London, WC2H 9PA. Telephone 071 836 1666.

Anyone seen the recent National Westminster Bank's television advertisement for new businesses? In accompanying their claim to help new companies the NatWest has chosen to use a kite retailer to add to their credibility. Great exposure, only problem seems to be that no one knows who Dragon Kites are...

Anyone know who made and flew the three diamond kites which depicted the party leaders on World in Action in the run up to the recent General Election?

Keep an eye out for the latest creation by Lancastrian, Jack Crouch during this year. His new all soft Bart Simpson biplane took over 180 hours to build and features a fully detailed engine, machine guns, exhaust fumes and is totally radical, Man!

Contrary to popular belief, it is not necessary to obtain a passport in order to attend this year's

convention at Scunthorpe. A spokesperson for the Republican Army of Yorkshire and Humberside said that the rules would be relaxed in order to prove to the rest of the country that not everyone from the Ridings wears a flat cap and walks around saying Eee By Gum.

Beware of the Copy-Cat! A UK based sport kite manufacturer has asked us to inform potential rip-off artists of the dangers of copying commercial kite designs. No manufacturer can stop an individual copying a design for their own use, neither would they - Many would probably regard it as a kind of compliment. However, news has reached us of an individual from Lincolnshire who is offering poor imitations of a number of current, design registered, sports kites. (This person also claims to run a spurious kite group and has informed one Kite Society member that there is no national kite group in the UK!). Legal proceedings will have been started against this individual, by the manufacturers, by the time this goes to press and we would urge all prospective kite purchasers to buy only from established, respectable retailers. If in doubt ask experienced kitefliers elsewhere for impartial advice.

A kite exhibition is to be staged at Cartwright Hall in Bradford, West Yorkshire from 2nd May to 5th July. As well as the Kites of The Far East exhibition originated by the Chinese Arts Centre in Manchester the exhibition will feature kites from a number of UK kite makers.

Consultants at a major London hospital have begun an investigation into a recently developed syndrome which particularly effects kitefliers. Ponytailitis has been sweeping through the nation and has even crossed into parts of Europe. At the time of writing there is no known cure apart from major surgery.

Two new kite retailers have recently become established in different parts of the country. Hold The Line is run by Martin Clarkson from 7 Burbage Close, Belper, Derbyshire DE5 0DW. Telephone 0773 820268. West Cornwall Sport Kites operates from 5a Green Market, Penzance, Cornwall TR18 2SG. Contact Mick Parsons on 0736 331233 for more details. (See the trade update for listing).

A bit more information about Jim Rowlands kites. The current range include the Bladerunner is a 1.8m span parafoil stunter. Tube sled 80 cm span soft sled. Pro-Foil series includes a 90 cm moderate lifting capacity parafoil and also a 2 metre rainbow parafoil. Available later in the year are rumoured to be a 3sqm Flowform type kite and a soft four line parafoil.

Further to the announcement in the last issue of The Kiteflier we have been informed of further news from The Leading Edge Kite Supply Company. Following their amalgamation with Tim Benson in producing a new range of kites under the Fizz Sport Kite label, they are also to open a new retail outlet in early April. In addition, Benson Kites will continue to undertake commissions and operate as a kite design consultancy. The new store will cater for kite fliers with varied interests and will offer a range of still air products including boomerangs, hot air balloons, ornithopters as well as a range of juggling paraphernalia. Their new address is Baildon Craft Centre, Browgate, Baildon, Shipley, West Yorkshire BD17 6BP. Telephone/Fax 0274 532899. Opening hours Tuesday to Sunday 10.00 to 17.00 hrs.

Got anything to tell the kite world? As long as it's fairly decent, relatively honest and almost legal, let us know and we'll let everyone else know.



ADD ON PACKS AVAILABLE

Manufactured and distributed by RSM Leisure Company
 35 Burley Grove, Downend, Bristol BS16 5QB, Great Britain.
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THE KITE WORKSHOP

-MULLION-

with

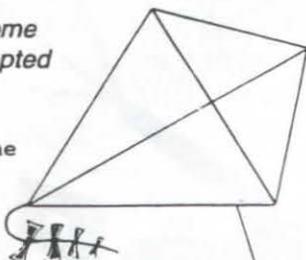
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Polyprop Carbon Fibre & Night Glow Models!!

Sole U.K. Agents for:

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LMI FOX Boomerangs

- * DELTA Bumerang
(sorry about the name)
Polystyrene Plane

TRADE ENQUIRIES
WELCOME

Blue Star rangs

World competition standard Boomerangs
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The British edition of "The Boomerang Book"

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Flightline, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6EL
Telephone: (0953) 883900



... NEEDS YOU!

Winds of Change comprises three elements:

- **Summer Roadshow**
- **Autumn/Spring Educational Programme**
- **The Winds of Change Festival**

Each will focus on Kites, Boomerangs and Frisbees, with other wind-related sports - hot-air ballooning, hang-gliding, paragliding, sailing, windsurfing, - added where possible as demonstrations.

The inaugural *Winds of Change Festival* will be held in September 1993, and every two years thereafter.

Why?

- To create the opportunity for a group of minority sports to develop their profile and increase their popularity.
- To bring together a unique core of environmental organisations, provide an educational platform for them to reach a wider audience, and in the long term to raise funds for their key environmental projects.
- To involve and benefit local clubs, communities and businesses.
- **TO HAVE FUN!**

Where?

The Roadshow will visit kite festivals, county shows, seaside resorts and major outdoor events - anywhere with a big audience for kiteflying!

Who?

As a member of our 'A-Team' **YOU** could travel with the Roadshow throughout the Summer - we need experienced kiteflyers who would like a unique "working holiday".

Do you have:

- A passion for kiteflying;
- A clean driving licence;
- At least 4 weeks free this Summer?

In return we will give you:

- Hotel accommodation;
- Transport;
- Exclusive A-Team clothing;
- A (small!) daily payment.

For further information send us brief details about yourself and the dates you are available.

When?

Inevitably there have been hold-ups in putting together a project of this complexity! Our current options are either to start with the Roadshow in mid-July or alternatively to launch the project with the educational programme - starting with an autumn schools 'roadshow' tour.

We would like to thank all those organisers, clubs and individuals who have contributed their ideas and advice, and we look forward to meeting many more of you at this year's kite festivals. The enthusiastic response from kiteflyers, boomerang throwers and the environmental charities we have approached means that there is no doubt that *Winds of Change will happen*

- WATCH THIS SPACE!



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

ALDENHAM COUNTRY PARK, ELSTREE - MAY 3RD

Judith Lewis of Community Leisure writes to tell us of the second kite festival to be held at the above location. Taking place between 11am and 4pm.

Team Merlin will be joining us again and invites are being sent to kite shops and local craft organisations. As last year there will also be kite workshops, refreshments, an inflatable for children and music. This festival is run by us, Hertsmere Leisure Community Team, as part of our Community Arts Programme on behalf of Hertsmere Borough Council and therefore is a non profit making event.

If you require further information phone Judith on 081 207 5166 or write to:

Community Leisure
Nicholas Hawksmoor Centre
Potters Lane
Borehamwood
Herts WD6 5LG

SWINDON KITE FESTIVAL - MAY 9TH & 10TH

Being held at Lydiard Country Park this is the second year of the event, that was enjoyed by so many people last year. We will be having the same relaxed format as last year with a few minor changes. Rokkaku Challenge (single and team) as last year, with the addition this year of an Indian Fighting kite contest also peoples choice for the best kite on display.

We have two foreign visitors (so far) - Don Mock from America and Vacuum Kites from Holland.

There is an excellent camp-site at Lydiard park for caravans and tents. Car passes are available from:

Dave Robinson
62 Bridge End Road
Swindon
SN3 4PD

KSGB members will require a car pass for free entry.

This years festival is in support of the NSPCC.

PISHIOBURY KITE FESTIVAL, SAWBRIDGEWORTH - MAY 10TH

Susan Clark has written with information of this event which is held in Pishiobury Park, Sawbridgeworth. This marks the second kite festival organised by the Countryside Management Service, the first being at Therfield in the autumn of 1991.

EVENT NEWS

Once again Team Merlin will be performing and we hope to have a good range of stalls selling everything for the kite enthusiast as well as refreshments and some more general stalls possibly including a traditional Punch and Judy show.

If you have any enquiries then please contact either Susan Clark on 0920 822600 or Colin Cheesman on 0992 586015.

FETE DU VENT, DUNKERQUE, FRANCE - JUNE 6TH, 7TH & 8TH

The 7th Wind Festival (Fete du Vent) will take place on the eastern end of the beach, just below the big windmill that was set up last July.

As usual, the organisers offer all participants and their families a buffet lunch on the Saturday night and sandwiches on Sunday lunchtime. Festival poster, stickers and T-shirt to kitefliers who have registered their entry before May 20th.

If you are interested in attending then you should send your registration - giving your name, address, telephone number, arrival and departure details, and names of people attending with you - to Maison de l'Environnement, 42 rue Winston Churchill, 59240 Dunkerque, France.

Further details can be obtained from Didier Willem telephone (33) 28.63.86.41.

TEWKESBURY KITE FESTIVAL - JUNE 13TH & 14TH

The Alcester Kite Fliers festival. The same venue as last year, Tewkesbury School Sports Centre, just off junction 9 of the M5.

Toilets and showers are available, camping on site from 4.30pm Friday nights. Cost is £3.60 per unit for the weekend. Bar-B-Q on Saturday night for which a charge will be made.

Breakfast is available (£2.95) at the Little Chef just down the road.

Passes for cars and camping are now available. Please send your name, address, car and camping pass requirements and number of people for the Bar-B-Q to:-

Alcester Kite Fliers
20 Henley Street
Alcester
Warks B49 5QY

before 30th May. Enclose a Stamped addressed envelope for return.

MARGAM PARK KITE FESTIVAL - JUNE 13TH & 14TH

Situated just off the M4 at junction 38, between Bridgend and Port Talbot. The facilities on this council owned park are excellent and the 800 acre site has ample space for all flying tastes, no matter how many lines you like to pull.

Briefly, the grounds contain one of the worlds largest mazes, a sculpture park the remains of an abbey and castle, an 18th century orangery, a roadtrain (so you don't have to walk very far with kite equipment), plus loads of attractions for children - so, while us adults fly they will be amused!

All kite trade stalls are now booked, but other stalls such as crafts could still be available. The pitch is free, but as the NSPCC hope to benefit from the two days a large donation to their funds would be appreciated. Entrance to all traders will be by pass only.

Excellent camping facilities are available, with a shower block and barbecue area - the charge is £1.25 per person, per night or £4.00 per caravan unit, per night - this includes entry to the park. As Margam Park is not very far from the Gower Peninsula why not plan a holiday around the kite festival?

A limited number of free entrance passes are available for kitefliers and their cars, otherwise there is an entrance charge of £1.25 per person to the park. There is a charge made to other facilities, such as the maze etc. There is ample car parking.

For further details, flyers passes, accommodation details of the area or a leaflet all about Margam Park, then please send a stamped addressed envelope to Steve Gibson, 91 Baysham Street, Hereford, HR4 0ET or contact Steve on 0432 359999 or Peter Metcalf on 0432 263737.

BERKSHIRE KITE FESTIVAL - JUNE 21ST

Being held at Greenham Common Airbase near Newbury this festival is organised by Thatcham Rotary in conjunction with the White Horse Kite Fliers. We hope to attract kiteflyers of all persuasion.

There will be all of the usual attractions such as Rokkaku fighting (single and team), Teddy Bear parachuting, separate areas for single and dual line kites and, of course, with this event being held at Greenham Common Airbase there will be acres of space for everyone to fly and enjoy themselves.

WHKF and Thatcham Rotary are hoping to make this an annual event, perhaps over two days, so please support it!!

Car passes are available to KSGB members, (who will need a pass for free entry). Passes are available by sending a S.A.E. to:

Arthur Dibble (Vice Chairman WHKF)
24 Alexander Road

EVENT NEWS

Thatcham
Newbury
Berks RG13 4QU

0635 865976

or see any WHKF member at any event prior to this event.

7TH WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THE AIR - JULY 4TH & 5TH

Unfortunately the above event clashes with both Shrewsbury and Sheffield but the date is decided by the sponsors.

They will host some of the World's best kitefliers and will have a full programme of displays, demonstrations, competitions etc.

They hope to break 2 records this year, one for the most entries in the Rokkaku Challenge - they managed 34 last year, and the other to have the most Cody kites flying at once.

They will also have varied entertainment, craft fairs, trade stands, music etc. - something for all the family. Don't forget to bring your Rokkaku and Cody kites.

LIMITED free accommodation (bed & breakfast) and camping are available. For more details contact:

Malcolm Goodman
134 Thames Road
Billingham
Cleveland TS22 5EX

0642 550827

SHREWSBURY KITE AND BOOMERANG FESTIVAL - JULY 4TH & 5TH

As in previous years this ninth annual event will be held on Sundorne Playing Fields, just two miles from Shrewsbury town centre. This is our ninth year and once again, thanks to the local council, we have the large 42 acre field for our use. The kites of course will be in one half of the ground and the boomerangs in the other.

Camping and caravanning is available at the normal fee of £2.00 per unit per night; fees will be collected on the field. The field will be open to campers from midday Friday to midday Monday. The usual pavilion facilities of flush toilets and hot and cold showers will be available. Due to the success of last year's innovation of full English breakfast, Doreen and Ken have extended this to include both Saturday and Sunday mornings at a cost of £3.00 per head per meal. (Breakfast will be served between 7.00 and 9.00

EVENT NEWS

am). Please book in advance through me.

Tea/coffee and light snacks will be available throughout the weekend, but there are shops (and pubs!) within reasonable walking (staggering) distance.

Once again the emphasis will be on friendly informality, apart from the nail biting rokkaku challenge and can-clobbering competitions. If anyone wishes to organise any other competitive event please contact me.

For breakfast tickets, please make cheques payable to A T Slater. For any other information you may need - B&B details, maps etc please contact:

Tony Slater
128 Meadow Farm Drive
Harlescott
Shrewsbury
Shropshire SY1 4JY

0743 235068

enclosing a S.A.E.

Traders are welcome - charge £5.00 per day or £10.00 for the whole weekend. Again contact Tony.

A note for next year's diary (or the year after!): The Shrewsbury Kite Festival has always been held on the first weekend in July and will be for the foreseeable future.

STEVENAGE KITE FESTIVAL - JULY 12TH

Being held at Fairlands Valley, Stevenage Town Centre, Herts, there will be Stalls, Juggling, Food, Kite Making workshops etc. Organised by the Countryside Management. Contact Jerry Milmer on 0462 459395 or write to:-

The Old Dairy
Bedford Road
Ickfield
Herts SG5 3RR

MONMOUTH KITE FESTIVAL - JULY 18TH & 19TH

Some further details of this event have been brought to our notice.

Firstly there is free car parking for Kite Society members - a pass is needed and you should write to the address below to obtain one.

EVENT NEWS

Secondly free camping on site is available and again a pass is required.

Should you require either of these items then write to:

Rosmary Butles
Centenary Organiser Office
Cardiff Road
Maeglas
Newport
Gwent
NP9 1QW

PORTSMOUTH KITE FESTIVAL, JULY 18TH

Chris Brown has written about this one. This event is being held at the Solent Marina in Portsmouth. We will be running competitions, workshops and an auction of kites and accessories at the end of the day. This is our second kite festival and we hope to attract as many people who came last year. Details and information is available fro:

Chris Brown
The Mail Order Kite Company
Portsmouth
0705 374801.

KINGSTON LACY HOUSE, WIMBORNE - JULY 26TH

The Poole Kitefliers are organising this event. Kingston Lacy belongs to the National Trust, which has a large house, restaurant and shop, and lots of flying space and a great day out for the family.

Poole Kitefliers welcome all kitefliers to join us this day. Would everyone wishing to join them on the day please get in touch with:

Harry Douglas
249 Wimborne Road
Poole
Dorset BH15 2EG

so that passes and maps can be sent. S.A.E. should be enclosed.

THERFIELD HEATH, ROYSTON, HERTS - AUGUST 2ND

This years festival to be held at the above location will take place on Sunday August 2nd. For further details please contact Eoin Bell at The Countryside Management Commission on 0763 84808=62.

EVENT NEWS

It is hoped that permission will be granted shortly for a kite club to meet at Therfield Heath. Please contact HiFliers, Letchworth for details on 0462 684207.

PORTSMOUTH INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL - AUGUST 29TH & 30TH

This International Kite Festival, organised by the Kite Society, is being held on Southsea Common, Portsmouth and is expected to have some of the best kitefliers in the world attending. Full details will be in the next issue of The Kiteflier.

Accommodation is available in the Halls of Residence of the Polytechnic. Cost is £12.50 per. Both single and (doubles will be in short supply). Contact Julie Yelf on 0705 827681. If you want other types of accommodation then the tourist information number is 0705 826722.

For the Saturday evening the organisers have arranged some Folk Singers for entertainment. This will take place in a marquee on the common. At the same time there will be a hot buffet and coffee with a licensed pay bar. Cost for this will be £6.00 per person.

Car passes are required and are available to Kite Society Members.

For car passes and meal tickets you should write to: Martin Dodd, Portsmouth Guildhall, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth PO1 2AB. All cheques should be made payable to Portsmouth City Council.

CONQUER THE WIND

AT THE

GREAT YARMOUTH BEACH KITE FESTIVAL 1992

JUNE 14th

organised by Thorpe Kite Fliers

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EVENTS LIST

MAJOR KITE EVENTS - U.K.

- April 18th - 20th Blackheath Easter Festival. Contact Tony Cartwright.
May 3rd, 4th Weymouth International Kite Festival. Contact The Kite Society.
May 9th, 10th Swindon Kite Festival. Contact Dave Robinson.
May 16th, 17th Brighton Kite Festival. Contact Ray Oakhill.
May 23rd Kite Society Convention, Scunthorpe.
May 24th, 25th Kite Society Festival, Scunthorpe.
June 13th, 14th Alcester Festival at Tewkesbury. Contact Fred Taplin.
June 13th, 14th Margam Park, Bridgend, Wales. Contact Steve Gibson.
June 14th Great Yarmouth. Contact Kevin Appleton.
June 21st Berkshire Kite Festival, Greenham Common. Contact Arthur Dibble.
June 28th Blackheath Summer Rally. Contact Tony Cartwright.
July 4th, 5th Shrewsbury Kite Festival. Contact Tony Slater.
July 4th, 5th 7th Washington Festival of the Air, Washington Tyne & Wear. Contact Malcolm Goodman.
July 5th Family Fun Day, Sheffield.
July 18th, 19th Wales International Kite Festival, Monmouth, Wales. Contact Kite Store.
August 16th Hengistbury Head, Dorset. Contact David Webster.
August 29th, 30th Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Hampshire. Contact The Kite Society.
Sept 5th, 6th Bristol International Kite Festival. Contact Bristol Kite Store.
October 4th Old Warden, Biggleswade. Contact Ron Moulton.

MAJOR KITE EVENTS - EUROPE

- April 25th, 26th Le Touquet, France.
May 1st - 3rd Castiglione, Italy.
May 9th, 10th Oostdunkirk, Belgium.
June 6th - 8th Fete du Vent, Dunkerquw, France. Contact Didier Wilem.
June 11th - 15th International Kitefliers Meeting, Fano, Denmark. Contact Ranier Kregovski.
June 20th, 21st International Kite Festival, Scheveningen, Holland. Contact Vlieger Op.
July 11th, 12th Ostende, Belgium.
Sept 19th, 20th Dieppe, France.
Sept 26th, 27th Damp, Germany. Contact Wolkensturmer.
Sept 26th, 27th 9th Berlin Kite Festival. Contact 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.

- 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.

EVENTS LIST

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. 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. Contact Graham Holdstock.

The Northern Kite Group have meetings as below:-

April 19th Stainland Recreation Ground, Near Halifax.
May 16th, 17th Ashton Park, Blackpool Road, Preston.
June 21st Thurstaton 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.

EVENTS LIST

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

Contact Roger Lawton.

Other Events

May 3rd Aldenham Country Park, Elstree. See News Page.
May 10th Pishiobury Kite Festival, Sawbridgeworth. See News Page
July 12th Stevenage Kite Festival. See News Page.
July 18th Portsmouth Kite Festival. See News Page.
July 26th Kingston Lacy House, Winborne. See News Page.
August 2nd Therfield Heath, Rotston. See News Page.
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 Opt, 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, SY1 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.

STUNT KITE COMPETITION DIARY

This is a list of the Stunt Kite Competitions taking place during 1992. For further details of any of these events contact Andy King at The Kite Store, 48 Neal Street, London WC2H 9PA. Telephone 071 836 1666.

- April 18th - 20th Blackheath, London. Pairs Ballet only.
April 25th - 26th Le Touquet, France. Experienced Team Precision and Ballet. Masters Team Precision and Ballet.
- May 1st - 3rd Castiglione del Lago, Italy. Individual Precision - Novice, Experienced Masters freestyle. Individual Ballet Experienced and Masters. Pairs Ballet Experienced and Masters. Team Precision Experienced and Masters. Team Ballet Experienced and Masters.
- May 8th - 10th Lido di Roma, Italy. Individual Precision Novice.
May 9th - 10th Oostdunkirk, Belgium. Details to be announced.
May 24th - 25th Kite Society Kite Festival, Scunthorpe. Pairs Ballet.
May 30th - 31st British Nationals Team Championships., Weston-super-mare. Experienced Team Precision and Ballet. Masters Team Precision and Ballet. Experienced and Masters Pairs Ballet.
- June 20th - 21st Scheveningen, Holland. The North Sea Cup. Experienced Team Precision and Ballet. Masters Team Precision and Ballet.
- July 11th - 12th British Nationals Individuals, Boreham Wood, London. Individual Precision, Novice, Experienced and Masters. Individual Ballet, experienced and Masters. Individual Innovation Masters.
- August 14th - 16th World Cup Sport Kite Championships, Odnurara, Japan. Invitational Masters team precision and ballet.
- September 5th - 6th Bristol International Kite Festival. Masters Team precision and ballet.
September 11th - 13th European Cup. Vrouwenpolder, Zeeland, Holland. Individual Precision and Ballet Masters. Individual Innovation Masters. Pairs Ballet Masters, Team Precision, Ballet and Innovation Masters.
- September 26th - 27th Berlin International Kite Festival, Germany. The Berlin Cup. Details to be confirmed.
- October 2nd - 4th German Nationals. Location and details to be confirmed.
October 3rd - 4th Swiss Stunt Kite Championships, Silvaplana, Switzerland. Individual Precision - Novice, Experienced, Masters. Individual Ballet - Experienced and Masters. Team Precision and Ballet Open.



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VERTICAL VISUALS

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Midlands Kite Fliers

UPDATE

If Today > 20th April Then Column 2
Else Column 1

column 1

column 2

If you are not yet aware of what is happening on Monday 20th April, then you must be from another planet!!

The Birmingham event is to take part in Cofton Park, this is situated next to the British Leyland factory at Longbridge. You can access this event quite easily from the M5, M42, M6, M40. If you can get onto one of these motorways then the Birmingham festival is but a short ride away.

The festival is going to be different from other 'kite' festivals, as it is primarily to raise money for the Spinal Research Trust.

To keep you entertained we have managed to secure some of the top fliers in the country. Below is a short description of some of our attractions.

Adam Sutherland

Adam will be bringing his rather large Shirone-O-Dako kite. This beast measures a staggering 26ft by 16ft. It is made out of paper and bamboo and is traditionally painted by one of Japans top kite artists.

If you have never seen it before it is worth coming to the festival just to be able to catch a glimpse of it, however, if you have seen it before then it is worth a second look.

Stafford Wallace

Stafford is renowned for his expertise at flying an Indian fighting kite. He is the countries foremost authority of this specialised skill (you what?) and has to be seen to be believed. His ability to capture baboons with his small paper and bamboo kite astounds everyone who observes this feat.

At the Birmingham festival there is a challenge to all kite fliers to attempt this balloon catching exercise.

Can you equal the master?

Come and find out.....if you dare!!!!!!

Don Eccleston

Don, the Chairman of the MKF will be repeating his public participation event of 'Parachuting Teddy Bears'. During the 1991 season this proved to be one of the most popular events at the MKF demonstrations, so popular in fact that Don had to start dropping 5 bears at a time to keep up with queues.

The time for this event will be limited, so please start queuing early to avoid disappointment. No credit card bookings..sorry.

Flight-FX

The Midlands First Stunt Display Team will be appearing at the Birmingham event. They will be flying throughout the day and also providing 'Hands On' coaching for anybody who would like to attempt to control a high precision Stunt Kite, for a nominal charge (for the charity).

3-3-10

The Jugglers from the above company will be performing some amazing feats at various times during the day.

The weather was brilliant and I've never seen so many people crammed into Cofton Park before. It is estimated that 20,000 people turned up to take part in the British Gas Kitefly 92 and that a great deal of money has been raised. It was surprising to see just how many kitefliers turned up, especially as there were in excess of five events going on nationwide.

Adam Sutherlands kite took a long time to assemble and required the use of the marquee to protect it from stray gusts. Once it was assembled you could feel the anticipation of the attentive crowds wondering whether it would fly or not. They were not disappointed. It went soaring into the as easy as a plastic sled, nearly pulling it's 12 handlers with it.

Flight-FX thrilled the crowds as most had never realised what could be done with a stunt kit. First they demonstrated how to fly one kite and then slowly built up until they were flying eight kites, this has to be seen to be believed!!!!!!

Stafford's Challenge was also a roaring success. Not one kiteflier could resist the temptation to attempt to match Stafford's prowess. However, as expected, there was not one person who could catch the balloon. As a result Staffords crown stays firmly affixed to his head.

Don Eccleston has never worked so hard. Over 550 teddy bears turned up to be 'dropped' from a great height, nearly all of them successfully. Mind you, the first aid people were kept busy mending broken dolls, bears etc. Still, the kids enjoyed it and felt proud of their certificate.

It's a good job that the jugglers were around, got very tiring running around the park from one activity to another and they allowed a much deserved break for the officials.

All in all it was a superb day and I look forward to the next event.

The Midlands Kite Fliers first newsletter was published in March of this year. The intention is to publish this in between the publications of the Kiteflier, this would mean that there will be some sort of news information dropping through a letterbox every six-weeks. If you feel that you would like to contribute to our newsletter then please send any article, pictures or letters etc. to:-

Ian Meredith
16 Edward Road
Smethwick
Warley
West Midlands B67 6EP

9th March 1992.

Dear Mr. Gilbert,

A couple of weeks ago, while I was on duty (I'm a police helicopter pilot) I flew at approx 400 ft over Sutton Park. I could see that there was a large number of kites down below and lingered a little to get a better view. I had never realised that there were so many different kites around. When I finished my shift, I rushed home to tell my young son about it as he's always been fascinated by kites. Funnily enough, he had heard something on local radio about these kites being at Sutton Park and said that they were there on the first Sunday of every month.

March the first came all but too slow, I am not sure who was most excited, me or him! We eventually got to the park at 2 p.m. and both of us stopped dead in our tracks, mouths open. Flying on one part the field were 4 men, and I have NEVER seen anything like it (I always thought the Red Arrows were good but this was something else). Each person was flying around the sky and then all headed towards each other..and missed?! Son stood there, mouth open.

We stood and watched as they flew for 20 mins. doing different things all the time. When they had finished I went upto them to congratulate them on what I had seen and also where to buy a kite, also they suggested I join a club, hence this letter. After a 15 min. break they seemed to get out another four kites? I could not have ever guessed what was to come next!!! Each man flew two kites each, and then they repeated a lot of what they had done before but now with eight kites.

We both had a very good day, got to fly a kite or two (thanks lads).

Please may I have all the details regarding your club etc. If this is what kiting is all about then it's definitely for me!!

Yours

D.S. Kalifer.

Dear Readers,

Doesn't the time fly by, it certainly doesn't seem like my last letter was a year ago 'Views From Above' April 91 issue. I was overwhelmed at the response to my last letter and so I have written again. Some people wanted an ISBN number from me and once I realised what one was I went and got it, the number is ISBN 0 86369 182 X. I sure hope that is what is required!

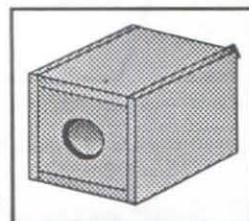
I have included a rough sketch of my camera, as you can see it is just a plain box with a hole in the front. The lens (which is a 4D) fits onto the outside of the box and focuses onto my small picture frame film holder.

Somebody included a draw-

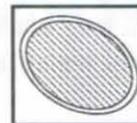


motor and there disc. It takes 1

asked about my shutter, so I have ing of it. It is a black disc with It is fitted onto a clockwork is a stop fitted to the edge of the second to turn the disc once, therefore by dividing the disc up into slices you can calculate how big the slot needs to be. I have a selection of discs and I choose them depending upon the light.



My Home Made Box-Camera

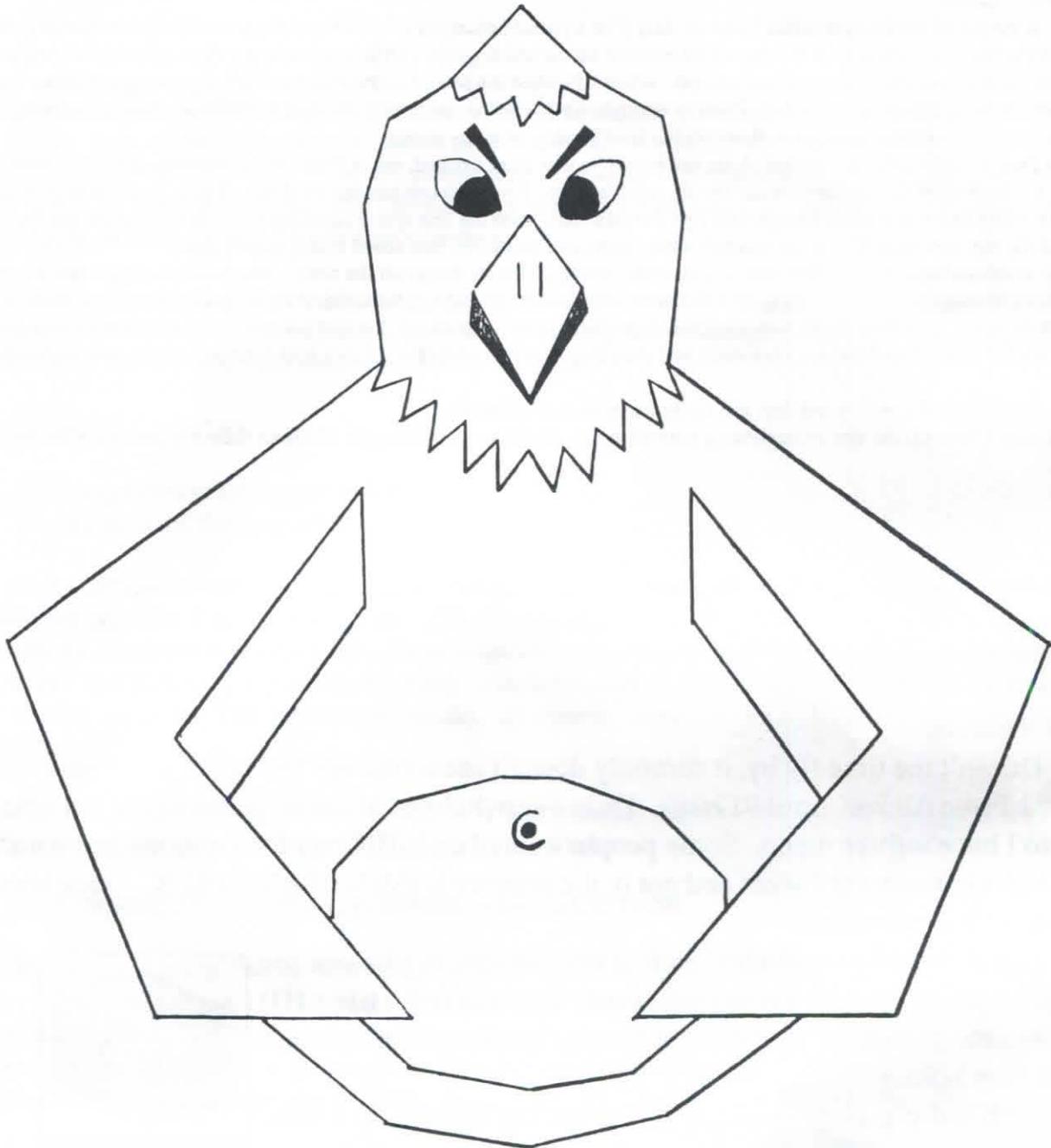


4D Lens (not to scale)

I hope that this has answered some of your queries. Good snapping.

P. De La Ville.

Ooh Me Belly !!!!



This is the story of the Ooh-me-belly bird which his creator was going to write on many occasions but never quite got round to doing.

It all started way back. No, way WAY back (it has to be two ways because it started with Ron Reeve's dad and we all know Ron is no spring chicken.)

"Ooh-me-belly, ooh-me-belly"

Now Ron Reeve's dad told him when he was a lad about an Ooh-me-belly bird which he had often seen when soldiering abroad. Apparently it had no legs and every time it came into land it was heard to cry "Ooh-me-belly, ooh-me-belly". Now Ron kept this tucked in the back of his mind and remembered it one fateful day when, as an eleven year old, his cousin, who was a lot bigger and stronger and heavier let go of Ron whilst he was flying a huge kite (huge to an eleven

year old that is). Ron found himself being dragged across the field on his belly at an alarming rate. Terrified at the thought of losing his most treasured possession he clung on manfully but, on seeing the large hawthorn hedge with it's entourage of stinging nettles looming up in front of him, lost his nerve and let go.

For the next three weeks he walked around involuntarily mimicking that bird.

"colours of a genuine Australian Parrot"

Many years later Ron took up kiting again and, remembering his dad's flights of fantasy (excuse the pun), asked a work colleague who was something of a cartoonist, to draw for him a caricature of a leg-less bird holding it's sore belly and hey presto Ooh-me-belly was born. Ron tells me the colours (with the exception of the sore belly) are the genuine colours of an Australian parrot whose name he has forgotten. Ron set to, made a magnificent, enlarged copy, and set off for the inaugural flight. At this point I will let Ooh-me-belly take over the story:-

Ooh-me-belly speaks

I am RON REEVE'S "Ooh-me-belly" Bird. I'm sorry I look so miserable but the silly old b..... made such a bad job of me that I can only fly upside-down and it's no fun keep diving head first into the ground! He reckons he's going to cure me by putting a sharper dihedral on my belly to lessen the wind pressure. I hope he does something pretty soon. Anyway, I had the last laugh. When he took me out to fly he got his car stuck in the mud in the middle of a 35 acre field and had to get the farmer to pull him out with a tractor. He says he is going to write an article about it for the magazine but if he does I hope he doesn't use the swear words he used when he was trying to get his car out of the mud!

There the story of Ooh-me-belly becomes a little obscure for he next turned up, minus his frame, in a box of odds and sods when Ron retired from active kite flying. Purchased for a nominal sum, his new owner fitted him out with

a 9mm dowel spine, two 6mm dowel cross-spars, 5mm dowel leading edge spars and two 3mm dowel cross-spars in his head. His inaugural flight, like that with Ron, was an "up and over" and it was noted that there was insufficient dihedral formed. Modification to the cross-spars with 4mm fibreglass in the body and 2mm fibreglass in the head resulted in a dihedral but again he went "up and over". So a tail was added and wonder of wonders he flew! He was still a little temperamental and unstable (although his new owner reckons there was just not enough wind on the day) at least he flew long enough to be photographed. Ron assures me that he has a photograph framed on the mantelpiece as a reminder of his dad, his drag across the field and his untimely demise in the mud!

Although his new owner is pretty defensive about that photographed flight, any suggestions as to how his performance could be improved may be considered. Suggestions please to Ian Meredith, Publicity Officer c/o MKF, and watch out for OOH-ME-BELLY at this year's festivals.

D E L L A P O R T A C O N Y N E
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BRIGHTON KITE FESTIVAL

**WATERHALL PLAYING FIELDS
MILL ROAD - PATCHAM**

**Saturday 16 May
and
Sunday 17 May
1992**

Signposted from A23 and A27

**Competitions - Kite Stalls -
Parachuting Teddy Bears -
Model Rockets - Refreshments**

**SPECIAL INVITATION TEAM
BALLET COMPETITION**

CAMPING AT £1 PER UNIT/NIGHT

FREE PARKING AND ADMISSION

BRIGHTON KITE FESTIVAL 1992

DEMONSTRATOR CAR PASS

**Allow vehicle to park in guest
car park**

***Display in windscreen**

Aerodyne

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

FLY-IN NEWS

29th Dec. 1991 at The Red Hill, Brighton. This was to be the last fly-in under the old system of varied venues around Brighton. With a wind of force 3/4 Mik lofted a delta to the max. height of 1500ft using his new deep sky reel to good effect.

Peter Jones made some interesting contacts around the world with a kite lofted aerial and a very sophisticated transmitter/receiver.

We were buzzed by a few light aircraft from Shoreham airport and one had to take severe avoiding action to miss a kite. Why don't these pilots read the NOTAMS posted on the board at the airport?

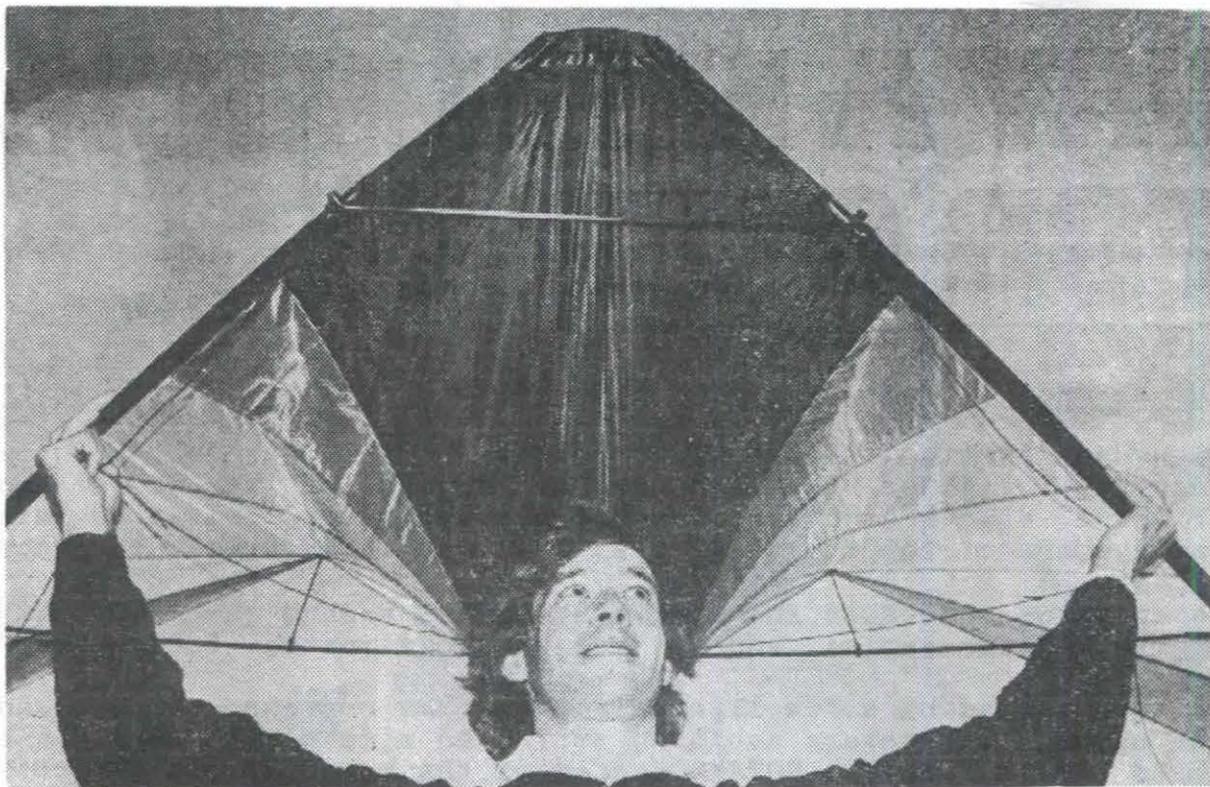
19th Jan 1992 at Telscombe Tye. A very interesting day with a good wind force 5 and a very good turn out thanks to Paul and Estelle giving us good publicity in their new Brighton kite shop called AIR BORN KITES. At least thirty people were flying and spectators thought that a kite festival was taking place.

It was good to walk around and talk to people, as so often visitors complain of going to fly-ins (not Brighton) and no one speaks to them during the time they are there.

2nd Feb 1992 at Hollingbury. What a day! Freezing fog - visibility 50 metres - ice on kite lines and wet feet! Who were these tako kichi nutters? Mik, Ray, Danny and Dik Ruck and son Andrew (new members). Wind was force 1/2 so some team flying was possible after such a long interval. Anyway one and a half hours was long enough in these conditions before repairing to the nearest pub to discuss kite flying. What else!

16th Feb 1992 - Telscombe Tye again. Wind about force 6 - good for Flexis, of which quite a few were flying. Good for a Strat 4 as well, so I thought! Up it went like a rocket, only to pull the steel stake out of the ground and take off with 1000ft. of line attached to a hose reel. I stepped to one side as the hose reel came towards me at 30 mph and watched as it wrapped itself around a barbed wire fence, which broke and allowed the line to unwind eventually. The kite came down half a mile away about 50yds from some houses luckily. I had visions of that insurance policy being put to good use. Lesson - next time hitch it to a car towbar or use short lengths of line to lessen the drag if a breakaway occurs.

Ray Oakhill



The obvious mistake of flying to 1500ft without CAA approval prompted several phone calls which resulted in the following article from Peter Jones.

Kite bid for radio record

High fliers who pull the strings

A HOVE man will attempt to set a world record for hoisting a radio aerial into the sky using kites.

Peter Jones, 45, is hoping to fly into the Guinness Book of Records this year by lifting a 130ft aerial 300ft above the ground.

Peter, who is membership secretary of Brighton Kite Flyers, will combine his two hobbies of kites and radio to set a record using up to three kites.

First he will need to get clearance from the Civil Aviation Authority. Normally kites can be flown only to 200ft, although at the Brighton Kite Festival in May they will be flown to over 2,000ft.

While he keeps the aerial airborne an assistant will operate the radio. Mr Jones has used the technique to contact radio hams as far away as the United States.

Lifting aerials is not the only bizarre use for kites. They can also be used for aerial photography with a camera operated by remote control. Even anglers use them to take lines far out to sea.

The Brighton Kite Flyers raise money for charity by dropping teddy bear parachutists from kites. Last July a Shoreham man crossed the Channel in a kite-powered catamaran.

● The record height for flying a kite is 31,955ft using a train of eight kites over Germany in 1919.

IF YOU think kites are bits of wood and paper stuck together with string, think again.

The old image of flying homemade kites in the park on a summer evening is being radically updated. New generation kites are 10ft wide, fly to 1,500 feet and can lift you off the ground.

The kite craze has swept France, the United States and Australia. Now it is hitting this country.

Paul Thody, 33, pictured left, opened Brighton's first kite shop in Trafalgar Street in the North Laine area just before Christmas.

Paul is confident that kites can beat the recession.

"Kites are good value for money. Once you've bought one there are no extras, no batteries and no petrol." Kites range in

price from £4 to £200.

"Four years ago kite festivals attracted about 1,000 people. Now they're attracting more than 10,000."

Local enthusiasts fly their kites on the coast and the Downs at Hollingbury, Telscombe Tye and Devils Dyke. With a 30mph wind the "pilot" of a large kite can "ski" along the ground.

Flying kites is no longer the genteel hobby it once was. It is hard work. Paul said: "I lost a stone in weight the first month I was flying kites."

In Sussex kite flyers must obtain permission from the Civil Aviation Authority to fly above 1,500ft.

Kite flyers will have a chance to meet at the next kite festival in Patcham in May.

ROMAN CANDLE 24.



The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad, The International Brotherhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils. Govt. Warning, Reading Roman Candles can lead to surfeit of 'MINDLESS DRIVEL' Take Heed, Yoo Wot.

Here we are again, Happy as can be, la,dahdi dah, dah,diddley, diddley, dee. HOLD IT, HOLD IT, HOLDDDD ITTT,Right there Squire. Be Kind to Stunters Year, Pause, whilst you all fall about laughing. Alright you rotten lot, Behave yourselves, give order. No B.M.I.S.S. has'nt entered a 'Sandwich short of a Picnic' situation, and our lift still goes to the Top Floor. No, seriously, all Jokes aside, think about it, them Po Faced, whoops, sorry, those Stunt Kite Type wallahs, need all the help they can get. After all them poor mutts have never really learned how to win friends and influence people, all they are really good at is getting up our noses.

So, for better or worse, BMISS is prepared to offer the Paw of Friendship. Our members will, from now on never deliberately set out to knacker a Stunt Kite display, or otherwise put the mockers on whatever the Spectra Junkies get up to.

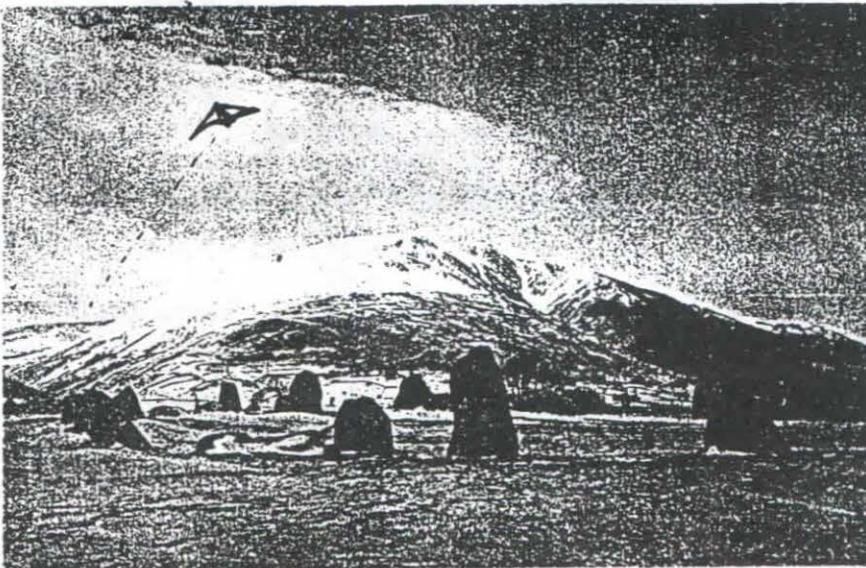
Yes, dear members, we cannot afford to have any splits in Kiting, we must go forward together in a true spirit of co-operation, letting bygones be hasbeens and knowing full well that if B/S was Snow, we'd be a Ski Resort (pass the sick bag Alice, BOF) to a new kind of world, where everything Kite is sweetness and light, with absolutely no acrimony or any kind of ill feeling can disturb the tranquility of our chosen recreation, and where we know full well that if the Jive Arse, Po Faced, Sky Hogs double cross us,we can invoke the age old Curse of the small Furry Objects, and Glue their Sodding Knee Caps together, Yoo wot.

Children in Need is familiar to U.K. readers, but for our overseas radership, we must explain that C.I.N. is Auntie Beebs version of a Telethon./Radiothon, you know, loads and loads of Dosh is pledged via an assortment of Dosh raising capers for the benefit of various Childrens Charities Nationwide. The November 91. appeal raised somewhere in the region of £21,000,000 for the anklebiters. Readers may be pleased to know that at least £107 odd of that grand total was raised by Dropnik Adams and crew from the NoMansland Kite Knutz.

At 50p a go, that represents at least 214 Fauna who were given their first Parachute Jump from a Kite, which by any stretch of the imagination is a very good thing, Well done Geoff and well done all those who helped.

From 'OWD LAD', our correspondent OOP NORTH, comes the picture below and information regarding all the latest archeological details of Bronze Age and Neolithic Parachuting Fauna activities. Of course dear members you were all well aware, that back in the past, well before those Days of yore, our ancestors were really into parachuting from Neolithic Kites in avery biig way....

Being a Bronze Age Parafauna was no joke. There you are,lofted under your Dropniks Bronze Delta, plastered with Woad, 'cos thats what the sods were into back then. Release, Ha, not for you the sound of billowing Ripstop, nope above you, not only the sky,but 'arf n undredweight' of Bronze Parachute, which fetches you a right belt across the napper,which is why you are wearing a wrought Iron Crash Hat. Totals, with all that iron on yer Bonce, are always headfirst, which explains the pic. Long thought to be of religious purpose, this neolithic stone circle is now thought to be a memorial to Totalled Para fauna, the varying heights of the exposed stone, indicating how far the poor fauna penetrated the Earths surface.



If this latest theory is proved to be correct, then Bronze Age Parafuana must have been involved in some Mega dropins back then.

Just think how many of these stones litter the U.K. and when you think about Carnac, the Mind boggles.....

WE CAN BEARLY CONTAIN OURSELVES Those of you who can remember back as far as R.C. no 21, may recall a line in Bears who were Toggled in various Military Uniforms. Funny enough, we think its one of these Bears who turned up at our Door the other day.

Now, whatever species of parafauna turns at BMISS H.Q, the welcome Mat is always rolled out, come one, come all, even if you are done up as a Paratrooper. Besides, we wer'nt gonna argue with this guy. 'cos he looked well Hard, in his Red Beret, Cammo Gear and big Ammo Boots. He says his name is 'AYTEESECOND' and reckons everyth'ng will be cool so long as he does'nt hear too many Church Bells or see too many Church Towers for that matter. Don't know what he'll make of Blackheath.

Also recently taking up residence with BMISS H.Q. Mob a very smart bear from Germany who goes by the name of Baron Mauser. and another weebegone looking Bear who goes by the name of, would you believe it. Walla, Walla, Cats Meat, 'cor, talk about weird.

JUMP JINX

A CHARITY parachute jump ended in chaos when almost half the group needed hospital treatment.

One after another they fell to earth and collapsed in agony with broken bones. Organiser David Small, 27, damaged two vertebrae and faces the next three months in hospital.

A survivor said: "It looked more like a battlefield than an airfield."

The 12 first-time parachutists each paid £57 to jump and raised £1,000.

A spokesman for the parachute club at Peterlee, Co Durham, said afterwards that the jumpers had all been trained by qualified instructors.

From this cutting, left it would seem that those crazy Humes are at it again. Serves the silly sods right. You've heard them, whinging on about how easy this Parachuting game is, and now they've found out.

The cutting on the right comes under the 'You could'nt make it up if you tried' heading. Parachuting Moggies, Gordon Bennett, the mind Boggles. Raving Mad, Pal.....

Far be it from us to suggest that any of our Members is a bit of a Poser, and yes we know that in the U.S., you can, within reason, have any Car Flate that your Wallet and common sense allows, but the Flates illustrated right, could be classed

as a bit Posey. It would appear that Theodore Edward O'Hows Yer Farva at least Three Motors whilst poor old Len has to thrash around on a busted up old Push Bike. It would seem that being an American Para Fauna definately has its plus points.

So far we have'nt learned any more regarding those shocking pics we published in the last issue of R.C. Whoever was responsible for them seems to have lost their Bottle, as no more have turned up. we will keep you posted re developments,

We have had at least one recent complaint about R.C. along the lines of 'cant make head nor tail of it' do'nt worry dear friend neither can we, in fact if we ever do start to Suss it out, then maybe that will be the time to give it the elbow and knock it on the head for good. Know what we mean 'arry.

Roman Candle has never set out to contain anything deep and meaningfull, all we've ever done is to give our readers a quarterly dose of Mindless Drivel, i.e. what you see is what you get, no more no less. Nobody is forced to read it at Gunpoint,

we exist, therefore, we am, warts and all, take it or leave it, the choice is entirely yours. Gordon Bennett, spouse it takes allsorts.

Right, thats a long enough session of inspecting the Lint in our Navels, 'cor introspection sucks, much more of that and we'll be going all Morbidosa. Idiotic, Lunatic, Raving Barmy we may be, but Morbid we aint, so there.

As usual, your News, Views and Slaggin' offs (constructive slaggin' offs,) that is, to the Teddytorial, which is as usual, seeing as how the B.O.F. aint dun a runner, yet.

BMISS. c/o 48. Laurel Lane, West Drayton, Middx. UB7.7TY. U.K.

A plague of cures

EVERY cloud has a silver lining in the medical world, says author Andrew Nikiforuk. In his new book The Fourth Horseman, published by Fourth Estate, he points out that diseases led directly to the development of life-saving drugs, condoms, sewerage systems ... and parachuting cats.

MALARIA was responsible for the flying felines. The pesticide DDT was developed to kill the bug, but when the chemical got into the food chain it killed huge numbers of cats. The rat population began to increase, bringing plague.

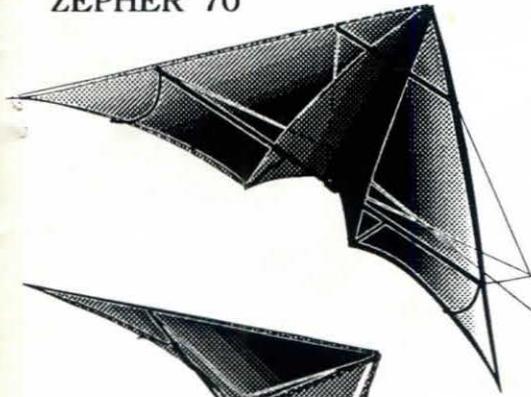
The RAF solved the problem by dropping healthy cats into affected areas of Borneo by parachute.



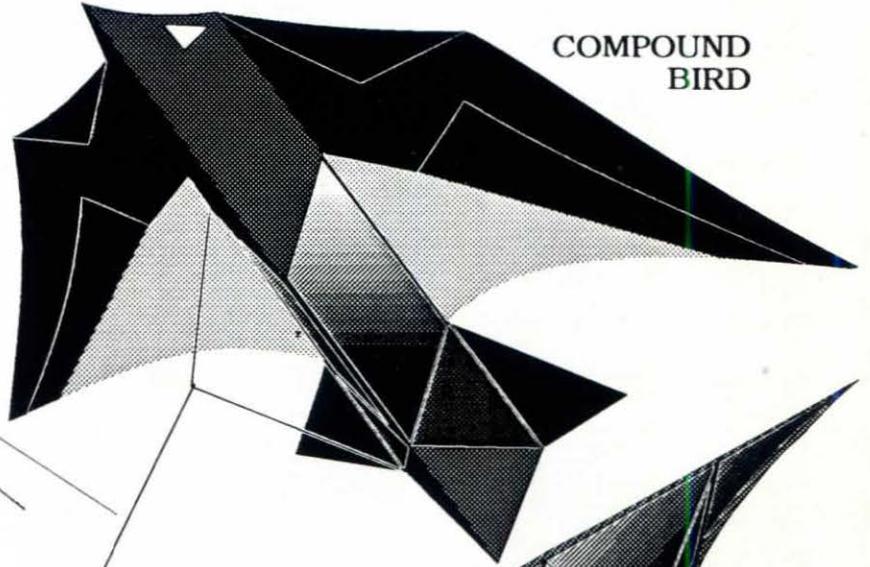
Air~Crafts

Kites For Sport

ZEPHER 70



COMPOUND BIRD



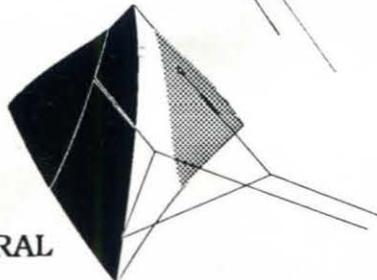
ZONDA 54



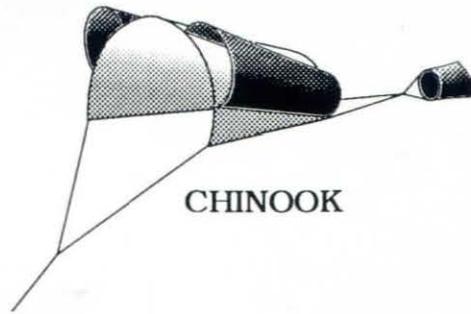
ZONDA 70



MISTRAL



CHINOOK



NEW KITES FOR '92

Each kite is made from top quality rip-stop nylon with eyelets and dacron reinforcing, where needed, to ensure a long life.

To bring you kites that fly superbly and look great in the sky, every design has passed our rigorous test programme.

ZEPHER 70 790 x 1780mm
A large wing area medium-sized stunt kite. Ideal for team flying as it 'tracks' beautifully, allowing smooth ground passes, tip work and precision manoeuvres. Good for light winds.

COMPOUND BIRD 1300 x 2300mm
A single line performance kite for the enthusiast. Capable of flight in the lightest breeze, easily soaring to great heights. A BIG colourful kite which looks spectacular.

ZONDA 54 600 x 1400mm
A great 'trainer' stunt kite (also ideal for stacking). Having less pull than its big brother makes it more manageable for the lighter person. Includes line & handles.

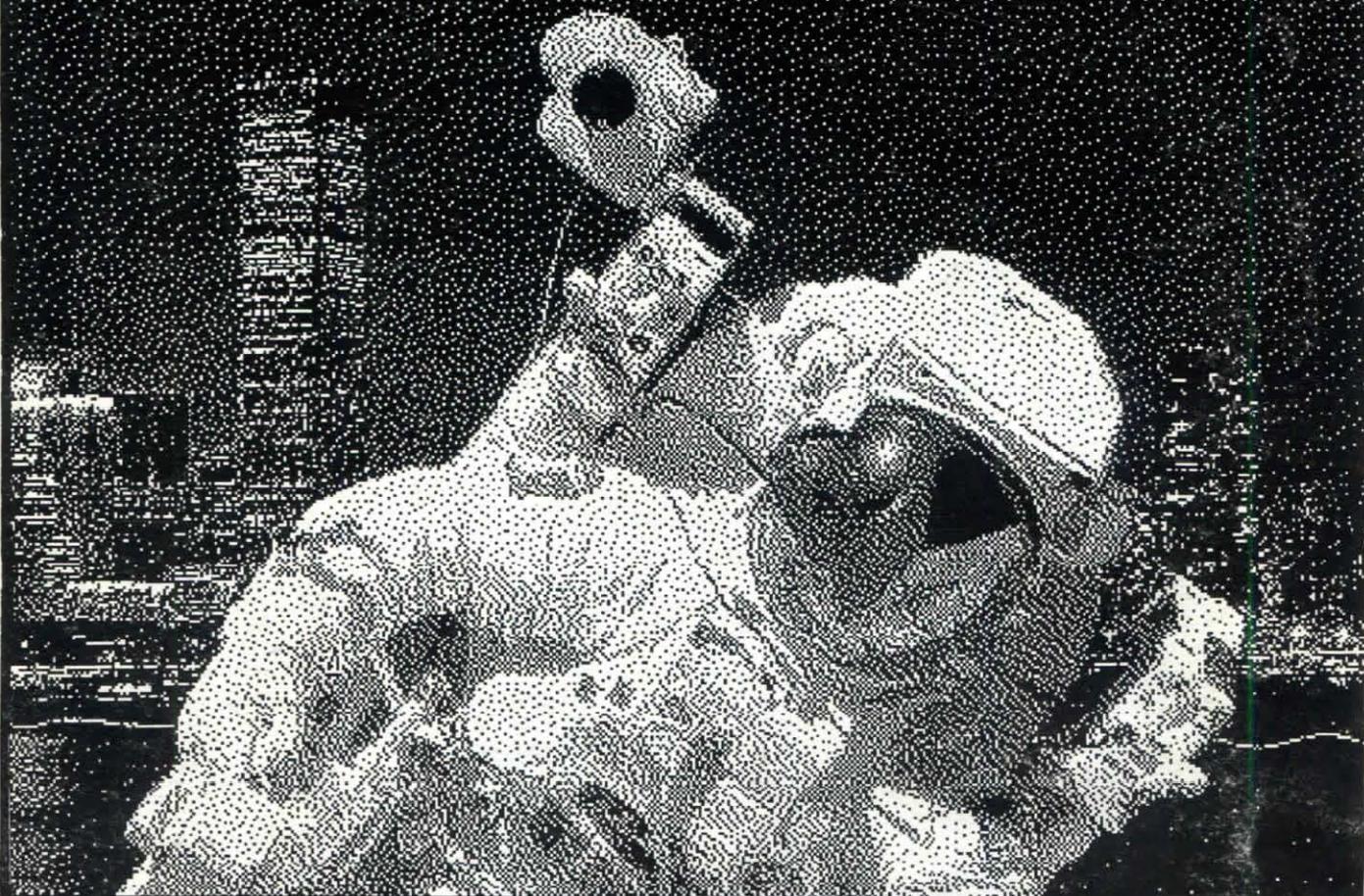
ZONDA 70 790 x 1780mm
A competition stunt kite, ideal for 'open class' events. Sharp turns and crisp manoeuvres put this kite in the lead. Will withstand winds up to 35mph! However, you and your lines may not.

MISTRAL 770 x 745mm
A great dual line stunter for fun flying. Docile in light winds, sparkling in medium and frantic in strong. Complete with lines, handles and tail.

CHINOOK 485 x 775mm
A single line soft kite without spars. Completely packs away, including handle and line, into its own tail bag. Ideal for all ages. A firm favourite with children.

Air~Crafts 0604-863571

**** Giant Steps are what you take ****



**** Bleep ** *Preview* ** Bleep ****

**** ML *"Quadmanaut"* 4 Line ****

**** Soft Stunt Kite ****

**** Bleep ** *Roger* ** Bleep ****

**** CONFIRM ****

**** That's.....One Small Step for ML,
A Giant leap for kitekind ****

The Kite Store, London, England.