

# THE KITEFLIER

ISSUE 63

APRIL 1995

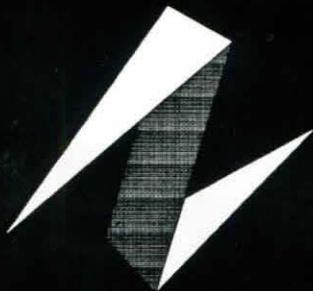
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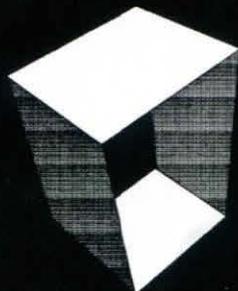
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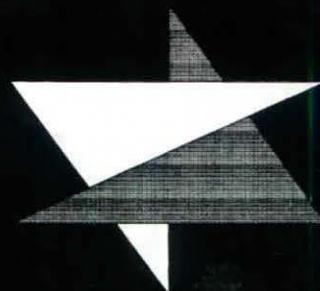
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# EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

This issue marks the start of the kiteflying season and we look forward to seeing many of you at the various kite festivals throughout the year.

We would like to remind you that sweatshirts etc are available with the Kite Society logo embroidered on them. Prices have been reduced slightly so see us at the festivals or send an s.a.e. for more details. We have also ordered a new issue of the Kite Society pin which should be with us by the end of May.

We would like to welcome Drachen International Magazine to the ranks of kite magazines. At the moment the content is mainly translated reprints of articles which have appeared in the original German Drachen Magazin. However, the editors intend to increase the amount of original content over the next few issues. It is very reminiscent of the early Drachen magazin issues and, like Drachen, has great potential. As you can see from the Kite Store advert (back page) there is a proliferation of new magazines on the market and many of them are aimed at the general public rather than specifically at kitefliers.

We are investigating the possibility of a four colour pages in the magazine - but we need the advertisers. So if someone out there is interested in supporting a colour spread then contact us and we will do what we can.

**Gill and Jon Bloom**

P.S. More articles are always wanted to fill

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## Front Cover Photo

**The photograph on the front over was taken at the American Kitefliers Association Convention at Wildwood, October 1994. Photograph by Gill Bloom**

# LETTERS

## From Ron Macey

Would you, through your *Kiteflier*, please thank all kiteflyers for the very happy times that Elsie, Keith and I have spent over the years flying alongside and chattering to like minded people, and I hope that perhaps I may get to an occasional meet this summer now that I've more or less settled down in our new home in Wales.

## From George Webster

I have a question for your readers.

What is the highest wind speed in which they have flown a kite and what is the highest wind known in which a kite has flown? I have a memory of once having read about a kite flown in Antarctica in some very high wind. Also what sort of kite was used?

I've heard it said that since a Flexi has been timed at 100 mph plus then one could fly it in that wind. Ain't so.

## From Helen Bushell

Surprised I am to see the Fluted Sled (*see the last issue of The Kiteflier*) bobbing up again thanks to Margaret Greger and Captain Dick.

It was born back in '78 of extreme laziness out of a desire to prove that almost anything will fly if you have the fulcrum - or, in this case, tether-points, in the right place, (153 degrees from the centre).

The originals were four feet high black plastic x six feet with white plastic (garbage bag) behind and the holes were to light it up and fill the flutes. A six foot high model pulled me into the sea. I used a small spreader halfway along the bridle to stop it from flapping shut.

School workshops for older children used it about 30 inches high in green and white garbage bags

and sticky tape instead of sewing. This was easy because plastic bags have creases and we used fewer flutes. They always flew!

It was one of Istvan Bodocsky's first kites, and helped to bring him in as an enthusiast.

Of course, there is an easy way to cut the holes. I bend the front of the flute in half forward and cut a double semi-circle around a tin lid!

I am interested in the way you are eliminating the holes that were taking the most strain - good idea! It is going to have a long name by the time that someone eventually gets it to play musical chords - if we keep at it!

I hope the bears enjoy their parachuting. Bruce Van der See of Lebrin, Tasmania, Australia, has his bear working his arms by remote control radio and coming down to Bruce's feet on a steerable parachute. This is because winds in Tasmania are so fierce that bears were being blown off the island.

## From M J Hubbard

I thought I would reply to Andrew Beatties letter.

Although I have never tried kite jumping myself I don't consider the sport to be strongly promoted as Mr Beattie seems to think, and even if it was who does he think he is trying to dictate to the many keen fans of the sport that it is wrong.

After all you are more likely to get run over by a car on your way to the beach (by a strongly promoted 130 mph GTI hatchback).

At the end of the day if Andrew and his 100+ supporters don't wish to participate in the sport why try and ruin it for others.

I think I'll give kite jumping a go in '95 at the age of 40. I lost a bit of weight last year so hopefully I'll get some lift from those Indian fighters, only

# A Glossary of Sport Kite Tricks

All moves will be described for a right handed manoeuvre. Please also note the names are those used by me and my associates. U.S. and U.K. variations do exist.

**Axle:** Stall the kite, flick (pull) with the right hand and push forward with the left. This causes an anticlockwise 360 degree rotation with the nose tilted towards the flyer. For the standard axle the belly of the kite faces the ground.

**Axle Launch:** Right hand side of the wind window left tip stand. Now do the same basic manoeuvre as a coin toss, but pull into the air rather than allow to land.

**Black Hole:** Start with the kite doing a left tip stand. Now by pulling on the right line, the kite will rotate left, as the left leading edge is about to hit the ground extend both arms. This puts the kite into a belly down position in a float a couple of inches above the ground. [Yes it does really!!!] now do a flat spin, 180 degrees and as the nose faces you give a light tug and the nose pops up and relaunch.

**Broken YoYo:** Stand behind the kite and roll it onto the lines, so the lines go over the leading edge first, then under the kite. If you can loop the line over the ends of the top spreader vinyl. To launch pull gently on the lines, as the lines come off the vinyl pull harder and the kite will unwrap and launch.

**Camel Spin:** Fly to top centre and pull down on the right wing, release with the left hand. All being well the kite spins [multiple spins] around the right leading edge [right leading edge is vertical tip pointed to the ground].

**Coin Toss:** Start with the kite to the right of centre wind, do a tip stand on the left tip. Pull the right line as you would for an axle, perform an axle [360 degree] and land on the right tip.

**Double Axle:** The same basic manoeuvre as the axle but the kite rotates twice [720 degree spin].

**Double Coin Toss:** A coin toss with a 720 degree spin.

**Flat Spin:** This is the same basic movement as the axle with the kite doing a very flat spin [belly down/parallel to the ground].

**Flip:** A ground manoeuvre. Start with a leading edge landing, on the right of the window. Turn the kite so the left leading edge is on the ground, now pull with the right line, push with the left (this helps the kite to flip over onto its tips).

**Helicopter:** Also known as the side slide. Fly horizontal left to right about 30 percent Vertical wind window. At right edge pull a right turn 270 degree into a stall, pulling on the left line will cause the kite to slide sideways. Control the orientation of the kite [i.e. keeping the spine vertical] pull to rotate left, push to go right.

**In flight YoYo:** This can be performed either flying vertically down or up. Start the same way as a line flick. Pull equally with both hands, this causes the kite to go into a turtle, as the lines hit the bow lines pull equally again. It will now flick forward until the lines hit the kite near the top spreader. Unlike a line flick at this stage push with both hands and the kite will roll into the lines. To do the YoYo, pull at this stage and the kite will unwrap from the lines into flight.

**In flight Refuelled Axle:** Two or more kites refuel, and perform an axle (see Phoenix aka Bungle and Richard, for details).

**Line Flick:** Easier to perform at the top of the window, on a kite with a bow line. Pull equally with both hands, this causes the kite to go into a turtle, as the lines hit the bow lines pull equally again. It will now flick forward

# A Glossary of Sport Kite Tricks

until the lines hit the kite near the top spreader. Pull equally again, the kite will again flick back into a turtle. Repeat.... to recover, when the spine is vertical pull gently with both hands. [Health warning, I am sitting here with very sore shoulders having demonstrated this for half an hour].

**Line Flick Launch:** Centre window, do a belly down landing. Now pull hard and equally with both hands, the kite will reverse up into a line flick with the nose towards you. Either: 1. Pull on one line to axle out, or 2. Pull on both lines and flick the kite so it faces away from you. Now do a flat spin out.

**Switchback:** An indoor Revolution trick. It starts a 3D pull to catch, but you pull it higher so it flies over you. While it's still flying/gliding away pull again and it will again fly/glide over you, release the lines and recover. If you are trying this you should know what the terms above mean.

**Tip Stand:** Right side of window, start with both tips on the ground. [good tip! if you can, have the right tip nearer to you, watch TOTL Flight Squadron World Cup III, Ballet launch]. Now pull gently with your right hand, this will cause the left wing to lift off the ground, as the right leading edge gets vertical, use your left hand to balance the kite, push to go up, pull to go down.

**Turtle Axle:** Turtle the kite and then axle (see Bungle, Andy, Chris etc ... Not me yet!).

**Turtle:** Fly vertically centre of the window and push both hands forward, the kite flips over on its back (turns turtle) now walk slowly forward and the kite will fall gently to the ground, or, pull hard with both hands and it should recover like a line flick.

**Under Axle:** Stall the kite, push forward with your left hand, pull with the right hand, pulling downwards. This causes a clockwise 360 degree rotation with the nose tilted towards the flyer. With the back of the kite towards the ground.

**Under Axle Coin Toss:** (unnamed?). Right hand side of window, right hand tip stand. Pull gently with the left hand to get the right wing tip a couple of inches off the ground, then pull with the right hand to do the under axle and then land again in a right tip stand [great when it works].

**Up and over:** More an indoor trick, centre wind just above the ground pull with both hands the kite flies up as it reaches the point where it would normally stop (when flying outdoors) pull with both hands again, it will now fly directly overhead and down behind you (don't forget to turn round!).

**Un-Named:** Turtle Axle Coin toss move: Fly down at 40 degrees from right to left, aim for just inside the left edge of the window. As the leading edge hits the ground push forward with both hands (turtle vertical) now release left, and pull with your right to flick the kite over you, should land in a right tip stand with the spine of the kite almost parallel to the ground, pull to release (more by luck).

This is not an exhaustive list, and it can never include all the tricks - I've seen two new ones since starting this list. I have also started a piece on indoor and 3D flying - please write to me c/o The Kite Society with any questions.

If you want something added to this list please contact me or the K.S.G.B.

**Simon Dann**

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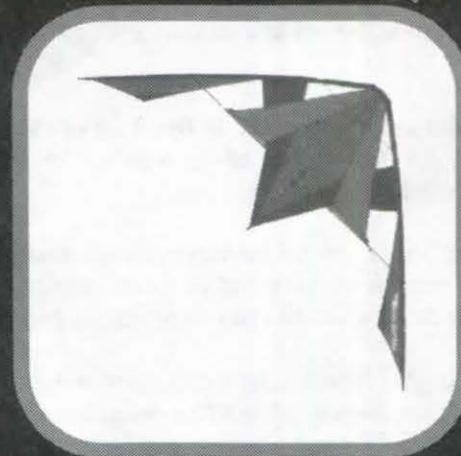
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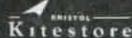
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# Team Flying

Been there, done that, bought the shirt.

In response to the editors recent request for articles from sport kiteflyers I offer the following inspiration? To anybody considering team flying. Been there! Done that! With hind sight it is very easy to look back and say easy, no problem but if I was to take stock and look closely at my first team flying efforts it had many problems.

Hawaiian team kites were purchased by myself and a friend. With nobody to teach us the kites within seconds of being airborne had collided and a small hole put in one of the kites. No more team flying for some time as my friend's wife put a stop to all his flying. Rule number one don't tell the wife you are planning to start team flying!

Undaunted and in lighter winds with different kites another attempt was made with another club member. No damage to kites this time but many minutes spent untangling twisted lines. The only damage this time was to pride. Rule number 2 tell the wife you are going to team fly and ask her along to ground crew - to help sort out the tangled lines!!

After a few practice sessions we considered ourselves experts and ventured out into stronger winds. Twang! In the middle of a wrap a line broke. Rule number 3 make sure your lines are in good condition and rule number 4 write petrol on the cheque book stub when you purchase replacement lines!

New kites were purchased, others joined in and after considerable practice we genuinely considered that we could now call ourselves a team. A logo and team name was chosen and we went out and bought shirts!

We certainly are not a top competition team but we are now competent to fly in all wind conditions and are developing new moves all the time.

We have been there, done that, bought the shirt with considerable help along the way from fellow club members, Martin Thomas of the Leading Edge Kite Co, quality kites from Tim Benson of Fizz Kites and Flexifoil International, and our fan club in the Isle of Man. Set out and following are a basic set of guide lines for anybody team flying.

Flyers - Ensure that as far as possible all flyers are of a similar standard. A team of more than four maybe too big in the early days of practice. An even number of flyers makes for an easy and uniform split of moves involving kites breaking to each side of the wind window.

Kites - A range of kites is needed for varying wind conditions. Personal taste plays a big role in selection but ensure that the kite is slow and straight tracking and performs well on the edge of the wind window. Make sure all kites are purchased together and only flown when all team members are present. This assures even wear, stretch and ultra violet fade.

Lines - invest in quality lines and have a range of weights for different conditions. Where ever possible fly on heavy lines as this will help to slow the kites. Most 8 foot delta kites will fly on 300lb line in 10 mph. Line lengths should be 150 feet long.

Novice flyers may find it advantageous to sleeve the first 20 foot of line - at the kite end - this will help to minimise damage to line and leading edges of kites when inevitable crashes result. As confidence builds so this sleeving can be removed. There may be an advantage in shortening alternate flyers lines by about 2 foot i.e No's 1 and 3 fly at 150 foot and No's 2 and 4 fly at 148 foot. This helps to eliminate kites hitting each other and also reduces turbulence from the slipstream of the lead kite.

Flying Technique - practice makes perfect. Start with the basic follow my leader infinity move i.e. a figure of eight lying on its side and develop moves from this. Practice all moves with sticks before flying them. When in a wrap i.e. your flying lines twisted around a fellow team members try not to walk backwards otherwise line damage could soon result.

Presentation - having got to grips with a basic routine keep practising and then consider flying to music. Choose a team name, corporate image, build a banner and take pride in showing off your hard learnt skills. Good Luck

Kevin Appleton - Team Cascade.

# Handbook Update

The following details are additions, deletions or updates to the details contained in the 1995 Kite Society of Great Britain Handbook. If you have any changes to the details published in the handbook then please send them to us for inclusion in the next issue.

## GROUPS

### Camelot Kite Fliers

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Somerset, West Dorset  
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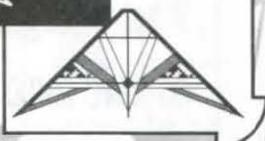
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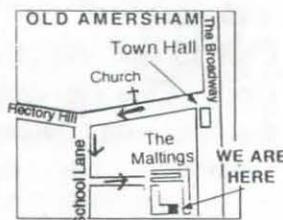
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# Kites Come to College

Bits & Pieces

- or a University comes to a Kites and Kite Flying Course.

'What I believe to be the UK's first Kite flying course as part of the higher education system ran from October - December 1994 at Thames Valley University. The course was accredited by TVU as part of its modular provision as a mini-module. This means that 3 such courses make one-eighth of the first year of a degree - though in fact it was simply an evening course for 8 weeks (one night of 2 hours per week) and two flying sessions at Ealing Common.

The co-presenters were George Webster (who works at TVU but not in the department of aeronautics or flying objects) and Ernest Barton.

We had about a dozen members of whom half already flew two line

kites locally but wanted to know more about kites in general. We covered topics such as:

- History of kites;
- Variety of kites;
- How kites fly;
- Main kite types e.g. boxes and deltas;
- Classic and modern kite designers e.g. Cody and Lester;
- Simple kite making.

What they found unexpectedly fascinating (unexpected to us) was assembling and handling kites from our collections. We must have taken in over 60 kites ranging from Indian fighters, Chinese silk birds to Ernest's spilt Malays, boxes etc. There was a Green's box which almost defeated them (as it had once defeated George and Oliver), they had a lot of fun with Ernest's Rolo-plan but perhaps the highlight was giving them a Waldorf

## An Interesting Tale.

Trevor Morris from Rushden, Northamptonshire, bought his first Indian kite at the Northampton Balloon festival. Two weeks later he went on holiday to France and flew his kites at a kite festival there. He attracted a lot of attention from people who wanted to know more about the kite and how it was controlled. Trevor, who hadn't really understood all the controls had a lot of fun explaining what little he knew. He was surprised when the TV followed him around for about 30 minutes and he was written up in a French newspaper. He thoroughly enjoyed this experience and was still glowing with pride when he told me about it some weeks later.

Stafford Wallace

Bell Tetrahedral (no instructions and the version with brass connectors). The low point was one of Ernest's kites being chopped and lost in a tree early in the first practical flying session. The most exciting part was Ernest's account of lift and Reynolds numbers.

If anyone has done something similar or is thinking of running a course of this type, do get in touch and we could exchange ideas experience and perhaps materials. I now have a bibliography of kite books published in the last 20 years.

We hope to recruit a second course after Easter when flying should be easier and

we can link people into flying groups and festivals.

Yes we did give them all information about the Kite Society.

**George Webster**  
30 Park Place, Ealing,  
London W5 5NQ.

## *Sky Art Project*

We have heard from Patricia Collins who is organising the above project, she is asking people to make and send kites (a square 18"x 18") in the style of a known artist. All kites received before June 16th 1995 will be shown or flown at The East London Kite Festival on Hackney Marshes. All participants will receive a kite catalogue. The Address is 128 Kingston Road, Teddington, Middlesex. TW11 9JH. The deadline for entries is January 1996.

## Collector Phone Cards

Kite Communications Ltd provides payphone services to a wide range of users. They also provide their own Payphone cards for use on a number of sites. These cards have special designs and are collected in large numbers by enthusiasts. They are in the process of producing a set of phone cards depicting kites. No more details are available

## Golden Valley Kites

We have been requested by Golden Valley Kitefliers that it be stipulated that we, Golden Valley Kites, and Golden Valley Kitefliers are two different entities. Golden Valley Kitefliers are a kite club based in Gloucestershire and Golden Valley Kites is a mail order Company & festival traders based in Gloucester.

We now have a shop ourselves in Gloucester and are called High Jinx. So if there are any enquiries with regard to Golden Valley Kites you can phone us on 01452 503412 every day of the week between 11.00 and 5.00. In the not too distant future we hope to change our trading name but at present this is not possible.

## Paul and Christine Gallichan (trading as Golden Valley Kites.)



## Kites and Things

Of Whitstable, Kent now give a 10% discount to Kite Society members for cash (5% for credit

card) They also take trade in kites, and have a bargain board for used or ex-demo/display kites



## New Kite Shops

**High Spirits - Kites and Juggling.** The Address is 4 St Thomas Street, Winchester, Hants SO23 9HE tel 01962 840951, stocking a good range of kites & juggling equipment. Opening times: Winter Monday to Saturday 10:00 - 5.30, Summer Monday to Saturday 9:00 - 5.30.

**Juggling Kite Co.** A shop which will be stocking a full range of kites and accessories including Flexifoils, Highflyers, Spirit of the Air and Dark Star. Because they want their customers to be totally satisfied with their purchases they will be offering a seven day money back guarantee. They are situated on the A229 Hastings Road leaving Maidstone, next door to Qwikfits.

The address is 42 lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6NA. Tel/fax 01622 682220.

## TV Stardom Strikes Down 1-2-4 members

By one of those legendary million to one chances (that happens nine times out of ten) Cunning Stunts were contacted by SKY TV; to come and do some power kiting. Being completely cagey, and not at all impressed by TV appearances, Cunning Stunts flew at the opportunity, and promised to bring loads of 1-2-4 members.

Eight days later we arrived at ??? (sorry top secret) flying site with Neil, Peter, Jon, Gordon and Chris etc. Brilliant 20mph wind, rain, but what the heck, we set up anyway.

The demo involved high speed buggies, scudding and Will and Jon disappeared skyward (get the picture). Then Sky TV arrived, closely pursued by the Borough Council with lots of "it's more than my jobs worth to authorise this".

Unknown to us Sky had forgotten to acquire filming permission. Still 1-2-4

(the boys from hell)

carried on as did the film crew. Some two and a half hours later, lots of head honcho's decided that we could no longer continue, but we already had loads of serious flying on film (tuff). Unfortunately since then we have heard that the Council are seeking an injunction against Sky to stop them broadcasting (come on guys give us a break).

The remainder of the interviews were finished off at another site, without the wind (its great to work with professionals). The remaining filming involved some light wind bugging and some fake scud runs and some very wet 1-2-4 members.

The presenter was Danny the Kid from the sitcom 2 point 4 kids, he looked about 14, but, we were told he was 18. Anyway by the time we'd finished with him he was very wet, and very muddy, so a bonus. The programme was D.J Kat and should have been screened on April 1st. I have enclosed a

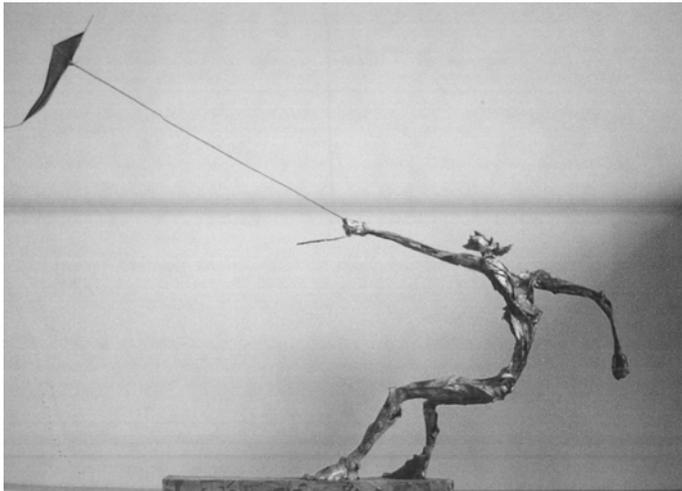


photo of a plaque in the Swansea Marina facing the beach and Promenade. It was designed by the Council to depict light signalling of vessels entering Swansea Docks. "Reflection and Refraction" of optical systems of lenses, but I am fascinated by its similarity to the flight patterns of a stunt Delta Kite! Maybe its a good

luck sign for future Kite Festivities on our sandy beach. I also enclose a photo of an artist's sculpture called "The Kite" by Sarah Watson. The feeling of movement in a still life is great - it would make a wonderful award trophy.

**Al Upton**



## Group news

**Whitstable West Beach Flyers** now have their summer fly-in dates sorted out, they meet at 6pm on the following Fridays : April 28th, May 12th and 26th, June all Fridays, July 28th, August and September all Fridays. Everyone welcome, contact Andy Thomas at Kites and Things for details.

**South Eastern Kite Society.** The correct contact address is Alan Sage, 22 Cherry Drive, Canterbury, Kent CT2 8HF. In addition the Society's monthly meetings are now held at Merton Farm, Merton Lane, Canterbury CT4 7BA.

## From The press.

This was spotted in Computing. 'Flexifoil is a maker of power and stunt kites based near Ely. It uses TAS Books accounting package to manage its financial situation such as purchases of its worldwide sales of kites, "We use it for all our accounting" says Sally Nelson, Office manager at Flexifoil. Flexifoil say that this system suits its accounting needs by being simple and easy to use on the networked system of PCs at its headquarters. Flexifoil also uses the package to produce reports. "We can get customer summaries, product summaries - it seems to cover all the things that you might want when you're trying to do your analysis of what you've sold.' (so remember the next time you buy a flexi - they've got you on record!

## Materials

We have been contacted by a company that produces camping accessories, including in these are an assortment of runners, line tensioners, O rings, D rings, triangular rings etc. They are keen to get into the kite accessories market. For further details, catalogue, prices etc contact Hampton Camping Accessories, Hampton Works (stampings) Ltd. Twynning Road, Stirchley, Birmingham B30 2XZ tel 021 458 2901 fax 021 433 3819.

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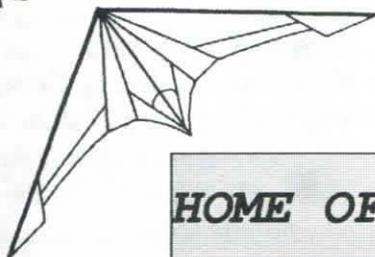
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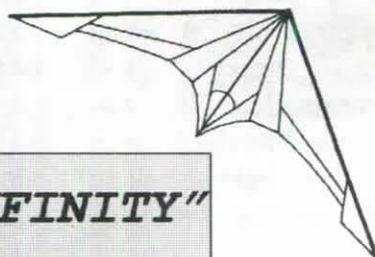
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DRACHENmagazin has just celebrated its fifth year of publication. For the last two years DRACHENmagazin has won the Cris Batdorf award for Outstanding Publication at KTA. Now we offer you this award winning magazine in English.

# Trade News

*Below is a selection of the press releases that have been sent to us by the various manufacturers and shops. We are always pleased to receive information of this type for publication.*

**Way on High Kites** are shortly to launch a revolutionary kite lighting system. From a U.K. company Intelight, the system is a spin off from other applications, where a high intensity light from a small power source is required. Available in strips or squares and circles the lightweight material is attached to the kite fabric. Once the power is switched on the light generated is so powerful, one reaches for your sunglasses .... at night!. Another application allows lettering or symbols to be highlighted in the material. Further details are available from Way on High Kites, Capuchin Yard, Church Street, Hereford HR1 2LR. Tel/fax 01432 264206.

**Fizz Sport Kites** have recently released the first in a series of new Tim Benson designs in readiness for the 1995 season.

Three new freestyle/trick kites, Reflex, Box of Tricks and Fusion incorporate unique 3-D graphics and a combination of curved leading edges and sculptured trailing edges which gives them a very distinctive appearance. All feature "strong" Dyneema leech lines, low stretch ring-less bridles, concealed anti-snap wingtip detailing and a pre-fitted "trick line as standard.

The Reflex is a 2.1m freestyle kite with a high degree trickability giving dynamic performance in a wide range of winds. Ideally suited for newcomers through to master class fliers.

The Box of Tricks measures in at just under 2.4 metres with a radical high aspect configuration. A "full on" trick kite offering a highly satisfying feelgood factor and a performance which develops with the flier's ability.

The Fusion is a full 2.4 m light wind freestyler which can be flown in higher winds without losing any of its finesse or trickability. As with the others in this series, the kite's silent in flight.

In addition to these new models, Tim has been busy developing the Original Phantom to incorporate the latest state of the art materials.

The Phantom Elite series feature Icarex sails and Skyshark spars which provides a new dimension in performance. The Phantom Elite super Ultra-light is ideally suited to indoor or low wind conditions and the Ultra-light model is quite at home in light to moderate winds. As with all models in the Benson Phantom series the kites are incredibly precise and these latest additions incorporate design features which give them an even more radical performance ability.

## **BUSINESS FOR SALE**

**Established specialist kite business with two retail outlets.**

**Wide range of other products sold (juggling, frisbees, boomerangs, selected games and toys).**

**The only specialist 'North of the Border'.**

**Owner wishes to pursue other interests.**

**Details from:**

**Paul Carline  
WIND THINGS  
11 Cowgatehead  
Edinburgh EH1 1JY**

**Tel/Fax: 0131 220 6336.**

# KENT'S BIGGEST KITE SELECTION



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Elliot, Rokkakus, Etc**

**Repair Shop and Kite Maker's Corner**

**ALSO....family kites from £4.50, boomerangs,  
petanque, juggling, croquet, rockets,  
penknives, frisbees, gifts, puzzles.**

## KITES & THINGS

**36 Oxford Street, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1DG  
Phone: 0227 264722 (out of hours 772161).**

(Proprietor Andy Thomas)  
Open: Tues/Thur/Fri 10am-5.30pm;  
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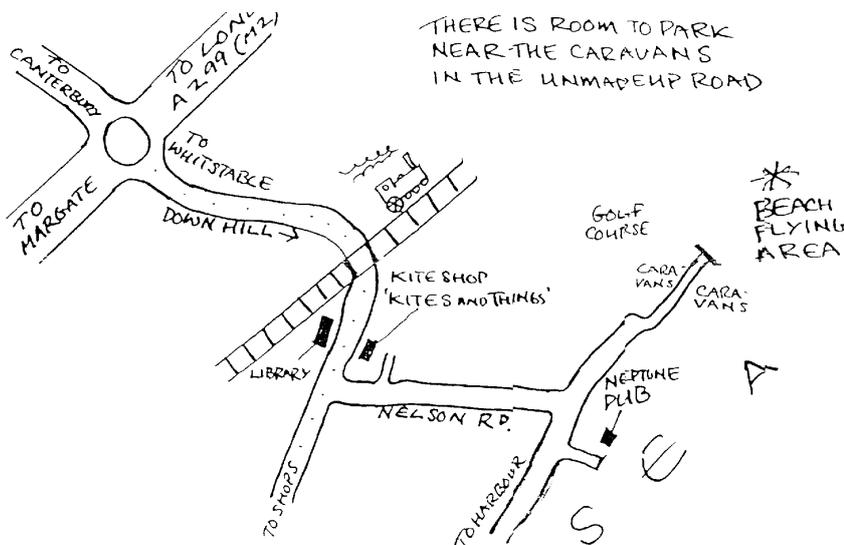
**Find us opposite Whitstable library.  
We are near the beach for kite flying!**

## Come Fly With Us!

Whether you are an expert, or a complete novice at kiteflying, you are welcome to join us at our summer fly-ins.

We meet at the West Beach, Whitstable, at 6pm on the following Friday evenings:

**April 28th. May 12th, 26th. June - all Fridays. July 28th.  
August - all Fridays. September - all Fridays.**



**Note:**if you are travelling to Whitstable to fly your kite, and would like to check on wind and tide conditions, and confirmation of the next fly-in, please feel free to ring us on Whitstable (01227) 264722 in shop hours.



## Did you know That These People

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# 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 2500 members worldwide.

The main vehicle of communication between members is the quarterly publication 'THE KITEFLIER'. 'THE KITEFLIER' is published in January, April, July and October of 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 where guest speakers are invited to talk about their specialist area of kite 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.

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	£8.00
Family - all members in the same household.	£9.00
O.A.P.	£6.00
O.A.P. - Family (Husband & Wife)	£7.00
Overseas - Europe and Surface Mail	£10.00
Overseas - Airmail	£15.00
Overseas upgrade to standard airmail.	£5.00

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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, P.O. Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY

# Kiting Holidays

I have just returned from paradise! Kiting paradise that is. I was getting depressed with the calm weather around Christmas and wanted to fly kites. I fancied somewhere with a bit of sun, sea and sand with a steady wind.

I got everything four fold! I flew all types of kites every day for at least five hours. I only had one day off to go on an organised trip. I have never enjoyed myself so much in sixty years. The place - Fuerteventura - in the Canary Isles. As I said at the beginning it was paradise. The beaches were made up of miles and miles of light golden sands with lovely big gentle sand dunes. I flew on the top of one such dune all the time. It was about 100 metres across with winds that varied from about 5 - 15 mph. The temperature about 19 degrees not bad for January!

These dunes are only five kilometres out of the lovely little port of Corralejo at the top end of the island. You can catch a ferry to Lanzarote from Corralejo. This was the only trip I had and didn't fly a kite. I took spares with me for most of my kites, I only broke one spar in my Scorpion and I had about 15 kites with me. All that I thought I could carry comfortably, an assortment of kites to cover all wind conditions. I had Indian fighters, a box, a rokkaku and some soft kites including a 2.2 metre Wild Thing from Greens Kites, everything flew superbly.

To my surprise I found that there is a specialist kite shop in Corralejo. It is run by Claudio and Angela Azzali, two charming Italians who have designed the 1995 range of kites for the Spanish firm of Eola Gayla. The shop is called Via col Vento. Then I found another shop called Park toys/kites. They sold a good range of childrens kites and beginners kites, but they also specialise in high quality 2 line deltas. One range that they have is made by Dream Kites of Berlin. Also some of the later Brookite range. It was the display of Dream kites that caught my eye and with little persuasion I had bought an eight foot delta with lovely curved trailing edges (also corded) called "Silent Dart". It is the quietest kite I have flown. The owners Fred from Gloucester and Anne from Limerick are a lovely couple and became good friends. Their seven year old daughter Tania soon befriended me and I became "Tio Jack".

What all this is leading up to is they have a kite festival on the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of the second weekend in November. Last years was very enjoyable with lots of flying during the week before and after the festival. So, if you are planning a holiday in the sun and would like to take your kite with you, Corralejo on Fuerteventura in November is the place to be. I meet Mr Tom Tucker out there whose son is interested in kiting, they have some apartments out there and know of others at special rates for kite people. They can be contacted on the following numbers, Mr Tom Tucker 0181 367 0131 (Enfield), Mr Tony Tucker 01480 891870 (Huntingdon). See you there. **Jack Greenough**



**Natural Heights** - A new company offering Kiteflying Holidays specialising in Power Kiting.

The company is based in the Western Algarve of Portugal. Operating from Burgau, they can offer a choice of holiday accommodation, air flights and car hire. They offer you the opportunity to discover power kiting and buggying using their equipment or you can bring your own. The kiteflying activities take place on a wide beach and (so they say) in the afternoon the wind always picks up to provide excellent conditions for the kite flyer. The kiteflier can try his or her hands at other kites and also take advice from a professional team. The company also does juggling!

Natural Heights are offering an early booking bonus of 10% off any accommodation prices if you book before 15th May. For further details contact Karen Murray, Natural Heights, 10 Blandfield Road, London SW12 8BG. Tel 0181 769 6048 or 0181 682 8990.

Karen has also asked us to point out that weather permitting she likes to meet fellow kiteflyers at Clapham Common on Sundays from 14.30 hours, and if anyone would like to join her they should contact her at Natural Heights on 0181 769 6048.

# Cheap Kites

Many shops these days are trying to be the cheapest there is to try and catch the kitefliers and the public's eye. The only problem is that the very cheapest don't fly and buying them is false economy.

George Webster is fond of saying that the stalls at the festivals don't sell the same kites as the newsagents and sweetshops. Well we're afraid to say that some do. On top of that they are being sold at a higher price than you would pay at a newsagent. At Washington last year a "kite" (a nylon taffeta imported thing) started the day at £2.50 and ended the day at £1.50 - not because it wouldn't fly but because of undercutting. At that price there was still 200% profit. The people of Washington were paying their money for what they thought was a proper kite and coming out of the stall to find that they could not put the thing together. They would then look for help and many were coming to our stall to ask for it. We did start the day by helping but as more and more were coming we told them to take them back to the stalls where they had come from. When they did manage to put them together very few actually took to the air. Over the whole weekend and of the many hundreds that were obviously sold only a handful were actually seen in the sky.

Our cheapest kite was £3.75 and built from ripstop nylon and fibreglass and we know, from nearly nine years in the business as both Morgan Kites and Sky Bums, that they fly well - but we could not compete with the "bargain" offers on the other stalls - nor would we try.

So what are these kites doing for the potential kiteflier? All these kites are doing is reinforcing the buyer's preconceived idea that kites do not fly. They didn't when they were young and this just proves it.

What are these kites doing for the kite retailers? They are making less per sale than if they sold a better quality but more expensive kite. They are also losing potential sales when the customer is frustrated rather than pleasantly surprised by their purchase. The customer certainly won't use that shop again.

What is the kiteflier getting out of this? I would say they are getting less choice. The majority of shops are now selling the same range as each other (due mainly to the fact that they are getting them from the same large manufacturers and distributors). Also a lot are selling mainly stunters and know next to nothing about single line kites. Therefore the single line fliers are losing out in a big way. Has anyone noticed how few single line kite makers are out there? The talented and innovative kitemakers who we have seen in recent years making the festivals more colourful places are falling by the wayside due to not being able to compete with these "cheap kites". Soon the only people making single line kites will be the larger and cheaper manufacturers selling the same limited range of kites that have always been found at the seaside. Either that or we will have cheap copies of some of the more novel kites.

In the short term kitefliers and the public may seem to get a good deal but when there are no new kites being brought onto the market and you already have all the stunters you could possibly want, what then? Have we taken the first steps along the path that sees the steady decline in kiteflying? Will this go the same way as so many other boom and bust fads of recent years? We can only hope that this is not the case.

We came into kiteflying because we enjoyed kites and wished to share our enthusiasm with others. There are also people out there who are in it purely for the money and it seems their philosophy is "if it will sell then that is reason enough to sell it".

**Paul & Helene Morgan - Sky Bums**

# To Make Or To Buy

Whilst playing a league Chess match, I suppose I made a good move because my opponent took 25 minutes to respond, during which time my mind, as usual, wandered to kites and to the '94 Dieppe festival. It was nice being invited to Dieppe, though unfortunately strong winds prevailed throughout the week except for some very brief breaks. As I couldn't fly as much as I usually do, I wandered around the stalls of the many visiting countries. There seemed to be kites from two different worlds. There were kites from countries such as Vietnam, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Columbia, Japan, China and India, where these seemed to be the national kite of those countries. Other countries including Great Britain, U.S.A., New Zealand, Germany, Australia and even Israel seemed to have kites which were very similar, that is, pieces of nylon stitched together to make various interesting, large and wonderful shapes and lovely for the public to enjoy. These kites were often identified by the kitemakers name.

I did some liaising between the Indian Stall and the festival organisers and this 'maker' ethic became even more apparent. The organisers expressed disappointment that the Indian kitemaker, they'd invited, wouldn't make kites on site and furthermore refused to bridle any kites for sale. I explained that, in India, kitemaking was an insignificant aspect of kiting and that kiteflying was more important and that the Indian kitemaker did not understand why people should want to see kites being made, after all, no one in India comes to see a kite being made or even cares. I also had to explain that kites sold in India weren't bridled and that bridle holes or a bridle meant a secondhand kite.

Living over half my life in England, it's quite interesting to observe and understand both cultures. One culture where there is a kite which is a purpose built kite, developed over many many, years and suitable for the light winds of India. The other culture where kiting is a constant stream of innovative designs which are interesting to look at and will soon be superseded by the next unusual design.

At the '94 Bristol festival, a customer of mine who is also a very keen maker of the so called 'fighter kite' informed me that he had made kites of every design from books and magazines he could find and had come to the conclusion that the fighter kite could not be designed because the design already existed in the form of the kites from India, Indonesia and Korea.

I have never understood these recently designed kites which seem to be the basic Indian kite with bits cut off here and there, or sometimes widened or shortened. Perhaps if these same designers came across the wheel, they would redesign it and come up with something like our seven sided 50 pence coin! Perhaps it is inappropriate to apply the 'western' design culture to the fighting kite. The kite is enjoyed, not for it's looks, but for it's manoeuvrability. Also it is hard to

differentiate between designs when the kite is 100-1000 metres away.

Being an Indian born kiteflier, I've never understood why making is more important than flying a kite. I've taken some criticism from makers in France and England who express admiration for the flying characteristics of my kites but then dismiss them with a 'but you haven't made it yourself'. Perhaps I'm ignorant of some rule that one should only fly kites one has made. I must get a copy of the Maastricht Treaty! At one festival a kitemaker told me he had spent hours making his fighter kite which looked better than mine but wouldn't fly as well as my kite. He admired my kite so much that I gave it to him. At a later festival I found him struggling with one of his kites and asked him why he wasn't flying the kite I'd given him, only to be informed that he only flew kites he'd made. I said I hadn't realised that and asked him if he only watched television on a set he'd made himself. or kept his food in a fridge freezer he'd made himself or only drove a car he'd made.

When I joined the kite scene in 1989 I found I couldn't join in with the so called fighter kite makers as they seriously discussed sources and qualities of materials. This was no fun at all and I found there were hundreds & hundreds of potential kitefliers who couldn't make a kite or even wanted to make one, but they were keen to buy one of my kites. They seemed to enjoy hearing about kiteflying in India and were quick to learn to fly, repair and adjust their kites.

I'm often asked why the so called fighter kite scene has grown so much and I wonder if one of the reasons could be that the scene used to consist of a small group of makers who didn't realise that whilst the pontificated about designs and materials, they unconsciously excluded many kitefliers who couldn't make kites but just wanted a kite that would fly properly and respond to the subtle controls of line tension.

All right so what is the answer to the question?

I believe there is enough room for both makers and fliers in the 'fighting' kite scene. Many kitefliers will always prefer to make their own kites, but many many more will still want to enjoy flying these exciting kites but cannot make, or do not have the skills to make, their own kites. Kiteflying is about pleasure and having fun. I have a lot of fun flying my kites and many of my customers tell me they didn't realise kiteflying could be so much fun. The most important thing is that the interest grows and more people enjoy flying kites, whether bought from a shop or made by themselves.

**Stafford Wallace**

# THE 3rd BASINGSTOKE



# KITE



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# Event News

## **21st May - Environment Day, Shipley Country Park, Heanor, Derbyshire**

Come along and join The Midlands Kite Fliers at one of their favourite fly-in sites for an event with lots going on. To tie in with National Environment Week there will be lots of stalls and displays, craft demonstrations, country folklore exhibitions, music and dancing, free guided cycle rides, cycle hire, shop and excellent cafe. Walks, lakes and ducks to feed.

This is a popular venue for the public. Well signposted. Follow signs for the American Adventure theme park, until signs for Shipley Country Park appear. Free admission.

Contact: Julie White, Midlands Kite Fliers on 01332 669203

## **27th - 29th May - Conquer the Wind Sky Extravaganza - Banham Zoo Show Ground.**

Plans are now finalised for this three day event at this popular venue on the Norfolk/Suffolk borders. Free entry to K.S.G.B. gold card holders. 2000' C.A.A. height clearance applied for. Rounds of the KSGB individual and team Rokkaku championship, Kite Traders, Quad bikes, Aero Model display, hang gliders, free fall parachute drop, kite workshops. Adjacent attractions include Banham Zoo (separate fee payable), large market, craft shops, Banham Cidery and Bistro.

## **Saturday 27th - site available for general flying and kite buggy events.**

Sunday & Monday 28th & 29th - full arena programme including kite buggy displays by the Parakart Association, fighting kite demo by Stafford Wallace, soft kites and inflatables by Jim Rowlands of Inflight, team flying by Team Cascade, Art of Air, Sky Divers and Dreams of Flight. Altitude Sprint races, parachute sweet drops by Jack Crouch, Nigel Kemps mega flexifoil stack and Mark Coventry's skill lying three kites.

Site, camping and trade enquiries to David Barber, Banham Zoo tel: 01953 888370. General festival enquiries to Kevin Appleton 01603 431964 (evenings).

## **3rd & 4th June - Basingstoke Kite Festival.**

Come along to our third kite festival at Down Grange Sports Complex. Apart from the STACK pairs competition and the U.K.

## **13th May - Baddesley Manor**

Baddesley Manor, at Baddesley Clinton, Solihull, West Midlands is a National Trust property and the Alcester and Worcester Kite Fliers are having a fly-in. Cars will be allowed on the flying field but passes are required. A teddy bear drop will be arranged. Contact Fred Apperley, 9 The Meadows, Bidford on Avon, Warks B50 4AP, Tel 01789 778424 for more information.

## **28th May - Sudbury Hall, Sudbury, Derbyshire**

Do you have a spectacular single-line kite and a camera? Then come along, show off your kite and use the fantastic back-drop in which to photograph your kite. Admission free to all members of The Midlands Kite Fliers, The National Trust and Blue Peter badge holders as this is a Blue Peter day. Hall, Museum of Childhood, gardens and tea room. Lots going on for children. There is not a large area to fly, it is sufficient for single line kites only. The MKF display kites will be flying too.

Contact: Julie White, Midlands Kite Fliers on 01332 669203

## **24th & 25th June - 2nd Southampton Kite Festival, Lordshill Sports Ground, Southampton.**

To be run by the newly formed 'Solent Kite Flyers' in conjunction with Totton and Ealing Lions. Free entry and car parking with separate areas for single line and multiple line flying. Arena displays, competitions and childrens kite workshop. For further information contact Michael Lowe 01703 770788 (evenings).

## **28th & 29th May - Swansea City Council Spring Show.**

Held at Singleton Park, near the University, the show will start things rolling with kite flying demonstrations and hot air balloons. Kites of Fancy will have a stall there and they are having the Artistic Kite Group put on a display as

# Event News

Singles and Team Rokkaku, there will be fun competitions, some old, some new. Guest flyers and a free childrens kite workshop.

On the Saturday night we are having a kite auction and a sing-a-long (not Max). If you want tickets for the evening bash (£6.00) and/or camping (£5.00) please write to or phone Pete Hillman, 119 Porter Road, Basingstoke, Hants, tel: 01256 51358. For any other information please phone Al Cosgrove on 01256 818922.

P.S. Festival T/shirts (£10.00) and Pins (£3.50) also available from Pete Hillman. So don't delay buy some today.

## **1st - 4th June Worldwide Kite Rendezvous, Verdun, Canada**

Favourable winds are blowing on the city of Verdun. The third Worldwide Kite Rendezvous is on its way. This year the event will be held from June 1st to June 4th on the shore of the Saint Lawrence river at Verdun's Therrien Park, near the Auditorium (4110 Lasalle Blvd).

Once again the festival will be of international level. Approximately 200 performers will gather to illustrate kite flying traditions from the 5 continents.

Kiteflying festivals often focus on competitions. The Verdun Worldwide Kite Rendezvous prefers to reach a different goal by favouring a European approach (demonstrations, performances). Four full days of activities are scheduled. The program includes demonstrations, exhibits, fabrication workshops, outdoor concerts and entertainment for children, seniors and the entire family.

The Worldwide Kite Rendezvous is a glittering extravaganza during which people can rub elbows with kite flying top stars and also experience the vibrant feeling of challenging winds with a kite.

Contact Lynn Champagne, 4501 rue Bannantyne, Verdun (Quebec), Canada H4G 1E3. Telephone 00 1 514 765 7213 for more details.

## **10th & 11th June - Margam Park Kite Festival**

Similar format as in the previous years, in other words, gather and relax.

Sadly, we won't have Ray Bethell with us this year, as his schedule has taken him to other parts of the world. But, he will be with us in spirit at least. However, we will have Mark Coventry to amaze us with his 3 kite routine. We will be also joined by the M.K.F.

well as having team displays by AirKraft and others. Contact Al Upton at Kites of Fancy (0792 648180) for more information.

## **17th & 18th June - East London Kite Festival**

Will take place on Hackney marshes. This will be the third event and looks to be a good event with lots of interesting activities included, such as the British Team Sport Kite Championships (third and final round), Britains only urban buggy event, quadline painting competition, team flying etc etc. On the Saturday night there are fireworks and kites in a son et Lumiere pyrokitenics. The buggy event will include speed and distance racing and they hope to launch a new kind of buggy competition with a freestyle challenge. For further information contact Jeremy Boyce at High as a Kite on 0171 275 8799.

## **23rd July - Golden Valley Kite Festival**

Peter Whitaker has written to us to inform us that due to lack of venue and sponsorship the group has had to cancel this event.

## **29th & 30th July - Brighton Kite Festival**

Will be held at Stanmer Park between 10:00am and 5.00pm (see BKF pages for details)

## **29th & 30th July - Barmouth**

A small kite festival is being held at Barmouth which is on the North Wales Coast for details contact Skybums on 01743 244677.

## **13th August - Bournemouth Kite Day, Hengistbury Head**

Being organised by the Bournemouth Council. For further details contact Greg Lock on 01202 552066 ext 2195.

## **30th July - Camelot Kite Fliers Giant Fly-In**



**2nd Valleys Kite Festival**  
30th July 1995  
The highest Kite Festival in Wales

**11am to 5pm**  
at Parc Bryn Bach, Merthyr Road, Tredegar, GWENT.  
just off the A465 (Heads of the Valleys) road.

- TEAM XS stunt kite team from Bristol
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- Kite stalls
- Launch your teddy into the atmosphere!
- Kite buggying (to be confirmed)

*Bring a kite, buy a kite or make a kite but be there!*

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or (01873) 832287 (evenings)

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**CARRINGTON'S RIPSTOP**

# Event News

George Peters display team and Kiteability are once again, putting up a Rokkaku Trophy.

There are a limited number of free passes for flyers to enter the Park. Otherwise there is an admission charge to the Park of £3.50 for an adult and £2.50 for a child. Camping is available on site, and the fee is £3.50 per unit per night. The park is situated just off junction 38 off the M4, between Bridgend and Port Talbot.

Further details and pass applications are available from Steve Gibson at Way on High Kites, Capuchin Yard, Church Street, Hereford HR1 2LR. Tel/Fax 01432 264206.

## **1st & 2nd July - 12th Shrewsbury Kite and Boomerang Festival**

Location: Sundorne Playing Fields - 2 miles east of Shrewsbury on the B5062.

The competitions for this year are similar to previous years - i.e. All-in Kiteability Rokkaku Challenge with the usual engraved tankard as first prize. Also due to demand, there will be a junior Rok Challenge for those under sixteen years of age. The prizes for this event are kindly donated by John Southerton who will also be providing a trophy for the Altitude Sprint contest. As usual the Can Clobbering competition will be run and whatever you clobber you keep!

Camping is, as per normal, on the edge of the flying field and is available from midday Friday to midday Monday at a cost of £2.00 per unit per night. Fee will be collected on site. The Pavilion will be available for our use all weekend including toilets and showers.

Catering arrangements will be slightly different this year. An outside caterer will provide English breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 7.00am until 10.00am. Chips, hot dogs etc will be available all day Saturday and Sunday. The usual snacks and drinks will be on sale in the Pavilion. The price of breakfast will be approximately £3.00 and no pre-booking is required - just turn up.

N.B. Camping and car passes are not required - there will be plenty of room for everybody.

All kite trading places have been taken.

For those who have not previously been to Shrewsbury, we have the use of three large fields: one for the single-liners, one for the stunt fliers and one for the boomerang throwers.

This is the Camelot Kite Fliers first event of this sort and they hope to attract 100 - 200 kitefliers from over the South West. Taking place at Honeydown Farm, Seaborough Hill (off B3165 Crewkerne/Clapton Road) between 10:00 and 6:00. Admission is £1.00 raffle ticket per car - available at the gate. Contact Frank Wright, 1 Henley View, Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8JD for further information.

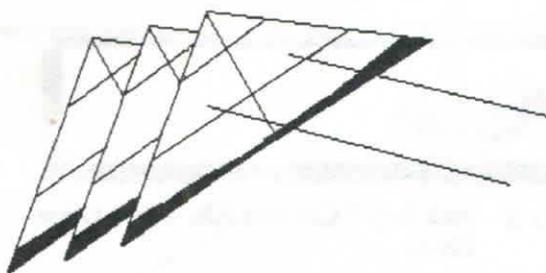
## **30th July - Second Valleys Kite Festival**

Last years event was very much a trial and this year is hoped to be bigger and better. (See their advert for more details of the event). They can also cater for those people who want to make a weekend of it. There is a caravan and camp site as part of the park. Caravans/Motor Homes are £6.00 a night - tents £3.50 a night. Contact Colin Cheesman on 01495 711816.

## **6th August - Royston Kite Festival, Therfield Heath. Herts.**

The festival has been running for several years on the heath. Organised by the Countryside Management Service it usually attracts over 3,000 visitors from across the country. While at the festival visitors have the opportunity to fly their own kites and watch displays by one of Europe's top display teams. Additional attractions include kite stalls, a childrens kite making workshop, a bouncy castle and kite flying lessons as well as the usual refreshment stalls. The event is also held to celebrate the Heath itself, as one of the country's most significant chalk downland sites and a Site of Special Scientific Interest, while promoting an environmentally friendly recreational activity. Contact The Countryside Management Service, Northern Area, The Old Dairy, Bedford Road, Hitchin, Herts SG5 3RR, Telephone 01462 45395, for more details.

## **9th & 10th September - Swansea Beach Kite Festival**



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Only 1.5m can be posted, longer lengths by courier at cost

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Shuriken Ultra Light	.....	180.00
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.75m wide up to 1.8mwide

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Slight seconds but very good quality

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Griffin basic	.....	59.99
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Mix the two for a low cost kite.

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For a full price list of kites and spares / diy parts just ring or write to the above address.

Phone/fax 01427 838414

open till 8pm

# Event News

If you have any queries at all or require maps, directions, details of bed and breakfast accommodation etc please send a large stamped addressed envelope to the address below. If you simply want a natter - give me a ring!

To make this event a success we need you and your kites! Thank You.

Tony Slater, 128 Meadow Farm Drive, Shrewsbury SY1 4JY.  
Telephone 01743 235068.

## **1st & 2nd July - Washington "Northern Electric" International Kite Festival**

Northern Area Playing Fields, Washington, Tyne & Wear.

This years International event celebrates its 9th anniversary and we expect to break last years record attendance figures of 76,000 spectators.

Firmly established on the professional and amateur kite calendar we will host some of the worlds best kitemakers from Japan, USA, Germany, Italy, France, Denmark, Switzerland and Great Britain.

Besides the fantastic displays and challenges of single, two and four line kites, buggying etc we will have a special emphasis on sky art. There will be a mass Rokkaku fly-in which looked fantastic last year. The Artistic Kite Group will have both static and flying demonstrations each day - not to be missed!

We will have some new kites to add to the European Art Gallery and need your help to fly these beautifully decorated Edo kites (practice on Saturday morning). See also some of the worlds most spectacular soft kites flown by their makers. We aim to set new records for the largest number of Box and Cody kites flown at the same time.

Who will ever forget Iqbal Husain with his egg laying chicken, crocodile handbag, frying pan, centipede kites? - well he is coming back again this year with more bizarre kites.

Once again we will have a fabulous entertainment programme - childrens village, art & craft marquees, visual art marquee, food and drink marquee, music and entertainment marquee - plus kite trade stands.

We have limited free accommodation at the Sunderland Poly (Bed and Breakfast) and 100 on-site camping/parking places which will

Being held near the Swansea Marina this two day kite festival will run from 11:00am to 5:00pm both days with night flying on the Saturday. They hope to demonstrate kite traction, kite buggies etc, sports kites and, possible, a display of oriental kites. Contact Al Upton at Kites of Fancy for more information. Tel: 01792 648180.

## **8th & 9th July - Wales International Kite Festival, Monmouth.**

Vauxhall Fields, Monmouth. This festival will have its usual range of activities including displays by overseas guests. This year the entry/car parking fee will be waived for Kite Society members on production of their membership card (non-members costs are £2.50 adult, £1.50 child).

Camping on site is available for a maximum of three nights (Fri/Sat/Sun) and costs £7.50 per tent for the weekend.

Contact Nicola Hughes at Monmouth Borough Council, Mamhilad House, Mamhilad Park Estate, Pontypool, Gwent NP4 0YL, tel 01495 762311, for camping passes and any other information.

## **12th & 13th August - The Scotland Kite Festival**

To be held at Thirlestane Castle, Lauder (Scottish Borders). This is one of the oldest and finest castles in Scotland and is set in magnificent border hills at Lauder, 28 miles south of Edinburgh and 68 miles north of Newcastle on the A68.

The grounds of Thirlestane Castle are an ideal place to hold a kite festival. Kitefliers will be travelling from all parts of the U.K. to make this a really special and spectacular kite festival. We will have two large arenas - one for single line and one for sports kites and plenty of room for everyone to fill the air with kites. There will be a full programme of events and competitions

# Event News

be issued on a first come - first served basis.

For maps, car/camping passes, free accommodation at the Poly etc please send a s.a.e. Please let me have your car details - make, model, registration number and colour. Camping and car passes will be issued about two weeks before the event.

Don't forget to bring your Rokkaku / Cody / Hargraves / Professor Waldorf or any other kites with more than 3 sides.

For further details contact Malcolm Goodman, 134 Thames Road, Billingham, Cleveland TS22 5EX. Tel/Fax: (01642) 550827.

## **1996 Exhibition and Kitemaking Master Classes**

This is just a preliminary announcement. In conjunction with Wysing Arts based in Cambridgeshire I am seeking to present two major kiting activities in 1996.

The first will be a single, or possibly a series of kite making master classes to be held over weekends in the winter months of 1996. The idea is that we fill the gap in the kite calendar with an indoor activity, in which kitemakers can learn new skills, or rekindle old ones under the guidance of a leading designer - (not necessarily me!). It will also have a secondary role to provide a social forum in warm comfortable surroundings - the winter retreat we have all been seeking!

The second is an exhibition to take place around Easter of fabric sculptures for which contributions are invited. Sculptures should be in the form of windsocks which can be hung, or can be motor inflated. Size, as they say, is not too important but as the exhibition will take place indoors, five cubic metres would be about the maximum which can be accommodated as a single exhibit.

Wysing Arts Centre is housed in a large seventeenth century farmhouse, set in seven acres of land on the outskirts of Bourn. It has excellent teaching and exhibition facilities and between the trees has adequate flying areas. Accommodation and restaurant facilities are also available at the centre.

Details have yet to be worked out, but I would be interested in hearing from anybody able and willing to lead one of the workshop; participate in them or provide sculptures for the exhibition.

Jim Rowlands: Inflight Kites and Windsocks, Normanby Park Workshops, Normanby Road, Scunthorpe DN15 8QZ. Tel 01724 280307 Fax 01724 865329.

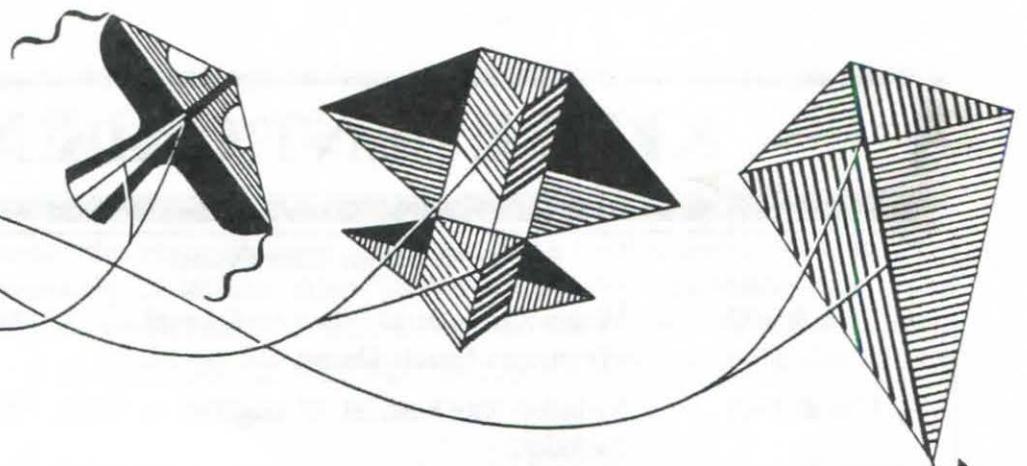
and everyone is welcome.

For camping details telephone: Peter Jarvis, Thirlstane Castle (01578) 722430. For local accommodation telephone: The Scottish Tourist Board (01835) 863435. For further details contact Malcolm Goodman, 134 Thames Road, Billingham, Cleveland TS22 5EX. Tel/Fax: (01642) 550827.

## **28th August - London Docklands Sport Kite Festival**

The second London Docklands Sport Kite Festival will be held at Beckton District Park South on Sunday 20th August from 10.00am until 6.00pm and promises to be better than ever. We will have a full programme of events and displays including demonstrations from Europe's No 1 team "Aircraft" and the world famous "Decorators".

A Rokkaku Challenge, team competition using beginners kites and a trick flying contest will provide some further highlights. We hope to have some intrepid Teddy bears dropping in to join us. There will be Kite Stalls as well as a circus skills workshop. The Park is located close to the London City Airport, just follow the "AA" signs when you get close to the airport. Due to the airport's proximity, only 750 feet away (not on the flight path), we will be limited to 150 feet height limit. For further information contact Stuart Neil tel 0171 512 0455 or Simon Nosworthy of Whaam! Kites tel 01708 864074.



**The Kite Festival in  
Petworth Park West Sussex**  
on  
**SUNDAY 9th JULY**

**A day for all the family. Please come and  
demonstrate your old, new, spectacular &  
eccentric kites.**

**WE NEED YOU to make the day a success.**

Free pass below. For more information and passes please contact  
Joanna Mersey 01798 869214 or Ron & Pat Dell 0181-804 9080

**Demonstrator's Car Pass**

**KITES • SUNDAY 9th JULY '95**

**Petworth Park - West Sussex  
A272 Midhurst Road entrance**

# KITE EVENT CALENDAR

<b>U.K. Major Kite Events</b>		
April 29th & 30th	Weymouth International Kite Festival, Weymouth Beach, Dorset.	The Kite Society
May 13th & 14th	Swindon Kite Festival. Wroughton Air Field, Swindon.	White Horse Kite Fliers
May 27th, 28th & 29th	Banham Zoo Kite Festival, Norfolk.	Kevin Appleton
June 3rd & 4th	Basingstoke Kite Festival.	Loddon Valley Kite Fliers
June 10th & 11th	Margam Park Kite Festival, Wales	Steve Gibson
June 17th & 18th	East London Kite Festival, Hackney Marshes.	Jeremy Boyce
July 1st & 2nd	9th Washington International Kite Festival, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear.	Malcolm Goodman
July 1st & 2nd	Shrewsbury Kite Festival.	Tony Slater
July 8th & 9th	Wales International Kite Festival, Monmouth	The Kite Store
July 29th & 30th	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton.	Airborn Kites
August 12th & 13th	The Scotland Kite Festival	Malcolm Goodman
August 19th	Kite Society Convention, Coventry	The Kite Society
August 26th & 27th	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Portsmouth, Hampshire.	The Kite Society
September 2nd & 3rd	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol.	Avril Baker

<b>Overseas Kite Events</b>		
May 20th & 21st	10th International Kite Festival. Oost Duinkerke, Belgium	Nest Lernout 03 449 1221
June 1st - 4th	Rendez-vous Mondial du Cerf Volant, Verdun, Canada.	Lynn Champagne 00 1 514 765 7213
June 15th - 18th	11th International Kitefliers Meeting, Fano, Denmark.	Rainer Kregovski 40 21 3848
July 1st & 2nd	18th Kite Festival, Scheveningen, Holland	Vlieger-Op! 070 3858586
September 23rd & 24th	11th Kite Festival, Berlin, Germany	Michael Stelzer 030 7847769
November 10th - 20th	World Cup '95, Lake Entance, Australia.	Dan Prentice (U.S.A.) 916 273 3855

# KITE EVENT CALENDAR

	U.K. Regional & Other Kite Events	
May 3th	Baddesley Manor, Solihull, West Midlands.	Fred Apperley
May 21st	Environment Day, Shipley Country Park, Heanor, Derbyshire.	Midlands Kite Fliers
May 28th	Sudbury Hall, Sudbury, Derbyshire.	Midlands Kite Fliers
May 28th & 29th	Swansea City Council Spring Show.	Al Upton
May 29th	Stockport Kite Festival, South Reddish Park, Stockport.	Ron Ogden
June 18th	Warrington Kite Festival, Victoria Park, Warrington.	Ron Ogden
June 24th & 25th	Southampton Kite Festival.	Michael Lowe
June 25th	Maldon Kite Festival, Promenade Park, Maldon, Essex.	Whaam! Kites. 01708 864074
July 9th	Petworth Park Kite Day.	Joanna Mersey
July 15th & 16th	U.K. Team Sports Kite Championships, Weston-Super-Mare	Avril Baker
July 23rd	Blackheath Summer Festival	Kent Kite Klub
July 29th & 30th	Barmouth, North Wales	Skybums 01743 244677
July 30th	Camelot Kite Fliers Giants Fly-in.	Frank Wright.
July 30th	Second Valeys Kite Festival, Wales	Colin Cheesman 01495 711816.
August 5th & 6th	Middle Wallop Kite Event, Hampshire.	Ron Moulton
August 5th & 6th	Lytham St Annes, STACK Individual Championships (PROVISIONAL)	Avril Baker
August 6th	Royston Kite Festival, Therfield Heath, Royston.	Countryside Management Service
August 13th	Blackwater Valley Kite and Juggling Carnival, Aldershot Park, Hampshire	Alan Williams
August 13th	Milton Keynes Kite Festival., Campbell Park	Chris Murray
August 13th	Hengistbury Head, Dorset.	Greg Lock
August 20th	Oldham Kite Festival, Oldham Edge, Oldham.	Ron Ogden
August 20th	Coventry Kite Festival.	Midlands Kite Fliers
August 20th	London Docklands Sport Kite Festival, Beckton District Park South.	Stuart Neil
September 9th & 10th	Swansea Beach Kite Festival.	Al Upton
September 10th	Shorne Country Park, Gravesend.	Kiteability
September 10th	Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Parham Airfield, Framlington, Suffolk.	Liz Hammond
September 10th	South Eastern Kite Society Festival, Merton Farm, Merton Lane, Canterbury.	S.E.K.S.
September 17th	Salisbury Kite and Sky Hoolie.	Cunning Stunts
September 24th	Old Warden Autumn Rally, Old Warden Aerodrome, Biggleswade, Beds	The Kite Society

# KITE EVENT CALENDAR

## Contact List

<b>The Kite Society</b>	P.O. Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY.
<b>Ron Moulton</b>	2 Avenue Rise, Bushey, Watford, Herts WD2 3AS.
<b>Loddon Valley Kite Fliers</b>	Alan Cosgrove, 18 Loggon Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 3PH
<b>Tony Slater</b>	128 Meadow Farm Drive, Harlescott, Shrewsbury SY1 4JY. 01743 235068.
<b>Airborn Kites</b>	97 Trafalgar Street, Brighton, Sussex BN1 4ER. 01273 676740.
<b>Avril Baker</b>	Saville Court, Saville Place, Clifton, Bristol BS8 4EJ. 0117 9466852.
<b>Midlands Kite Fliers</b>	Julie White, 4 Hermitage Court, Oakwood, Derby, DE2 2LG.
<b>Joanna Mersey</b>	Bignor Park, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1HG.
<b>Golden Valley Kite Fliers</b>	Peter Whitaker, 19 Lilac Way, Quedgeley, Gloucester, GL2 6WH.
<b>Kevin Appleton</b>	37 Eastern Avenue, Thorpe-St-Andrew, Norwich, Norfolk NR7 0UQ
<b>White Horse Kite Fliers</b>	P.O. Box 585, Swindon, Wilts SN3 4YR.
<b>Kent Kite Klub</b>	Yvonne Davies, 4 Gillies Court, Stafford Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6PP.
<b>The Kite Store</b>	48 Neal Street, London WC2H 9PA. 0171 836 1666
<b>Stuart Neil</b>	LDDC, Thames Quay, 191 Marsh Wall, London E14 9TL. 0171 512 3000
<b>Cunning Stunts</b>	11 Cross Keys Chequer, Salisbury SP1 1EL. 01722 410588
<b>Steve Gibson</b>	Way on High Kites, Capuchin Yard, Church Street, Hereford HR1 2LR.
<b>Kiteability</b>	2 Garfield Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 4RP.
<b>Jeremy Boyce</b>	High as A Kite, 153 Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16 0UC.
<b>Liz Hammond</b>	Shingle Bungalow, Benhall Low Street, Sweffling, Saxmundham, Suffolk.
<b>Michael Lowe</b>	44 Bellemoor Road, Southampton, Hampshire SO15 7DU. 01703 770788
<b>Countryside Management Service</b>	Northern Area, The Old Dairy, Bedord Road, Hitchin, Herts SG5 3RR. 01462 459395
<b>S.E.K.S.</b>	22 Cherry Drive, Canterbury, Kent CT2 8HF. 01227 462786
<b>Alan Williams</b>	Blackwater Valley Visitor Centre, Frimley Business Park, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey GU16 5SG. Tel 01276 686615
<b>Malcolm Goodman</b>	134 Thames Road, Billingham, Cleveland TS22 5EX. 01642 550827
<b>Fred Apperley</b>	9 The Meadows, Bidford on Avon, Warks B50 4AP. 01789 778424
<b>Al Upton</b>	Kites of Fancy, 01792 648180
<b>Skybums</b>	01743 244677
<b>Greg Lock</b>	01202 552066 ext 2195
<b>Frank Wright</b>	1 Henley View, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 8JD.
<b>Ron Ogden</b>	41 Ashfield Drive, Clayton Bridge, Manchester M40 1WJ

# Kites On The Box

## KITES ON THE BOX

When we start a new kite design, most of us make a rough sketch, draw details and fittings, scratch our heads, suck the end of the pencil, either give up or start again and eventually commit to cutting ripstop - and when the kite is eventually made we wonder whether it wouldn't have been better to have changed it a little bit here or there to stop the sailcloth from wrinkling. All of this gets much worse when you are trying to reconstruct an historical kite; in my case the Cody series of kites. EVERYONE knows that the curvature was **not** like that, and as for the..... And how do you create a complex 3D curved surface? And how do you replicate a kite that exists today on only one or two murky photographs?

Try using a computer!

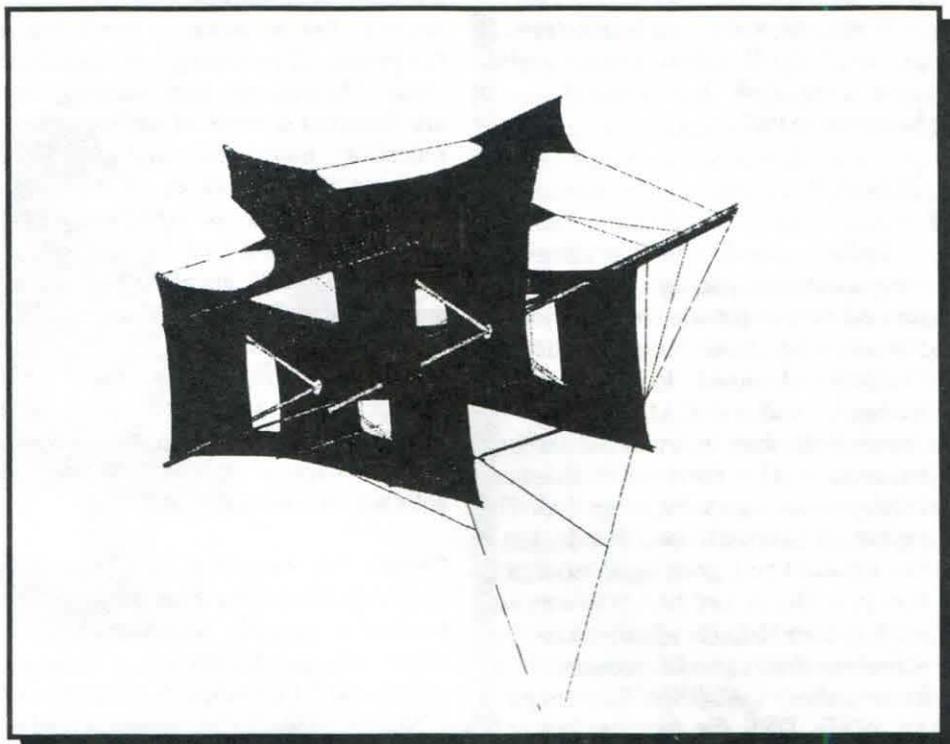
The computer can be the ultimate time waster, but I'll share a few hints and tips about the set-up that I use for kite drawing; perhaps it will help you not to make the same mistakes. Maybe we can swap drawings?

Firstly, what sort of drawing do you want to do? Some people want to draw a conventional 3-view general arrangement with lots of complicated single and dotted lines. In my experience this is fine if, like me, you are an engineer and you can conjure up the 3D shape in your mind from the three separate views. Of course at some time you will want to use the drawing for making full scale layout plans and then you will need the true shape of the various parts. The alternative to 2D is 3D, and while you are about it, why not colour shaded, rendered and animated 3D? And then there is the problem of converting a photographic image into a 3D shape that you can manipulate into a set of templates?

Megabucks you say, maybe!

### The Equipment

The equipment does not have to be megabuck stuff - if it was then I would



stick to pencil and paper. Basically there is hardware, software and sheets of paper.

### Hardware

My system is a 40MHz 386DX PC with 4Mb of RAM memory, a maths co-processor and it runs a 14 inch SVGA screen. I went for a mini-tower box to allow for system expansion and lots of cooling air. Is it good enough?

Computer Aided Design (CAD) requires several things, primarily RAM memory and speed, including floating point arithmetic calculation for vector graphics. My set up really needs more memory - an increase to 8Mb would be nice, but otherwise it is just adequate. The next practicable step-up would be a 66MHz 486DX, with built-in co-pro, or a Pentium when the floating point bug is eradicated.

The screen is a bit small, but bigger sizes cost megabucks. I can flip between 640x480 VGA and 800x600 SVGA pixel screen size at the click of the mouse; you need to make sure that you have a compatible screen driver so check your

graphics card. I would need a bigger screen to justify 1024x768 pixel resolution. The value of 800x600 is twofold; the outside edge icons, slider bars and other clutter get smaller thereby giving a bigger working area; and multiple window working is easier - but watch the usable memory disappear.

My printer is a cheapo Canon BJ-10 that prints beautifully on A4 paper. No colour because I can get access to this at work, and anyway they take ages to run. Laser quality is nice, but again access to the LaserJet 4 at work is easy.

What does this hardware cost? Today specifications rise faster than prices fall. My set up would now cost less than £1000, although the 486 alternative may be a little more. The printer is about £180.

### Software

My machine came with pre-loaded software - Windows, Spreadsheet, Word Processing and Graphics. The **Freelance Graphics** package is fine for sketching and doodling but has its drawbacks for serious drawing. Always INSIST on getting original software disks, even if the

# Kites On The Box

software comes pre-loaded. Don't fall for back-ups but make a disk-disk copy. If you don't do this then one day, when your hard disk has crashed..... It happened to me!

## 2D CAD

I looked around for a Windows compatible 2D package and they all seemed very expensive, required lots of memory or were user unfriendly. Eventually I opted for a shareware package called **CAD/DRAW** by TommySoft that is available through Omicron, 45 Blenheim Crescent, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex for about £45. The package is not overly user friendly but it has a manual and, given persistence, it is very powerful. A hint here is to annotate the Windows Help file when you find out something that is poorly explained. Most importantly **CAD/DRAW** supports AutoCAD .DXF file formats (but only after telling the system designer he had got it wrong!). It also allows you to work in up to 256 selectable 'layers'. This feature is important when the drawing is complicated and you want to isolate components, for example dimensions or alternative components. Dimensioning is automatic, which might be welcome for published designs!!

## 3D CAD

My 3D package is called **3D Design Plus** and comes from Computer Easy, 414 East Southern Avenue, Tempe, AZ 85282, USA. It is much cheaper to send \$80 via VISA to Computer Easy than pay the £150 in the UK. The package is a 3D modelling tool and supports AutoCAD .DXF and multiple layers. It comes with shading and rendering options, but unfortunately not perspective. The latest version 2.0/1 has a very extensive collection of 3D models. The 3D package is relatively easy to use; one of the more useful aspects is the ability to move into another axis system and then revert back at the press of a button. The program works in Wireframe and a Virtual Trackball pops on screen for rotating the image. The response to wireframe changes is almost

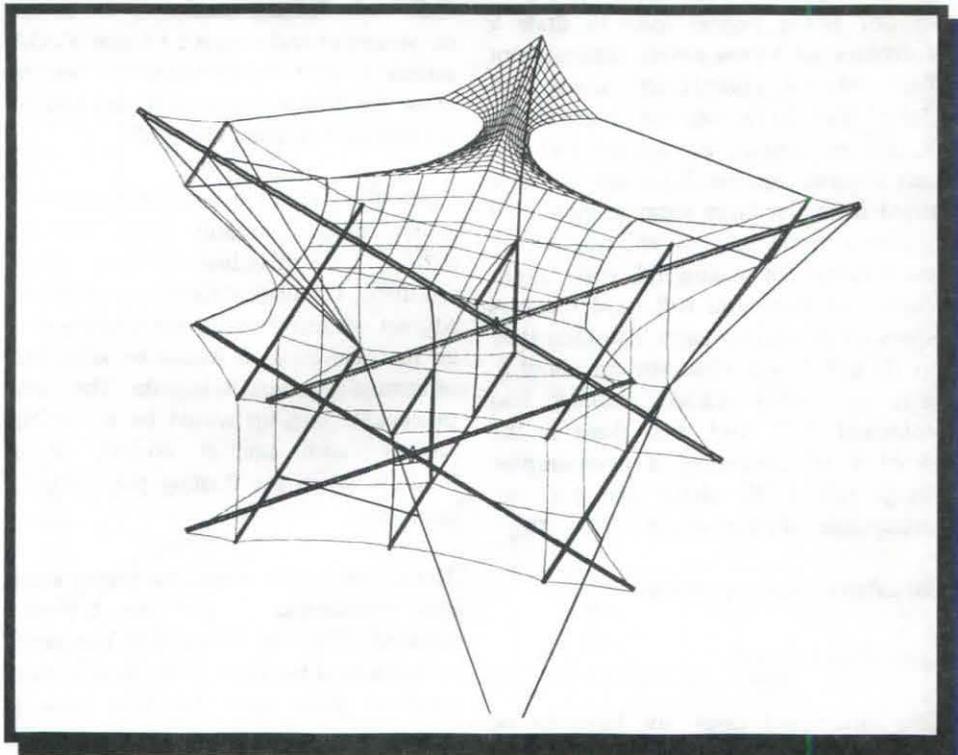
instantaneous; shading can take a few seconds; but rendering..... Rendering is the process of producing a photorealistic image. The elements (sail, bamboo, etc.) are described in terms of surface texture, reflectivity, transparency and so on. The rendered image takes all of these into account, as well as reflections, light source, etc. It takes time, e.g. 24 hours, to render a 640x480 image at full screen, and the output is pointalistic at best. This is why you need the bigger screen resolution - but then it takes longer - and this is where you need speed, and memory. Or another computer, such as a Silicon Graphics Indy and Wavefront software; but about this later.

Despite the megabuck problems with rendering, **3D Design Plus** allows you to produce a passable animation. This is where you set Keyframes at different attitudes and the computer calculates the infills. A 120 frame sequence takes something like 30 seconds to run, but occupies about 10Mb of valuable hard disk. A 66Hz 486DX would reduce the quaint old-fashioned jerkiness; but for old fashioned kites it looks like Movitime film. Animation is great for visualising the kite during take-off and as you walk

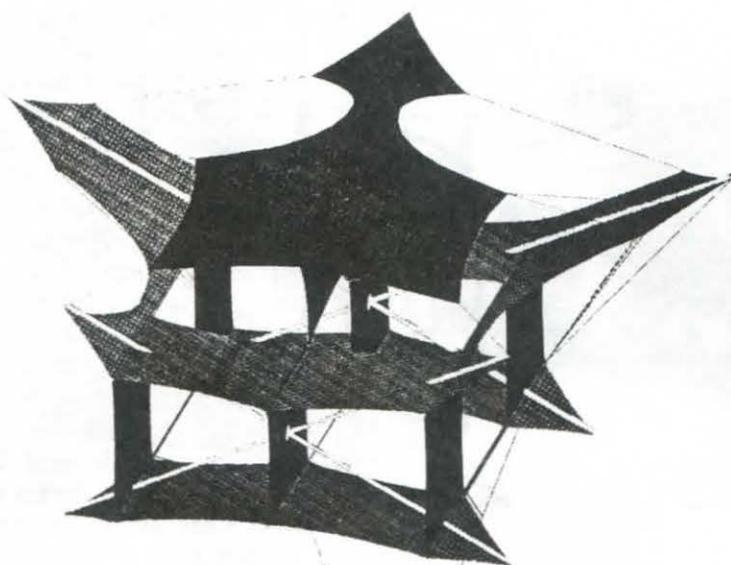
around it; and for looking at different colour schemes.

## Photo to 3D

I have been trying to come to grips with a private software package developed by Phil Koopman in Florida and Frank van Dalen of Delft University; **P3V**. The notion is this: Take a photo and scan it into the computer - using a flat bed scanner for accuracy (megabucks, so use the one at work). Having got the image, you then try to identify lines leading to the vanishing points in the three axes. Surface points on the object can then be identified. All this can be done using **Freelance** because it supports almost any scanned file format (otherwise use **Paint Shop Pro** to enhance the image, particularly edge define, and convert to a recognisable format). The photo x, y points can be read directly from **Freelance** co-ordinates and, by swapping Windows, input into a WRITE file for **P3V**. **P3V** is a DOS program that works happily in Windows and converts this WRITE dataset into either 2D or 3D AutoCAD .DXF lines. These can be displayed instantly by toggling (Alt, Tab) to the CAD programmes. Of course all of



# Kites On The Box



these programs working together demands system memory - and I have only just got enough.

Unfortunately I have only had limited success with **P3V** so far. I used it on the Cody Glider Kite and somehow the lines came out muddled. What I had wanted to do was to improve my 3D drawing, especially as it is very difficult to estimate the length of the glider kite. There has been much discussion and transfer of disks across the Atlantic but I shall have to try and persevere on a less demanding image and subject.

## Post Processing

Both the 2D and 3D CAD programs produce outputs that can be read by **Freelance**. You can use **Freelance** to modify the image or add further graphics. But you have to be careful with 3D generated .WPG images, particularly where the complexity of the image means that there are multiple layers of sections of the drawing. Once more my machine gives up for lack of memory.

One of the extras in **Freelance** is its ability to produce a stand-alone and exportable screen show. This means that

I can take images from the animation, package them on screen show and send them to fellow followers of 'the truth'.

Another little program that is useful is **Paint Shop Pro**. This is an image modifying facility that allows you to convert to a black/white image and also lets you modify the quality of the image. One use is to help define and enhance the image edges; you can play games by using it in posterize mode.

The CAD programs work very accurately in vector graphics, however this level of accuracy may not be reflected in the .WPG or .BMP output available to the post processors and sometimes gaps can appear in the images formed in these formats.

## Drawing

I can illustrate what is possible by showing examples of 2D and 3D drawings.

The 2D drawing of the Extended Wing Cody was done to help develop the sail shapes for my black Cody with the Topsail. The basic shape was fairly easy to define, but the Topsail gave me a lot of

trouble. The problem was that I have two, rather murky, original photos of this kite and the sail shape is probably unique. As the drawing developed, copies were drafted to Cody specialist Nico van den Berg in Holland, only to be returned with comments like 'well other kites are like this...!!' But eventually the Topsail worked its way out. Because it is such a three dimensional shape the Topsail was very hard to define in each of the views, although the ability to take measurements accurately on the computer helped enormously. Unfortunately this drawing is no more - thanks to an unstable DOS 6; remember to copy everything to floppy disk because at some time your hard disk **will** be corrupted.

The 3D drawing/model of the Cody No.1 Patent Pilot kite has been no easier to construct, but having finished it I can compare it with the photographs, turn it around, admire it and, if necessary change the shape. The ability to work in layers means that I can have a library of sail shapes and select only those that I want. For example the same basic model will work for both standard and extended wings. And I can look at different styles of outer wing curvature, colour it in.....

One of the benefits of this type of modelling is that some of the details hidden in photographs can become clear; for example partial views of rigging lines and jumbles of vertical and horizontal sail shapes.

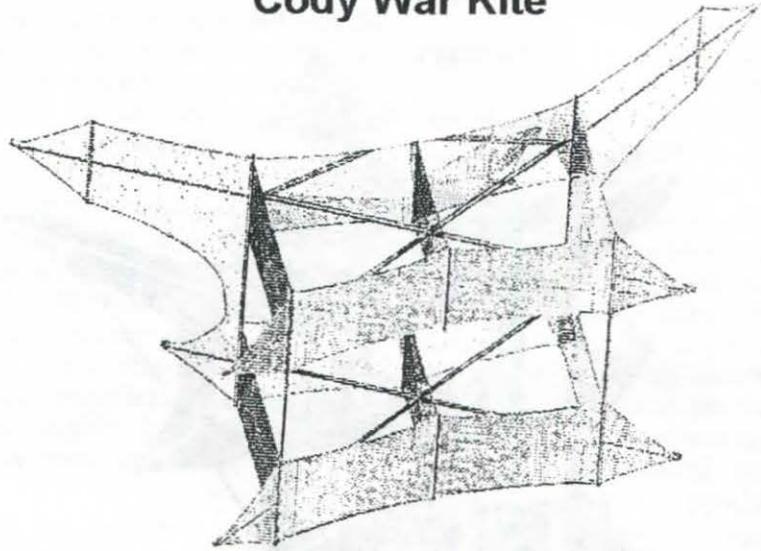
The layout of the Topsail was an interesting exercise! It was done by setting the curvature of the centre spine in the vertical plane, laying out the plan view of the Topsail and locating the connection points between the Topsail and main kite. First of all I ran 3D lines between the main kite connecting points and the Topsail spine; these crudely define the lines of tension. This done, I defined a triangular area bounded by a free edge, primary tension vector and local spine line. Once the working plane was defined it was an easy matter to rotate/drop the Topsail edge to this plane. The trick is to find well-defined planes,

# Kites On The Box

otherwise the sail edge can work itself out of shape. Having done this I had a Topsail shape that needed to be 'patched' because otherwise the surface shading process breaks down. Patching takes a lot of file space and I had to juggle grid size versus the likelihood of machine crash.

The final stage is photorealism. This requires mega megabucks!! But luckily I have very occasional access to the magic. The computers are Silicon Graphics Indys with gigabytes of memory to support a processing package called Wavefront. This takes the simple drawing as a .DXF file, adds texture, realism and perspective and in no time produces a superb image. The end result is a more-than-realistic animated kite flying against a blue sky with little white puffy clouds, all displayed full size on our huge video board - who needs to go outside!! Maybe this is the making of a kite simulator.

## Cody War Kite



640x480 rendering plus edge enhancement

© 1995 Paul Chapman

175  
25 50 50  
50 100 25  
325  
117  
146

### Cody Extended Wing Kite

Drawn: Paul Chapman    Date: April 5 1994    Plan view is flat development

Paul Chapman  
The Old Post Office,  
Wadeford,  
Chard,  
Somerset TA20 3AP  
UK

Tel. (44) 14606-62970  
Fax (44) 1935-703752

The Cody War Kite

This stick is overlong to allow for adjustment to be made

# Weymouth Update

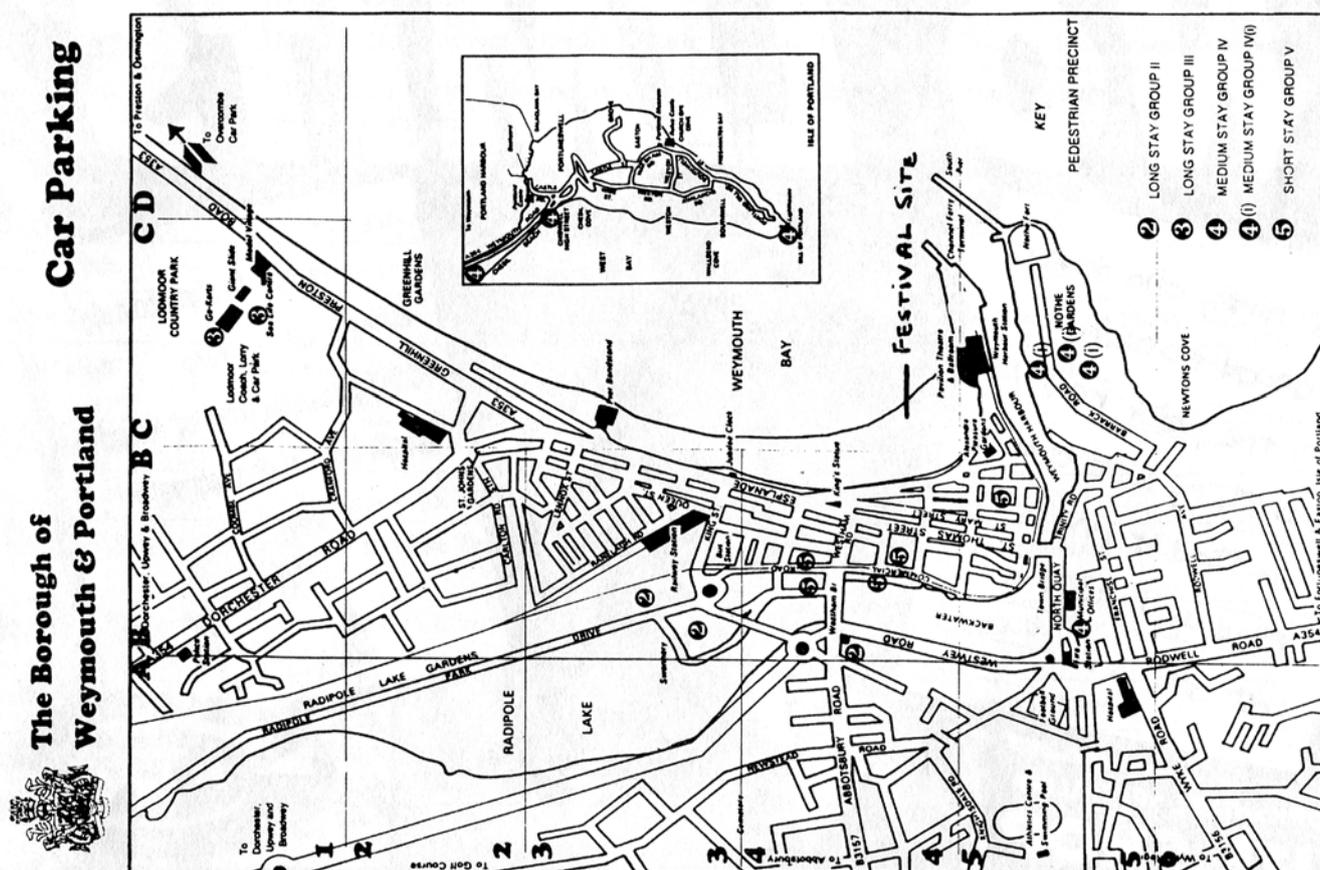
Weymouth 29th and 30th April. This always proves to be a popular event and the reserved car parking tickets have now all gone, however below is a map showing the locations of the other car parks in the Weymouth area. The programme for Weymouth is looking good with a good selection of overseas guests from Europe and America, including Rolf Sturm and Don Mock. We have a particularly large American contingent this year with 14 in the party. There will be the usual activities during the festival, but new this year will be an item that we have "borrowed" from the American Kitefliers Association. We plan to have a mass ascension of Delta kites at noon on the Saturday and a mass ascension of Rokkaku kites at noon on the Sunday. So please bring along these kites and see how many kites we can have in the air at one time. The A.K.A. convention had over 150 in the air and it was an impressive sight!.

Due to a double booking the Saturday evening activities will NOT be taking place in The Ocean Room in the Pavilion. Instead we have the Theatre in the Pavilion, but there will still be refreshment available, and we hope to put on a slide/video show by one of our overseas guests. The fireworks will take place at 9.00pm and kitefliers are welcome to take part in the night flying afterwards. For those who wish to partake of liquid refreshment, the Bay View Bar in The Pavilion will be open after the fireworks, where extended licensing hours will apply. We look forward to seeing you in Weymouth.

Regarding camping and caravanning at Weymouth we have some information from the Bagwell Farm Touring Park. They are offering a discount to Kite Society members and also have a suitable kite field on site! For further details contact Connie Down on 01305 782575.

## Weymouth

Because of the unprecedented demand for car parking tickets, combined with the limited room in the kitefliers car park, we thought those of you who were unlucky may appreciate a map of the other car parks in Weymouth.



## Private Ads

**For Sale:** Two six foot Flexifoils. 1 flown only 5 times the other twice. Like new £80.00 the pair. Phone A Spring, 0181 472 2191 after 6:30pm.

**For Sale:** Hand crafted "Kite" clocks £19.95 including battery, 1 year guarantee and P&P. Playsheets for sale from 9 foot square. Contact Lesley & Bob Coles, 47 Killyvarder Way, Boscoppa, St Austell PL25 3DJ.

**For Sale:** Ten foot Rainbow colour Flexfoil with new 450 pound 130 four Dyneema lines sleeved & equal used £99.00. Will consider taking a six foot Rainbow Flexfoil in part exchange. R Bramzel, 72 Fairmead Crescent, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 8YW. Telephone 0171 408 2237 (office hours).

**For Sale:** 10 / 6 foot Flexifoils most unused £35.00 each or swap. Also wanted good quality Cody, Stranger and Revolution. Phone M J Hubbard 01474 355950 anytime.

**For Sale:** A Rare Air Wind Warrior - 8 foot vented precision silent kite with a stable flight in strong winds up to 35 mph. Sparred with strong rip Exel 6mm Carbon for extra durability. Normally cost £155 price £99 good condition. Mr R Bramzel tel 0181 958 9187.

**Wanted:** R.A.F. Rescue Kites, frames sound. Fabric condition immaterial tel 01603 409248 - W Ames, 79 Cromwell Road, Norwich NR7 8XJ.

**For sale:** Residue of late fathers kite bag. Aircraft Rad £80, Mini Rad £30, large Raindrop roller £35, Zonda Whisper £15. Collectors item, original Skynasaur Classic 74 £25, Bladerunner £30, Trabucco Rod Bag £10. Conditions variable - as new to well used. Phone Hugh on 01502 712570 (eves).

**For Sale:** Due to extreme cowardice. Unused Sidewinder buggy and 3.6m Sigma. £280 or will split. Phone Hugh on 01502 712570 (eves).

**For Sale:** 20sq ft Morgan parafoil. Purple and hot pink £65. Matching pair swallow tails, well used £45 each. I am open to negotiation, exchanges or deals on any of the above. Can arrange delivery at most kite festivals. Phone Hugh on 01502 712570 (eves).

**Wanted:** Any of the Green's 'Pioneer' range. Especially Cody, Cody Compound and Biplane. Phone Hugh on 01502 712570 (eves)

**For Sale:** One flexifoil 6 footer, Fluoro Pink, good condition with lines etc £30.00. Telephone Robin on 0171 585 3311 (ansaphone).

**For Sale:** Wind Warrior £105, 8ft Flexifoil £78, both look/fly like new. Phone Andy 01227 264722 / 01227 772161.

**NO LIMITS**

Dear mummy and daddy  
Grandad took me  
to the park today  
to fly my kite and  
we flied it and it  
flied up into the  
air and ...

I reckon I pulled about 4g  
during a 100 foot jump  
doing a terminal speed of around  
60mph but kids do exaggerate ...  
... dont they?  
love  
K.

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**Warning** use extreme caution and common sense when flying any kite. You are responsible for the safe operation of your kites

# Kite Society Convention

The Kite Society Annual Convention this year will be held on Saturday the 19th August at the Forte Post House Hotel Coventry, approximately 10 minutes drive from the Coventry kite festival site. The convention will run along the usual lines with a number of workshops and talks during the day. Also a kite market, where anyone can buy, sell or trade kites free of charge. (If you are interested in the Kite Market please let us know).

We hope to cover a wide range of kiting topics, such as buggying, applique, fighter kites and designs in four line kites. We are hoping to be able to offer a lunch menu and the Annual Auction and Dinner will take place on the Saturday evening at the Hotel. We will, of course, appreciate any items for the auction.

We have negotiated a special rate of £25.00 per person (single or twin occupancy) per night, for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights only. This includes full English breakfast and should be booked by contacting the hotel directly on tel 01203 613261, fax 01203 621736, and quote the Kite Society Convention. Other accommodation - hotels, guests houses, camping etc can be booked by contacting the Coventry Tourism desk tel 0203 831345. Full details of the convention will appear in the July issue.

The following day is the Coventry Kite Festival. This is the second festival being held at The Memorial Park, Kenilworth Road, Coventry on Sunday 20th August from 10:00 to 6:00 and is organised by the Midlands Kite Fliers. Situated just south of the city centre the park is well sign posted.

There is plenty of room for all kites to fly with a separate buggy arena, kite traders, food, music, kite workshop and childrens activities. Further details can be obtained from Julie White, 4 Hermitage Court, Oakwood, Derby DE21 2LG and will also be published in the July Kiteflier.

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# Kite Review

The Revolution I has now been on the kite scene since 1988, and in that time has undergone a name change and some small technical changes. It's little brother the Revolution II arrived about two years later.

## Technical details

Rev I	width 9 foot (wingspan) Height 3 foot Weight Standard 10.00 ozs Ultralight 7.5 ozs
Rev II	width 6 foot (wingspan) Height 2 foot Weight Standard 7.5 ozs Ultralight 5.0 ozs

Sail details:- The sail is a ripstop sail available in .75 and .50 oz weights. The colours available in the U.K. depend on which supplier you go to, the basic Rev I is a two colour combination, Rev II one colour. However it has been possible to get custom colour combinations (your supplier will need to check if these are still available).

Frame:- The frame is the standout point of the kite. The standard kite comes with a bullet proof frame. With its wrapped carbon spars (4 wrap) this will fly from 3-20mph for the Rev I and up to near 40 mph for the Rev II. Ultralight frames are available for lighter wind conditions (3 wrap) these can be used in zero wind conditions up to about 15 mph. However, watch out for gusts!

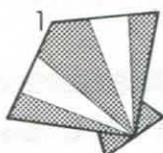
Bridle:- The unique thing about the Rev I is it was the first four line kite to be manufactured. Over the period the kite has been available the bridle has changed to make it easier to set up and fly. At first you had to use different length lines. Now the bridle has been designed to enable you to use 4 lines the same length. It is essential when flying the Rev to ensure all 4 lines are the same length. It makes flying easier and your control better. Also use the lightest weight you can, Revolution now recommend 50lb line for the Rev II and 80lb for the Rev I.

Performance:- This kite rewrites the rule book, you can fly forward, backwards, sideways, stop and you can make it fly like a two line kite. The experts now practice flying the kite at Ultra low speed and it can take some of them up to a minute to do a spin. The kite provides the ultimate challenge. But, if you spend some time with someone who can fly it, even as a novice you will be surprised how quickly you can learn to fly it. The instruction video that accompanies the package gives full instructions on how to start flying. Showing how to fly straight up from the ground this is the best way to start, when you reach the middle of the window practice holding the kite still in one place, then reverse back down to the ground. Watch the video several times and rewatch it while you learn.

Overall the Rev's I and II provide amazing control and the ability to fly anywhere indoors (winters here) or out.

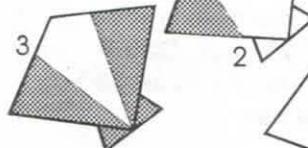
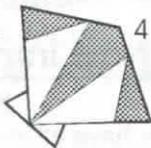
**Simon Dann**

# MAC FIGHTER KITES

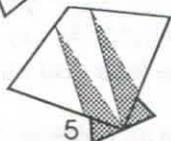


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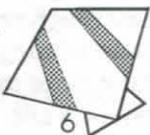


IT'S THE ONLY RIPSTOP FIGHTER THAT'S COMPLETELY GLUED TOGETHER



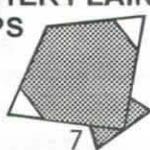
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Club Spirit	79.00	59.00
W.A. Rebel	55.00	45.00
Pro-Wasp	119.00	89.00
Mustique	76.00	56.00
P/H Blade	90.00	75.00

The list goes on so please ring for up to date details. Remember - first come first served. Tell us what W.I.G.I.G. means and get a **free** pocket kite with your purchase.

## KITE MAKERS PARADISE

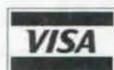
We have all the bits & pieces for kite making at bargain prices. "How do they do that?" you ask. Simple - we buy direct from the manufacturers, the more we buy, the more we save - **the less you pay.**

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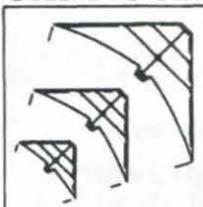
<u>CARBON</u>	5.5mm High performance	1.95/mtr.
	5.5mm Ultralight	1.80/mtr.
	2.0mm Solid rod	0.95/mtr.
<u>G.R.P.</u>	6.35mm Tube	0.70/mtr.
	3.0mm Solid rod	0.40/mtr.
2" Dacron tape black and colours		0.50/mtr.
2" Ripstop edging tape		0.25/mtr.
Nose webbing from		0.50/mtr.
'O' & 'D' rings from 5p ea.	Vinyl end caps from 5p ea	
CARRINGTON RIPSTOP 1.5mtr. wide quality seconds		
<b>this is not rubbish.</b> Lots of colours including: Flo-pink, Flo-yellow, Flo-orange, Royal blue, Red, etc. <b>REDUCED FROM 2.20/mtr. DOWN TO 1.85/mtr.</b>		

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# Poems and a Tale

Chinese Proverbs from Confucius (Alan Upton)

The wind is the ruler,  
And Common Man the kites  
When the wind blows  
The Kites bend and fly to greater heights

One-hand kites obey the wind as they wind  
But two hands are better than one  
For control from the mind

This is a 'haiku' - a Japanese verse form. Obviously (I hope) I wrote it with a more serious intent than those you published, but it is still appropriate I think.

Damp, windswept autumn.  
A hill above the town.  
Kites dance over the furrows.

Ian Bertram, Wilts, U.K.

---

## Adventures of A Kite, secret agent. Episode one ... the SIDEWINDER

The STRANGER slipped into the bar. He didn't want to cause a REVOLUTION, but he did want to FOIL the WILD THANG (or is that gang?). He ordered a HOT-SHOT from the HELL-CAT behind the bar and paid with his FLEXible friend. 'Mr Kite' she WHISPERed. 'You can read' he snapped, he was on EDGE. 'Some TWISTER was asking about you.'

He slid into the SHADOWS like a PHANTOM. She strolled up sipping her FIZZ and asked for a LITE. FLITE S of butterflies streamed up his spine, was this SYNERGY, or sin? He leant closer on IMPULSE, but she pulled out a BLADE. She was going for the MIAMI CUT. It was 3-11, that's no time to die. While the JAZZ played at a coll TEMPO on the jukebox he caught the WASP a STINGER and grabbed her to him like a SHIELD in a FLASH. 'ANGEL, you're a real SCORPION' he hissed, 'guess it's time to SPLIT(Z) before the FLASH RAT and his TRIO of MALAY WIND WARRIORS turn up.

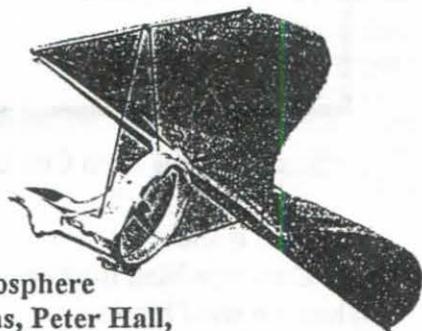
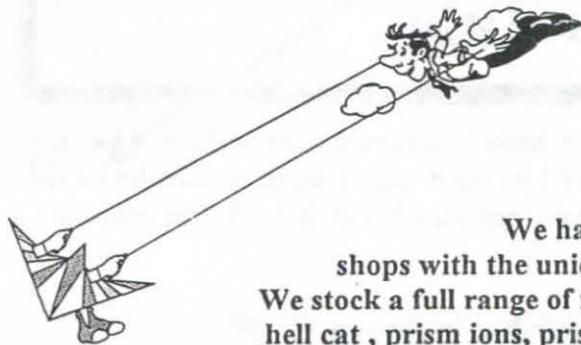
Just then the ROLLER PEELED open and Kite saw PICO get out of his CRUISER at the front. Simultaneously the side door and the HAWAIIAN TEAM appeared, the four of them in their flowered shirts looked just like QUADS. 'Now I'm between a ROK and a hard place' thought Kite. He moved casually to the bar and ordered a SPIRIT and tube of STACKERS. 'Well Pico,' growled PEREGRINE the Team's boss oozing excess ENERGY, 'if you'll cut me in on your NORTH SHORE deals there'll be a SPIN-OFF in it for you. You give me a NEW YORK CUT, and I'll let you have an LA CUT'. 'Sounds ACE, but I'm not sure I trust you, you're a real CHEETAH. I agree only if I get Kite' REACT(OR)ed Pico.

The cat behind the bar pulled Kite's arm and guided him to the rear exit, she wasn't such a DRAGON after all. 'You can slip out here but remember, this is the windy City - CHICAGO. BEE careful it is blowing a FORCE 10 out there. Get to CODY and tell him to bring the INTERCEPTORS or it will be a real SCORCHER with those JESTERS cutting loose.'

Can Kite reach Cody in time? - Who is the INDIAN FIGHTER following him with STEALTH? - To find the answers to these and other perplexing questions, read the next issue of The Kiteflier.

Tony Bates, on behalf of Solent Kite Flyers.

A challenge to you budding novelists out there, which club will write the next episode?



## Oddballs

We have three kite and juggling shops with the unique Oddbally attitude and atmosphere  
 We stock a full range of flexifoils, 311 sports, revolutions, Peter Hall, hell cat, prism ions, prism eclipse, quadrofoils, Dunfords, Highflyers Peter Powell, Space shuttle with parachute drop attachment, 3 types of u.f.o.'s, the cheaper Brooks and Worlds Apart range.  
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 2, Camden Lock Place,  
 Camden  
 London  
 Tel: 071 284 2460  
 (3 mins from Camden tube.)

The Oddballs Kite & Juggling Shop Oxford.  
 34, Cowley Rd.  
 Oxford.  
 OX4 1HZ  
 Tel: 0865 200 678  
 (2 min. walk from Oxford High St.)

10% Discounts to all kite society members

# Kited

Carefully crafted stunt kites, sport kites, materials, and accessories



**The Harlequin** - A stunt kite ideally suited for the young first time flier. A 4mm fibre glass frame makes this kite *virtually* indestructible. Complete with a 12 mtr. tubular tail, handles & line, and a ripstop nylon sleeve bag. Size: 35 ins. wide by 27 ins. high.



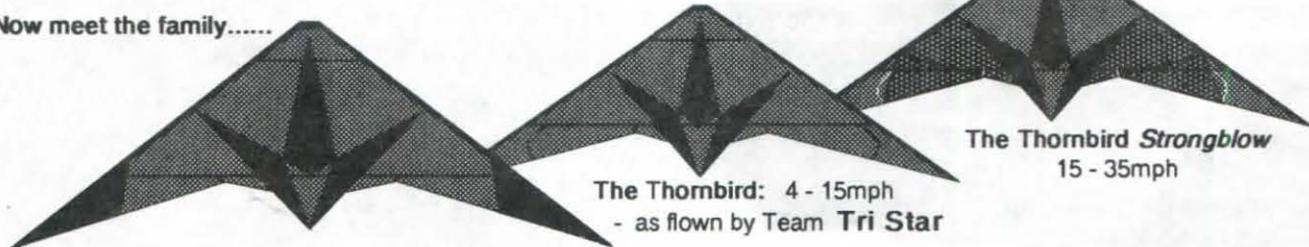
**The Meridians**

**The Meridian**

- Well behaved with impeccable manners. Crisp, positive vibes, feed back down the lines. With push turns it will make a **L** of a corner instead of **U!** A kite that goes where you point it, fast yet precise. At the upper end of the wind range it pulls like a train - so beware.

**Trainer:** 6 - 25mph / **Sport:** 4 - 25mph

Now meet the family.....



**The Thornbird Ultralight:** 1 - 8mph

**The Thornbird:** 4 - 15mph  
 - as flown by Team Tri Star

**The Thornbird Strongblow**  
 15 - 35mph

.....a kite for all seasons.

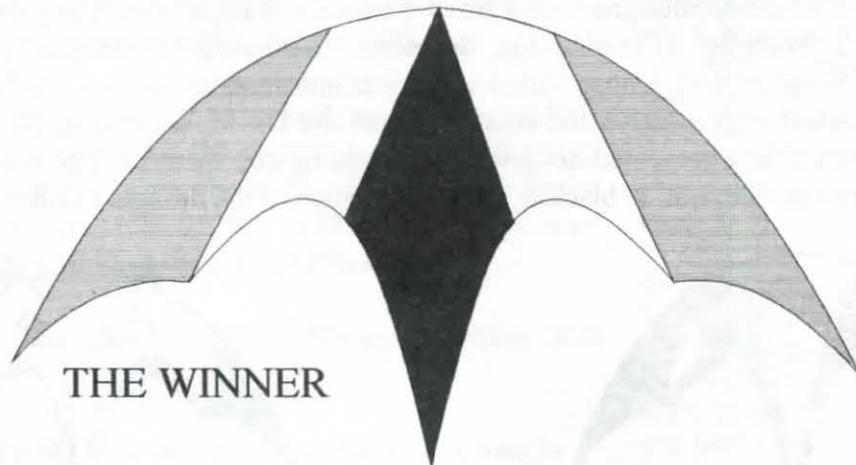
Kited kites - a kite for all winds, a kite for all experience levels, a kite for all pockets, a kite for always.

Please telephone for full price list and further details of the above kites.

Proprietor: Eddie Stockings, 36 Stanway Road, Waltham Abbey, Essex. EN9 3HU Telephone: 01992 718215

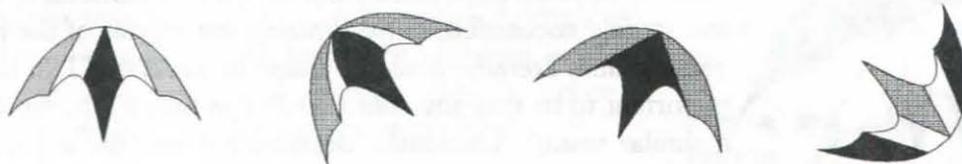
# THE KITEFLIER **SWIFT** COMPETITION

## *RESULTS*



InterActive Kites would like to thank all the people that took time and trouble to submit entries to the Kiteflier **SWIFT** Competition.

It became obvious to us throughout the last festival season that most of you would like to be impressed by the looks as well as the performance of InterActive's **SWIFT** kite. A policy of 'Any colour you like as long as it's Black' was as likely to be as successful for us as it would be for Ford should they decide to return to their founder's principles. It was inevitable, therefore, that the InterActive Paint-by-Numbers kit would be pressed into use this winter in an attempt to provide a colour scheme equal to the kite's superb performance. Regrettably, whilst the InterActive Design Team have no difficulty designing a quad-line kite to produce startling performance and complete controllability, the Team's abilities with artists palette were somewhat more dubious (but would have proudly graced the walls of many a fine kindergarten!) We, therefore, thought of holding a competition to design a colour scheme



for the InterActive **SWIFT**, in the hope that a few of you, gifted with better artistic ability than ourselves might be tempted to put pen to paper and, in designing a reasonable graphic for the kite, might put us out of our agony and save the Paint-by-Numbers set from further futile abuse.

We were delighted with the response to our challenge, not only in terms of the number of entries, but also the sheer variety and imagination shown in the designs. In fact, every day became a delight, with an air of anticipation and excitement every morning as the post dropped on the mat and another kaleidoscope of designs greeted us. We just hope that the participants in the Competition got as much enjoyment from creating their entries as we did viewing them. It was inevitable, however, that the wealth and variety of the entries was, without doubt, going to make selection of a single winning entry, a major headache.

### The Entries

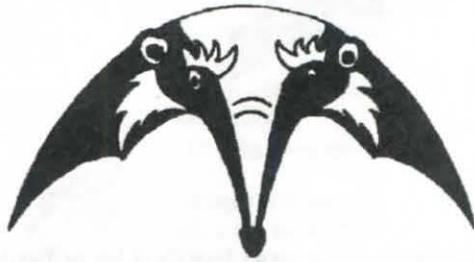


In all, 74 people submitted more than 300 entries to the competition. More than 25% of these entries were from women. Designs varied from simple geometric to abstract and in some cases, original works of art.



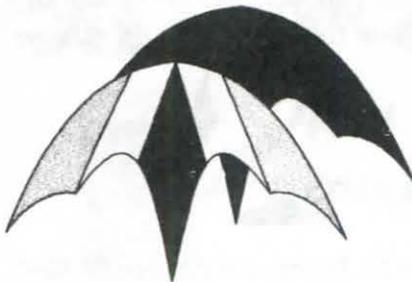
The youngest entry was from 2½ year old William Smith from Little Thurlow, Suffolk who is obviously a graphic artist, and kite flyer, of the future - unfortunately, his design was judged rather too complex to create using existing techniques.

The most original set of artistic designs, was a set of 5 animals (Badger, Fox, Hedgehog, Mole & Owl) submitted by Mrs S. Forrester of Highbridge, Somerset. Best Abstract designs were submitted by Micheal K Low of Southampton, whose varied series was immaculately drawn. Al Upton of Swansea produced some breathtakingly creative and artistic designs and David Parker from Middlesex produced 5 outstanding and beautifully presented designs using actual ripstop material. The examples of some of these designs, shown here, do not, in black & white, do justice to the designs as submitted .



### The Judging

In choosing a winner, we were disciplined by the limitations of the sewing machine and the realities of the production process. As stated in the Competition Entry Form, the competition was for the best *practical* design to be used on future production versions of the **SWIFT**. Regrettably, this automatically eliminated some of the more unusual and artistic designs submitted, however, some of these designs are so impressive that we hope to be able to provide limited production for special demonstration kites and, where demand exists, to special order. It would certainly be a shame not to see some of them grace our flying fields and festivals.



The all-black colour scheme originally chosen for the **SWIFT**, apart from its obvious inspiration from its real-life namesake, was intended, and largely succeeded, in maximizing the impact of the most original, unusual and, literally, dynamic shape of the **SWIFT** in the air. It was important to us that any coloured design manufactured would achieve a similar result. Obviously, determining whether a particular design would suit a shape that changes throughout its flight regime would be difficult from a 2-dimensional pattern, necessarily frozen at an

intermediate sweep position. So, to eliminate any doubt, a shortlist of the most likely designs was made and those designs built and flown so that final selection could be made in the air!

This produced some surprising results with the top 2 designs swapping places when judged in the air. However, it must be emphasized that all of the designs that made the short-list would have made an excellent choice as winner. The final choice was both extremely difficult and made by the narrowest of margins.

We hope that the many friends we have made during the Competition won't be disappointed that there can be only one winner, however, after much frowning of brows, many late nights and some serious uplifts of caffeine and Aspirin, the winner was judged to be JACK BAKER of Aldershot, Hants, who not only came up with the winning entry, but could easily have given us second and third as well. All 5 of his entries were of the highest quality. Jack receives a production **SWIFT** in his winning colour scheme. We wish him all the best for 1995 and hope he gets as much pleasure from flying his new kite as we have had in developing the design.



# ROMAN CANDLE 36.



The Journal of the Bearly Made It SkydiveSquad. The International Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils. Mindless Drivel content exceeds many local Strategic Arms Limitatins Treaties. Guaranteed Politically Incorrecr and we really dont give a Toss.

## Gordon Bleeding Bennet!

One nice thing about awakening from official Winter Kip, is the Reading of the Mail thats arrived in the meantime. One Letter of note came from Chez Gruntfuttock, whereit appears that our erst-while friend F.H.B. has another occupation during the Winter Season.

FHB has a Job as a Stage Technician at a well known Thesbian establishment, somewhere in Sussex. Hmm,so its Larko's with the Luvvies eh?

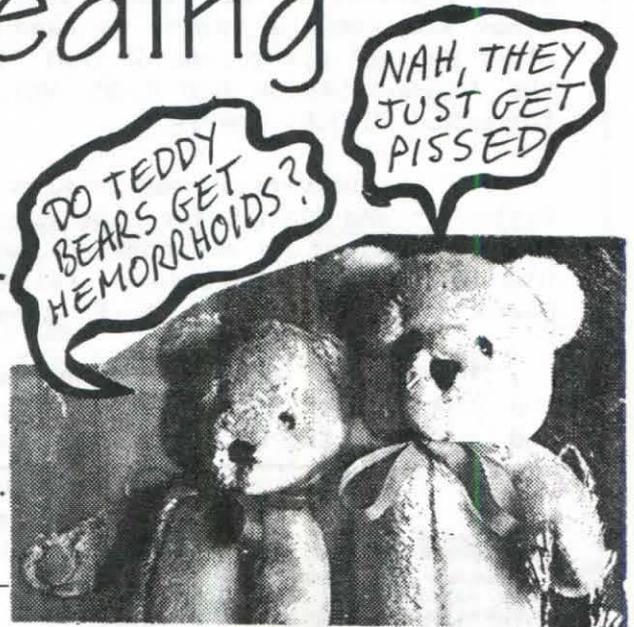
Says FHB, " Here I sit looking out on 800 or so Humes, yes, its work time. The Royal Philly Orchestra, Yawn, bloody Yawn,are doing a Gig. Jeez, 72 Bloody Penguins armed with bits of wood, string and Brass, all, Nursing Hangovers, and stinking of Hemorrhoid Ointment. Gordon Bennett,some Buggers Clapping, time to push a Button, as some Geezer walks on and sits at St Einway, and proceeds to belt out that well known Beethoven, symphony "Break out the Suicide Kit".

FHB goes on to say that he thinks that what is really needed to liven up one of these Gigs, is a Les Dawson exploding Piano, or perhaps a nice Pyro display, or maybe even the odd puff of Smoke on the twddly bits. Anything really to stop the Brain going into China Syndrome. Still, not to worry, for as the St Einway Geezer and the 72 Penguins are knocking five kind of you know what out of the ditty, its time for FHB and the rest of the Crew to play the well known Stage Technician game of "Spot the Slaphead" Todays Total....427 in the Stalls and191 in the Circle, and would you believe it, not one of those Slapheads has a Parachute.

FHB also keeps us informed as to what is going on at Chez Gruntfuttock. It would appear that Great Uncle Flatulence has given up trying to have Carnival urges towards pieces of 8 mil Carbon, and now states that he has got the hots for thatone Orang Utang hole in the Ozone layer above BOF Tower. Junior has gorn a bit arty farty and has taken up Oil Painting, well he found an old Paint by NumbersKit when he was Mucking out the Attic. He has a problem though, as he cannot clean his Brushes, as he's taken to drinking the Turps, As you can guess thats anothe Orang Utang on the slippery slope

What, you may be thinking, has happened to little Baby Squit. Sad to say, that the poor little sod has the worst Nappy Rash that FHB has ever seen. Baby Squits Backside was what Junior was Oil Painting by Numbers, this coupled with Hurricane Force Farts, means that baby Squit really has found out what the word Afterburner really means.

As for FHB,hes recently had Piles, but as he's into Telekinesis, he says that if he concentrates really hard, something may move, and by the time the Season opens every-thing should be Tikkety Boo.....



**MEGA HIP & THIGH SMOTE AT BOF TOWERS.....AMEN!**

And Yea, verily, it came to Pass, that a Mega Smote of Hip and Thigh persuasion, did occasion at B.O.F. Towers, in Ye Ancient Arising from Winter Kip, whenst the "HAMMER of the Simians", Great Aunty Wintergreen, didst mightily lay waste and put Asunder the Godless Multitude of Ye Olde B.M.I.S.S. H.Q. Mob.

Yea, Loud were the Lamentations at the appearance of the Weilded Gin Bottle (BOOTHs) and the Manifestation of Ye Olde Kick in the Goolies. Verily didst the Pates and Wedding Tackles, mightily Ache from violent application of Alcoholic beverage container and very fast moving feet.

And it came to pass that certain Parties, the wonder of the Firmament and the Constellations in all their Manifest Glory, closely viewed. Woe, Woe and Thrice times Woe was the Lament as twas realised that henceforth M.T.V's Party Zone, and other Musical diversions of that Ilk were now proscribed, and Yea, verily, Loud was the Ancient Simian Old Bidy Warcry "Bleeding Load of Crap, Turn it off", heard throughout B.O.F. Towers

And so, it verily came to pass that after witnessing, first the gruesome Smote of Rastachat and then Leroy, the Rump of the so called "HARD NUT" BMISS H.Q. Mob, have taken to shivering and shaking behind the Settee, lest the continued wrath of Ye Olde Orang Utang Battleaxe, fallst upon their Pates, whilst they are continually Deafened by the Awfully "NICE" Anne and Nick show, which blaes from the Goggle Box.

Therefore, I say unto ye believers that henceforth, that one Orang Utang Hole in the Ozone Layer, Great Aunty Wintergreen, is Top Musa Sapientum at B.O.F. Towers, and Lord help the Po Faced when she's let loose on them... amen

(report by the Oldest Member of BMISS, who had more sense than trying to mix it with the Old Bag, and observed the MEGA SMOTE, whilst hiding in the Broom Cupboard, hes no mug)

\*\*\* \*\*

**TEDDY BRRRR**

Scientists have found a new asthma cure for children in Southampton - freezing their teddy bears to kill dust mites.

**HEDGE CLIPPINGS ? WELL HARDLY....**

**Teddy raid**

Two boys aged about 10 are being sought after a smash and grab raid in which two 4ft teddy bears worth more than £200 were snatched from a card shop in Plymouth.

This piece about a New Cure for Asthma, surely would'nt work with Parachuting Teddy Bears and other P.F.S.C.T.P of that persuasion, there would be no need to freeze the Dust Mites, there are'nt any on Parafauna. they've all been drowned in Beer.

\*\*\*\*\* \*\*

ALL 83 fire engines in Devon are to carry an extra crew member in future. A teddy bear will be part of the team to cheer up distressed or injured children at the scene of fires and road accidents. -

Seeing this piece about the theft of the two Bears, leads Dave Hughes to wonder if this could be part of the whole Teddy Bear abuse Ring that we exposed in a previous issue, If not , it could perhaps be classed as yet more Hype.

\*\*\* \*\*

**Bears disputed**

A sale of teddies from the Cotswold Teddy Bear Museum hit a snag yesterday when it was claimed that 31 bears in Bonhams auction catalogue were only loaned to the museum. Earlier, claims that one of the bears had belonged to Pooh author A.A. Milne were denied by his son, Christopher Robin.

Hmmm, would these Teddy Bears be Trained Firefighters, and would they be required to wear their Parachutes?.

\*\*\* \*\*

As if you needed reminding, this is proof positive that the memory of Humes is at least bad if not downright non existent, what a turnup for the Book.

Thanks to Dropniks Hughes and Henly for these....

\*\*\* \*\*

(from Cliff the Dragon)

Dear B.O.F., Sorry to hear about your recent Accident, still you always was a Pain in the Arse. Hope they did'nt wash you and hang you out to dry at the Hospital, like you did me, Cheers Clifford..(An Acapulco post mark, well I never.)

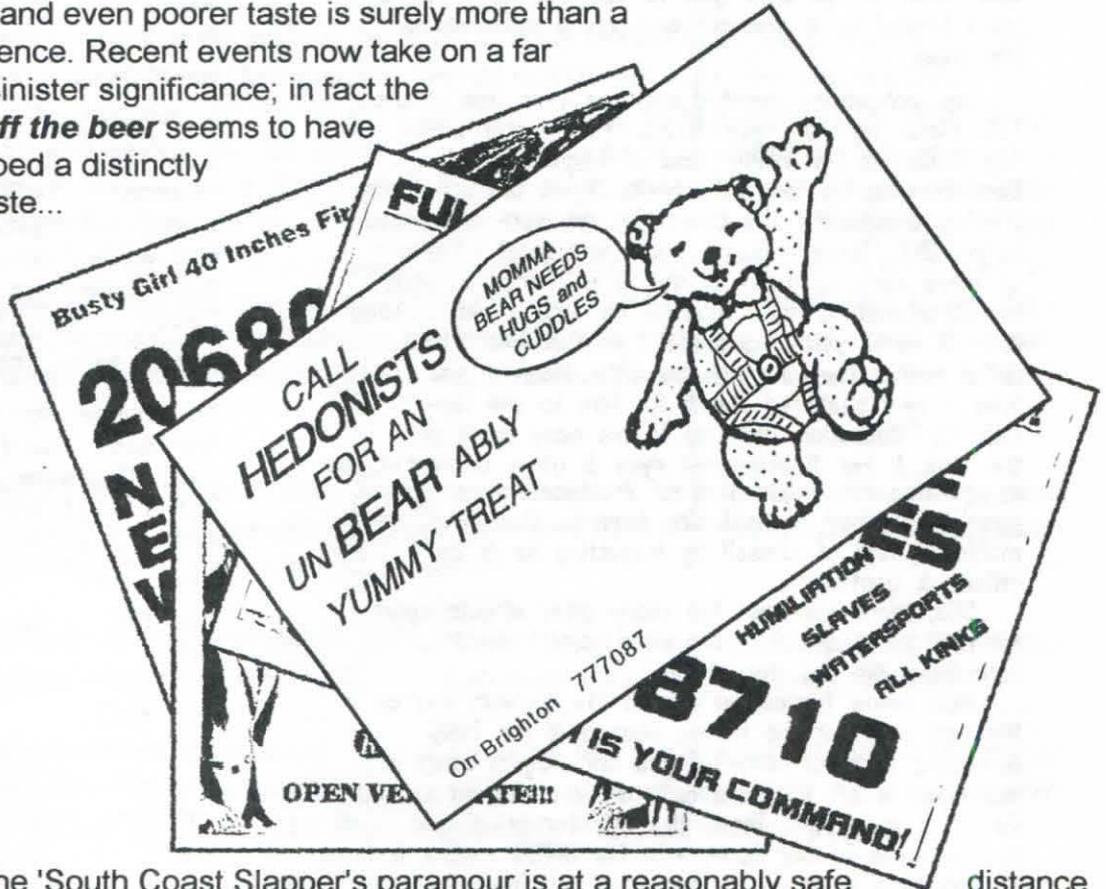


BLAM!

DEAR FRED,

There I was strolling around downtown Brighton, peering into the odd phone box (as you do) and what should catch my eye among the assorted business (???) cards but the following item.

Now even I know that some of the services advertised are not always what they seem to be (trying to call a plumber in these circumstances can be quite an adventure!) but the resemblance to a notorious piece of local fauna of dubious morals and even poorer taste is surely more than a coincidence. Recent events now take on a far more sinister significance; in fact the *froth off the beer* seems to have developed a distinctly sour taste...



- 1) The 'South Coast Slapper's paramour is at a reasonably safe distance (presumably enjoying his winters kip in the land of the Starving Horse) and may thus be assumed to be in blissful ignorance of any extra extra-marital goings on.
- 2) The spouse is rumoured to be somewhat lacking in both the mental and physical departments ever since being dropped (sans functioning 'chute) by the BOF at the post wedding knees up.
- 3) The 'lady' (!!!!) in question is not permitted more than a couple of feet inside the portals of Chez Oakey on pain of de-stuffing by the non kite-flying resident of the household.
- 4) The object of this denunciation has recently returned from the bear equivalent of a complete make-over by BMISS HQ's very own Yves Saint Laurent (or should that read Vivienne Westwood?). Anyway, the Scrubber got scrubbed. One only hopes that the instigator of this outrage was not aware of what he was starting and is truly repentant of his part in this sorry tale (unless of course some of the profits happen to be heading in the general direction of Laurel Lane).

Yours Sincerely



Captain Faceplant  
Brighton Air Zoo (Retired)

By the way, Stormin' Norman was rechristened 'Captain Faceplant' (courtesy of Bazzar) 'cos the little bleeder has got enormous dangly feet. Couple this with an upright landing posture and poor old Norm keeps on tripping over his plates and burying his nose in the proverbial. It stopped being pink (his nose that is) about half way through last year - Cowpat Hill was the final stroke!

All the best

Mik



From the Tornado Teds.....

Doggerel Corner.....

Dear All

Just to let you know that the Tornado Teds survived our first year on the festival circuit without major mishap. Fortunately for us, the wind forgot to turn up quite often so we were able to spend quite a few of them tucked up in the car or sunning ourselves on the grass.

One noteworthy event during the year was at the TB's Picnic held at Hove during the summer where Ray Oakhill & his willing band of helpers were Bear Bunting for the BKF charity. Whilst Old John was running around like the proverbial, we were ensconced in the BKF 'Tented Village' which was most enjoyable as there were so many of our furry friends to chat to. Unfortunately, right opposite us, was a pink cabana & in it were? you've guessed it Him & Her. Which didn't bother me so much but little Mach 1 has lived a very sheltered life & for him to see Him with his "Collection Tin" up to his nose most of the time & Her flashing her eyes & other unmentionable items had him hopping about & steaming up his goggles & I had to hold him down to stop him making a fool of himself by forgetting he is an officer & gentleman.

Still, there were not too many after effects apart for him shouting out in his sleep 'eject' 'eject' or something like that for while!!

Well, fellow furies, we'd both like to wish you all the very best for the festive season & for 1995 & hoping to meet some of you once again when it warms up a bit, (it looks as if we are staying on with OJ for a while yet). Thank the BOF for bringing a much needed smile to our faces with his BMISS frolics & hope he can keep it up for a long time yet (the newsletter I mean)

Cheers for now

Machs 2 & 1 & Old John

As you can see from Doggerel Corner, from time to time BMISS does receive some Parafauna type Poetry of the Great MacGonagle Persuasion, i.e. Crap. Most of which is too Rude to print (did you really expect any other?) However from time to time some of the aforementioned 'Crap' is fairly inoffensive, hence Doggerel Corner.

For those of you who are wondering about the BOF Accident, I can tell you this much. The Silly old Sod fell over at Work and had Two Inches of 5 mm Thick Steel Plate shoved up his Jacksie. Alright, stop laughing you rotten lot, Yes... I know you're all wondering if he lost any Teeth, as he always talks out of his Arse. All I know, is that it made his Eyes Water a bit, and he really was acting like a Bear wiv a sore Arse, Ha,Ha. However he appears to have got over this apart from the constant Ache. So for all you Statistic Freaks out there the Score was Steel Bracket. 1. Arse. 0. Batting average; 1 pint of Blood, 13 Stitches, 8 Internal, 5 Surface, loss of a 1cmx1cm piece of Raw Arse (rump steak) and lots of partaking of the Urine.



So as usual its any old Parabear Crap you wanna get rid of (sorry we're up to the back Teeth with Arse Jokes) To the Teddy-torial, c/o The Boring old Fart, 48. Laurel Lane, West Drayton, Middx, UB7.7TY. P.S. We've already had complaints about this new Typewriter from other Boring Old Farts, aint it real? .....

Its said Biggles cant make it these Days  
Though hes tried it in many strange ways  
His Tackles a mess  
Since the Wedding drop stress  
Now Suzy prefers when it Pays  
\*\*\* \*\*

In the Land of the Starving Horse  
Quaffing Beer as a matter of course  
Lived a Drunk Bear called Dave  
Who with Suzy did Rave  
And together they revelled in Sauce  
\*\*\* \*\*

An Orange Ape called F.H.B.  
Has made the following Plea  
Tell Thurston, A Chute  
For I will not descend loose  
And Cop a Face full of Dee Zee  
\*\*\* \*\*

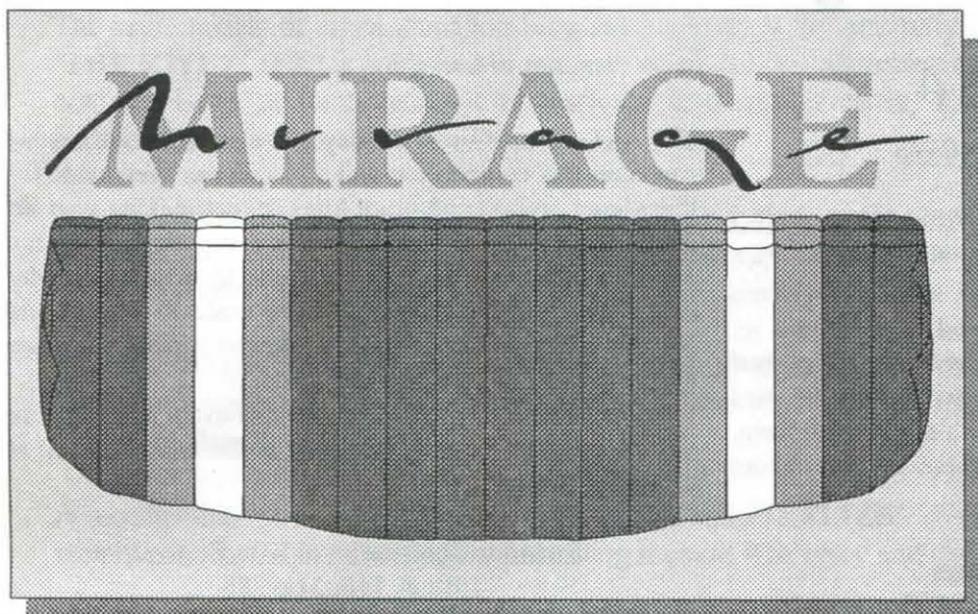
The BOF slipped and fell on his BOT  
And was heard to exclaim, cor, Yoo Wot!  
The Spike up his Jacksie  
Was not so Relaxy  
The Doc said it just missed the spot

So now having ruined his Breeches  
And watched Doc sew up his Arse with Stitches  
The BOF sits in Pain and tries in vain  
Not to Scratch it too much when it Itches  
\*\*\* \*\*

# SKY BUMS

NEWS FOR KITEFLIERS

SUMMER 1995



*Just one of the new four line traction kites from Sky Bums*

Here we see one of the new four line kites produced by Sky Bums for the 95 season. The Mirage range includes six kites of two styles. The 14 cell version comes in 1.5, 2.85 and 4.5m<sup>2</sup> and the 18 cell version comes in 2, 3.75 and 6m<sup>2</sup>. Shown above is the 3.75 with its attractive three colour graphic. All the kites turn with the ease of much

smaller kites but generating a great deal of pull. The kites are ideal traction kites but can also be used purely for fun. All the kites come complete with matching bag and handles. At last there is a range of good looking four line traction kites at competitive prices. To learn more send for the new mail order catalogue from the address below.

## NEW RANGE OF SKY BUM ACCESSORIES FOR 1995

A new range of Sweatshirts, Caps, T-Shirts and Pins will soon be ready for the new season and the discerning kiteflier. There will also be a new range of applied banners to brighten the flying fields and festivals throughout the season and across the country. If you require your banner to be personalised the do not hesitate to call Sky Bums at the address at the bottom of the page or come up to talk to us on our stall at any of the festivals.

The logo for Sky Bums, featuring the brand name in a stylized, handwritten-style font. The letters are bold and slanted, with a textured, stippled effect. The logo is enclosed in a rectangular border.

FOR THOSE  
KITES YOU  
HAVE ALWAYS  
PROMISED  
YOURSELF

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

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BUGGIES CAUSE  
CROP CIRCLES. . . . . 9

## SHREWSBURY SHOP TO CLOSE WITH THE LOSS OF NO JOBS

Paul and Helene Morgan have been producing many varied designs of high quality, high performance kites since 1986 when they started **Morgan Kites**. Since then they have written "**The Book of Kites**" and changed their name to **Sky Bums** on opening their shop in 1991. Many kite shops have opened since then, all selling the same things. They have now decided to close the shop to concentrate on the design and manufacture of kites that fly well and look good. "We were being bogged down with all the standard kites which left us no time to design and build the specials." said a representative. "We now hope to get back to what we got into the business for in the first place which is to produce good quality and interesting kites for the enthusiast."

If you would like a copy of the new Mail Order catalogue please contact

**Sky Bums**

7 Sunnyfields, Bell Lane,  
Shrewsbury, SY2 5EW, UK.

(01743) 244 677



# NEWS

## Volume 1 Issue 4

### Membership News

The membership of the A.K.G now stands at around 50, which I think is pretty amazing for a group which has only been going for around six months, members come from as far afield as Scotland in the North to, New South Wales in Australia in the South I hope that the membership continues to grow and to aid this process I am including in this issue a registration form, since some people are a little apprehensive about putting pen to paper.

### Competition News

The competition in issue two was a challenge to design a new logo to replace the old one The winning entry is shown above although not in the full colour of the original version.

I would like to thank all of those who entered the standard was very high and some of the original ideas were inspiring I will keep the entries in the file of Art kites for people to view at festivals.

This winner after much deliberation was David Troy of Solihull in the West Midlands his Graphic design is both original and recognisable, as well as being suited to being made into a pin badge at a later date.

David's prize of the Jewel Kite has been posted some time ago and hopefully he has received it (contact me David if you've had any problems)

### Events News

#### Sculpting the Sky, Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham 23rd April '95

As you probably already know The bad news is that the Birmingham city council have pulled out of this event, and as such the financial support which had been promised has now almost completely disappeared however the good news is that the event will still go ahead albeit on a smaller scale.

The AKG competition / display will also go ahead, anyone can enter this competition and a plaque has been made for the winner and second place kites, so get making your art kites, don't be discouraged or think that your kites are not good enough, You are also welcome to display an older kite if you wish but you must have made it yourself and No use of copyright artwork is allowed (unless you have the permission of the copyright holder)

There is no need to pre-register for this event although you can if you wish, by contacting me at the address given at the end of this section.

#### Swindon International Kite Festival 13th & 14th May '95

The WHKF festival at Swindon is to be held at Wroughton Airfield and the AKG has a space in the marquee, please let me know if you want to be included.

#### Shrewsbury 1st & 2nd July '95

Tony Slater who organises this event has very kindly offered us the facility of the pavilion to put on an Artistic Kite Display during the festival. This will be totally none competitive, contact me if you are interested in showing your kites here.

#### Swansea Spring Show May 28th & 29th

I have been in touch with Swansea leisure services regarding the above event and they are going to provide us with a marquee so that we can put on a display for the public, anyone wishing to exhibit their kites at this event please contact me, in addition kite makers / artists will be free to sell their kites which they are displaying with the AKG if they so wish and no charge will be made for this service.

#### Other Events

Pat Collins of 128 Kingston Road, Teddington, Middlesex, has contacted me regarding a kite design competition, The challenge is to produce a kite 18"x18" decorated in the style of a named artist (not necessarily a world famous one) entries should be sent to Pat at the above address, and the kites will be shown/flown at the London Kite Festival on Hackney Marshes on 16th June '95 kites will only be

returned to their makers if return postage is included but anyone who enters a kite will receive a catalogue containing pictures of all the entries at the end of the project. apparently this is the standard format for this kind of 'Art by mail project'

Fliers from the Thorpe Kite Fliers in Norfolk have been set an Artistic Kite competition by their club unfortunately this is only open to their members, but apparently the response has already been encouraging, further details from Nigel Goodswen (address in KSBG handbook)

## Readers Letters

### **ROK AROUND THE CLOCK**

The first kite I made which could be described as 'artistic' started life as a 6 ft, 6 line, Japanese rokaku kite in a murky dark green colour. It being the only large piece of material I had in at the time and me being the kind of impetuous fool who can't wait - after a stolen glimpse, on the flying field at Ashworth valley of a 'Greens of Burnley' Rokkaku, giving me the easiest technical method of construction yet seen, - I can now admit, but this is a secret right? So.... work started immediately. On my next flying day I took it out and to my amazement and pleasure it flew straight away, stayed stable and air-borne all day long.

Flying a Rokkaku is like flying a garage/barn door someone once said to me, and trouble was that's what this kite looked similar to.

It was then that I considered decorating the kite, it was too good to discard. I had been given a bundle of off cuts of all different colours and shapes by a member of the artistic kite group, no names, no drill pack. and I set to work, in trying to make this boring Rok look happy and interesting! This I later realised is part of the pleasure of decorating a kite in that a spectacular effect can be contrived with the merest of sizes of rip-stop all part of the fun!

I cut shapes, I tried them in different layouts on the kite, shuffling them on the dark background, arranging the colours to best effect, laying some on top of others etc. - we've all been there. circles on squares, red on yellow, splashes of colour like paint splashes, stripes of bright pink etc.

There deep in my kitchen/dining room I sat hour after hour cutting out shapes, trying them on the kite, sewing them in place once positioning decided. My day job is as a part-time typist in an Estate Agents office and I busily sewed before I went to work, (dashing out for the bus on the last minute in my slippers.) after a daily grind I worked into the early hours, meanwhile the bins went unemptied, the pots unwashed, the room a disaster area for over a week, bits of rip-stop all over the floor walked in from room to room, the

goldfish could not see through the glass, everyone lived off take-away meals off trays on their knees ( the table was fully occupied.) the cat sat pertly watching, there was no national news, having been cancelled from lack of interest, all other activities were no more!

The appliqué design was starting to take shape when drat of all drats, my sewing machine started acting up, I managed to complete the kite eventually and frustratingly having nursed the machine to continue working for me as long as was necessary, and some of the sewing leaves a lot to be desired, I have to say, since then I have bought a new machine and sewing is now (almost) worry free. I cut out the main sail colour from the rear to let the light shine through the colours and it was ready. I then added 30 ft tails of different colours of rip-stop with alternating black strips between the colours to make them stand out, to be suspended from the bottom left and right hand corners - this took another week to complete, this time the added problematic obstruction was that the trails went all through the house from room to room, so that i could judge the colours more effectively!

In the air the final effect was stunning! I've has the kite complemented many times and the different colours against the green show up very well indeed, and when the sun takes part the display is striking.

Jan Gresty

### **Pen and Ink**

Well, I still consider myself a beginner at kite making, so I've been a bit reticent at trying to appliqué a pattern onto this wondrous bit of material I've just got to fly, also the wish to create a picture with some fine detail meant fine needlework put me off.

So what could I do, the only other option was to paint, but everyone said that conventional paint either doesn't stick, or will crack and spoil quite quickly. I had heard of a technique using floral spray paint, but the costs and availability soon stopped that!

It was the need to identify my Rokkaku that put me onto the Indelible Pens, Water proof, Permanent, a small range of colours, so I marked an off cut with a mixture of what was available to see. First a check to see if it affects the ripstop, looking good - after a week I could not find fault ( this could be a long term problem, but after 12 months I don't think so ), so I hung the trial piece outside on the washing line for 3 months, no running or fading to be found, so lets get drawing!

So mark out the kite ( Roks in my case ) and carefully pin or stick the material to a sheet of hardboard, I made the mistake of using double sided sticky tape and found that it sticks all to well to ripstop more than hardboard so beware! Then I marked out my design with 3B pencil lightly, this can be rubbed off with a normal pencil rubber if you make a mistake, as we all do... then

its commit time, use a black pen to make the final drawing permanent.

Well, in the drawing I did find that the ink can run a little if you get to slow and hold the pen on one spot, so the outlining in black can help hide any mistakes, but most of all this outlining does accentuate the design and gives the fine detail I was after, given the 4 mm pen tip.

Then its a case of fill in the areas to the colours you want, but another warning, you might remember that these inks do smudge when you colour over one another, and the tips carry the colour over, so care needs to be taken. Also watch out for ink on the back of the hand - after an evenings colouring to find you've got a palm print in the wrong area is mighty frustrating ( see my Dragon Rok for confirmation ) !

To get varying densities in colour, repaint the area again or try painting both sides of the material, or for a lighter tone

just draw lines rather than filling in fully, or even a chequered pattern. The colour range is not vast, Red, Yellow, Green, Blue, Black, Brown. I achieved a reasonable Orange in colouring the two colours Red and Yellow, but try to obtain different manufacturers pens, I found two Yellows this way.

That's the one mans way to an artistic kite, I've done two now, some call it cheating, but I still turn heads with it, for a starting point in decorative kites I think its worth a try, Its just a case of letting out your artistic flare !

Peter Dawson.

### Contributions

If this newsletter is going to be successful then I am going to need contributions from you. Please send in your reports, photos, news items, information regarding exhibitions, techniques, anecdotes , plans, designs , cartoons or anything else you can think of .

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## Artistic Kite Group

The Artistic Kite Group is Free to all, any interested parties who contact the group will be considered as members unless they state otherwise.

If anyone wishes to make a donation towards the running costs however small, then this will be greatly appreciated. Donations can be made payable to "The Artistic Kite Group" any smaller donations of stamps, stationary etc will also be appreciated.

## Registration Form

TITLE.....

TEL.....

FORENAME.....

FAX.....

SURNAME.....

E-MAIL.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

POSTCODE.....

Please take the time to complete the following few questions.

1. What kind of kites do you make ?
2. Would you be prepared to display your kites in public at festivals ?
3. Are you be prepared to loan your kites for exhibitions away from kite festivals ?
4. Would you like to see Artistic Kite Competitions ?
5. What would you like to see from AKG ?

Return completed forms or any other correspondence, to the following address,

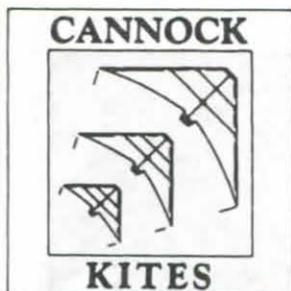
or

Tel : 0151 5269913

or

E-mail [AKG@ind3x.dircon.co.uk](mailto:AKG@ind3x.dircon.co.uk)

Charlie Charlton  
The Artistic Kite Group  
38 Beechway  
Maghull  
Merseyside  
L31 1HP



1995 Wholesale price list available now to bona fide kite shops and manufacturers.

Ripstop, kite fittings & accessories, Eolo Gayla Kites, Dunford Kites, ROC Performance Kites, Spider Kites, Caribbean Kites, Juggling equipment.

For your copy telephone 01543 571400 or fax 01543 573177

## Festival Trail 94

I had originally intended reviewing the convention at Portsmouth in the October 94 issue, but due to work (together with a degree of laziness and absentmindedness) I missed the deadline. So I thought I might just put a few rambling thoughts down - so here it is - my review of last year (at least the bits I got to attend). 1994 will no doubt be remembered for surprisingly variable winds and considerable amounts of precipitation, although I do remember some sunny outbreaks.

**Blackheath:** as ever started the season. With most two day festivals I normally only get to go to one day and Monday was the day this year. Remembered for the incredibly strong winds, icy showers and a brief fly past by a giant Puffer Fish. Was it ever recovered from the pond?

**Old Warden:** a bit windy and what a long trek from Brighton. The first

outing for a large delta Gill and I had put together (actually my first attempt).

Recognisable by the somewhat garish purple spots it was nicknamed 'the zit'. Anyway I think the wind was a tad too strong,

the spreader ripped through the sail and put the kibosh on any attempt to fly a single line.

**Weymouth:** we'd hoped to make it to both days, but unforeseen circumstances forced us to limit it to one day. Nice site and the one that finally convinced us that it's not always possible to fly dual line kites. No space. A bit of a long haul, but I'm sure we'll be back in 1995.

**Brighton:** always enjoyable this one and possibly one of the better festivals around (???) but then I'm biased. Exceptionally damp on Saturday, the rain just seemed to get heavier as Gill and I took up our stewarding duties. It's funny that this is one of the only festivals that I hardly get to do any flying. But then I get as much satisfaction

# aperdyne

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talking to other kite flyers as I do helping others launch their kites. It was good to watch Ray Bethell in action. I can only dream of becoming that good. I hear that Ray's recently broken his own world record. How long will it be before he gets to 18 hours 18 minutes and 18 seconds???. I must admit I had my reservations about the site but it seemed to work well and it's unfortunate that we won't get a chance to fly there again.

### Bear Bunging at Shoreham Fête

Once again this year we will be dropping bears and other assorted fauna for charity at St Nicholas & St Mary's CE School Fête, Eastern Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex (Grid Ref: 198TQ 222 057) on Saturday 1 July from 10am - 2pm. This is usually a pretty busy event with an early queue of anxious fauna. So please do come along if you have bear dropping kit or are willing to help pack chutes and retrieve brave bears.

Let's hope that Stanmer Park proves to be a great venue.

**Banham:** we only made it to the second day, noted for it's almost complete lack of wind 'the zit' finally flew but is now confined to its bag through sheer embarrassment of the design. Oh well, it was only my first attempt. The weekend did offer the opportunity of seeing Stafford Wallace delighting the crowd by catching rockets on parachutes, what a showman, what a show off! Banham also provided Gill and I with a first; we got the chance to team up with Ray (Oakie 1) in a team Rokkaku bash, only to have to pull out when Dennis suffered a broken spine in the third round, (sorry Mik and Toody!) at least we didn't damage the sail. But good fun nonetheless.

**Basingstoke:** I didn't get to do much flying again, I left my gloves at home, and got incredibly grumpy. Good to see a few other BKF faces making it to another festival. If only we could break a record and see more of the membership.

**Bear Bunging at Hove Park:** another first. Grown people parachuting bears whatever next? I quite like the idea of harnesses that attach willing bears to power kites. At least then the power kiters wouldn't feel excluded. Very sociable and friendly these events and I thoroughly enjoyed completing the certificates. This was swiftly followed by a stint at a kite workshop at Newman School, helping Mik and Toody. Great fun, hope we can do it again.

**Petworth:** great location and great weather. I even got a suntan. Very laid back day out. Quickly followed by the **UK Individual Stunt Kite Championships:** at Stanmer Park. I liked this event as it made a change to be at a festival without single line kites. What a shame that it won't be happening in 1995. An opportunity to see some of the best in dual line flying and another chance to dream of being that good.

**Blackheath Summer:** Gill and I didn't get to fly any of our kites but did get the opportunity to fly two of Eddie Stocking's kites. Eddie makes some good kites and I suggest you track him down and experience his infectious enthusiasm.

**Middle Wallop:** nice site shame about its location, somewhat off the beaten track. This festival certainly deserves more support, if only because the grass gets cut and therefore suitable for single, dual

line and power kiting, and lots of space.

**Teston Bridge:** idyllic site which we very nearly missed. I gave Gill the wrong directions and we nearly missed the turn off. First outing for the 'Hitchcock' Rok. Thanks Barry (Poulter) for stitching this one.

And so to **Portsmouth:** an early start from Brighton for the convention on Friday. My only comment about the convention was that the timetable of events could perhaps have allowed some repetition so that sessions didn't have to be missed because they clashed. Lots of very knowledgeable speakers with a lot of practical advice. Now I just have to apply it! Otherwise a good time was had, but it's a pity about the cock up on Saturday night.

**Bristol:** great venue and what great night flying despite the rain! The flying was inspirational to say the least and Aircraft deserved to have done better at Le Touquet after having seen them fly with such precision at night.

And finally, **Dieppe:** if only British festivals could get the support of the government and major corporate sponsors the UK could itself have the opportunity of staging such a spectacular show of kites from twenty six plus countries. And what a display. All those kites you only ever see in the pages of American Kite

and Kitelines in the ripstop so to speak. And the chance to talk to the makers. BKF was admirably

represented, but where was Mik? The weekend started with an evening departure from Newhaven with Ray and Doreen. Thanks must go to them for providing us with the opportunity of going cos we left everything to the last minute. Can we book our places for the next one Ray? Can I suggest that more BKF members try and make it in 1996. We could try and get some recognition and support from Brighton Council who go over for a cultural weekend at the same time. In an effort to extend the flying season I suggested an outing to

**Poole:** to take in an exhibition at Scaplen's Court Museum. The exhibition had been arranged as part of a crafts initiative sponsored by BT. The idea being that the exhibition would culminate in the participants attending a fly-in at Baiters Park, 'weather permitting'. A few hardy souls (well only four of us actually) finally made the excursion, just to lend a bit of moral support. I recall Gill commenting on the weather outlook of occasional showers and that they had in fact turned from intermittent outbreaks into prolonged spells. How right she was. As far as the exhibition was concerned the museum missed a great opportunity to educate the public on the history

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of kites and kiting. Especially with the Baden Powell connection with Scouts so close by. However, it did offer the chance of seeing a few fine examples from contemporary kite makers like Martin Lester, Nick James, Joel Scholz and Pierre Fabre.

Unfortunately we didn't get to fly anything and Jerry and Carolyn Swift didn't get to do any bear bunting, it just rained too much. I'd like to suggest that BKF and the kite flyers of Poole organise a mutual fly in. Baiter Park as a flying site offers some spectacular views across Poole harbour to Brownsea Island. But don't choose a day in October, the likelihood is that it will rain. So what does 1995 hold in store? Well I certainly hope to visit a few other festivals and to try new experiences (I'd love to have a go at bugging). Let's hope for fair winds and less rain. A Happy New Year to you all.

*(Sorry it's belated, I couldn't squeeze it into the January issue - Ed)*

**Barry Pitman**

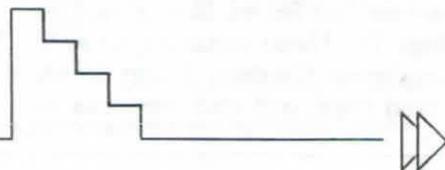
## Found Crying!

**O**n a cold and windy Sunday morning in November a man was found crying in the park at Partridge Green. A local lady who was walking her dog gave us the account.

'He was all right until I was beside him.' She continued: 'I heard this funny twang, I said to myself "I've just bought these knickers from M&S, I am going..." She smiled. 'I then heard a whimper, I turned my head and he was cursing. This pink thing, I didn't know it was a kite, was spinning around and around in circles and then it hit the ground. That's when my dog caught sight of it and thought it must be fair game. He rushed off pulling me sideways. I couldn't really avoid him, I knocked him off balance. I did not see my dog run between the gentleman's legs. I use one of those retractable dog leads so it was a couple of seconds before my dog got to the end of it. The tension was applied with quite a force which caused the gentleman to try and hop over the lead while clutching himself. If he wasn't wearing big boots he would not have done so much damage to the kite that was on the ground ready to fly. I think he quickly realised what damage he had done and overcompensated while trying to stop himself from falling over. Well what a place to leave a kite bag. I heard what I thought was a bone cracking and said "Oh!" rather loudly. My dog was just regaining his composure and must have thought that I was under attack. He returned and promptly bit the gentleman's backside. The gentleman, turning quickly, tried to kick the dog but wildly missed. It was just as well that he ended up sitting on another kite because he could have done a lot of damage!

There must be a moral somewhere in that lot, I'll be \*\*\*\*\* if I can find it!

**From our correspondent: W Indy**



## The BOF is 'Bitten By The Bug' No 1

During my years as a kite I must have asked countless others how they first got into this thing. However, as the brain cell ain't up to much memory wise these days, I decided it's about time I started putting some of these tales down in print - and here's the first. So if you have any unusual stories about first being 'bitten by the bug' please send them in... or if you're really famous then you might even be getting a letter begging for your story! Ed

**D**ear Toody, Can't for the life of me, think why you should find some boring old fart's nostalgia trip of interest, but there you go. Eeh, Bah Gum, ee were a real Baker were our Dad... Hold It, Hold It, cummon cut the Crap, for Gawds sake, Her, Hmm. Where was I now, oh yeah, I actually do remember quite vividly, one or two of the Kites I had when I was a nipper, in particular, what I now know to be a Cutter, Red and Yellow it was, seemed enormous, but, probably was quite small. The sodding thing never did fly well, that is till my old man tied a hankie on a short length of string and attached that as a tail, then the bugger flew like a good 'un.

I also have recollections of a Box Kite, probably a Brookite, who knows? And also memories of my old man helping me to make Kites out of Brown Paper and Flour and Water Paste. Another childhood memory which sticks in my mind especially as something that looks exactly the same was advertised in the last issue of Kitelines as the New Schylling Flying Dutchman Roto Kite. Ha, New? must be all of 40 years new, as I should think every kid had one of those.

It also goes without saying that when I was a nipper, if you were all right for a couple of Bob, then you had a certain Yellow Box Kite, which I think were sold for about 5 Bob, a bloody Fortune. Not for the likes of us Tow Rags. Yes, I have vague memories of Kensington Gardens, falling in the Round Pond, and also memories of

## 'LowTide' Event

**T**his is the first event in Europe for 'LowTide' - a day of celebration and awareness of the lowest tide of the year. This occurs at 5.59pm at Brighton on Saturday 13 May 95 and from midday onwards there will be a mini seafront festival on the beach by the West Pier. Bring along a kite or two as this is one of the few times when flying on the beach will be a realistic proposition - with lots of space and actually some sand under foot! There will be all sorts of other interesting events for children and adults, with input from environmental groups, local communities, schools and lots more. Enquiries: Estelle Barton & Paul Thody on 01273 676740.

## The Useful Bit No 12

An old Chinese kite flyer once said:

'A man with broken lines cannot fly a kite.'

**From our correspondent: W Indy** (rumoured amongst the BKF, although as yet not proved, to be one Mr Ken Boddy. Ed)

## The Cultural Bit No 8

**K**ite flying is a way that those with artistic souls can temporarily decorate the sky, leaving it unmarred at nightfall, containing no debris to impede the passage of the night winds.'

**Bob Ingraham: American Kitefliers Association**

these old Guys who used to stand on a low bank down near the Kensington High Street end, flying these Gigantic Kites, armed with what to a nipper, appeared to be HUGE Drums of "STRING". These Gigantic Kites were flown so far out that they appeared to be Full Stops in the Sky.

These are my earliest recollections of being Bitten by the Bug, and although, I suppose as I got older, Kites went onto the Back Burner somewhat as other things such as Model Aircraft, Push Bikes (Fausto Coppi and Tommy Simpson Live) Motor Bikes, who Moi? Une Greaser? Qui, (R.I.P. Mike Hailwood) and then of course Cars, (Jimmy & Ayrton) I always had a soft spot for Kites, until one day I saw a Peter Powell, Kaboom, that was it, Holy Cow, Cheapo thrills... Then I met Gill, Jon & Allan, got Mugged by a Teddybear, acted normal, I.E. went Mad, gave up being a PO-Faced and became Founder of the 'KIN ELL, what a load of Crap Kite Company, and as they say the story starts here.

Cheers

**John Barker**



*John Barker*



## Spot the Brighton Kite Flyers?

Not one but two local fliers feature amongst the pages of the new Italian 'Tempo d'Aquiloni' magazine. Andy Preston is pictured chilling out - flying with the Decorators on page 5 while Paul Thody flies on the Atlantic using the Wipy Cat on page 40. And for all those bear freaks... check out a copy of the second issue of 'Teddy Bear Scene'. Try playing 'spot the Air Zoo members' (Hume and otherwise) in the article on parachuting fauna - which contains input from BKF members John Barker and Jerry & Carolyn Swift.

## BKF Library Update

The club now subscribes to the new Drachen Magazine (English version) and is currently awaiting arrival of the first February 1995 issue.



## BKF AGM 1995

**W**elcome: Ray Oakhill (Co-Ordinator) chaired our 3rd AGM and opened the agenda by welcoming all 12 and a bit (being 2 month old Charlotte Hennessey!) members to the meeting at the Devil's Dyke Inn on 9 February.

### ◆Apologies:

were received from: Barry & Janet Poulter, Paul Thody & Estelle Barton and Peri & Mike Lainchbury.

### ◆1994 AGM

Minutes: were read and agreed.

### ◆Membership Secretary's

Report: Ray informed us that

membership currently stands at 93:-  
BKF Single Members: 9

BKF Family Members: 3 plus 4  
Additional Family Members

KSGB Single Members: 29

KSGB Family Members: 21 plus 27  
Additional Family Members.

Membership trends are similar to previous years.

◆**Treasurer's Report:** Toody provided an analysis summary of the 1994 accounts (which were available for inspection) and reported that funds have not fluctuated wildly from last year. There were no specific projects incurring large outgoings (eg Pins/Membership Cards), excepting the Library set up costs of magazine racks/files etc. Ray thanked Toody and Mik for collating and organising the Library which was sadly noted as not being well used to date.

◆**Fly-in Venues:** Toody suggested changing the current bi-monthly fly-in sites at Hollingbury (1st Sunday/Month) and Telscombe Tye (3rd Sunday/Month) which are not well used due to the infrequency of grass cutting (making stunt flying difficult), lack of facilities and abundance of dog's \*\*\*\* underfoot. Many members now prefer to use Stanmer Park on a regular basis as it has none of these disadvantages and

is also on bus and train routes. Barry Pitman proposed Stanmer Park as a fly-in venue on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month which was seconded by Toody. It was decided not to drop the established sites as, despite some disadvantages, they are excellent for single line flying.

### ◆DTP Upgrade:

Mik Jennison explained that the software used for the club newsletter (MS Publisher v1.0) is both out of date and fairly limiting in terms of design potential. He suggested that we either invest in an upgrade to the current software or purchase an

alternative with a two user license registered to the club. It was agreed that he should investigate the alternatives within £100 budget and that this would go ahead subject to further contact with the other prospective users.

## The National Trust Gets Into Kites

**T**hanks to Barry Pitman for bringing the following kite flying events to our notice; both are being organised by the National Trust.

**24&25 June 95: Graveswood Common, Hazelmere, Surrey.**  
Enquiries: 01428 642112

**25 June 95: Highdown Hill, nr Ferring, Worthing, West Sussex.**  
2.30pm onwards. Enquiries: 01243 8614554

## BKF Fly-In Reminders

**1st Sunday/Month: Hollingbury** Grid Ref: 198TQ 324 083 from 11.00am Height Clearance: 1500ft

**2nd Sunday/Month: Stanmer Park** Grid Ref: 198TQ 342 088 from 11.00am Height Clearance: 200ft

**3rd Sunday/Month: Telscombe Tye** Grid Ref: 198TQ 392 017 from 11.00am Height Clearance: 1500ft

**2nd Sunday/Month: Stanmer Park** Grid Ref: 198TQ 342 088 from 11.00am Height Clearance: 200ft

**2nd Thursday/Month: The Devil's Dyke Inn** Devil's Dyke from 8.00pm Grid Ref: 198TQ 258 112  
Social bash & flying evening. Height Clearance: 200ft

◆**BKF Tee Shirts:** Toody suggested an alternative to the current (subtle) design: something louder and more noticeable on the flying field/at festivals. Mik liked the idea of a large three colour logo front and back which Danny Steer proposed and Ray seconded. Toody and Mik agreed to organise a sample.

◆**Festival:** Without the full festival committee present much of the agenda could not



be discussed. Organising a festival meeting ASAP was agreed in order to finalise details for publication in Aerodyne & The Kiteflier. Barry Pitman has been liaising with local Scout and Guide leaders re kite making workshops in March, hopefully to culminate in a festival display of their kites. Barry also showed his proposed poster design, hopefully this year to be printed in colour, and Ray thanked him for his input.

◆**BMISS Event:** Mik proposed a fly-in/bear bunging day at Devil's Dyke, which was seconded by Ray. It was agreed that this should be open to the public, invitations extended to all kite clubs and that funds would be raised for the Rockinghorse Appeal. Mik agreed to undertake organisation. Barry Pitman is also organising a demo and possible bear bombing day in conjunction with one of the Petworth summer Family Days (notification: July issue). It was

agreed that both events should be mid to late season and, if possible, not clash with festival dates elsewhere.

◆**AOB:** Jerry and Carolyn Swift offered to make a bear for the Rockinghorse Appeal - to live at the Royal Alexandra

Children's Hospital in Brighton where the Appeal is based. Toody and Mik agreed to make the 'chute and pack and suggested the bear attends BMISS events and has a log book of jumps made. This met with general approval.

◆**Close:** Ray thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed.

**Toody Oakhill**



# BRIGHTON KITE FESTIVAL DATE CHANGE!

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April 1995

## Festival Details

**Date:** 29 & 30 July 1995

**Site:** Stanmer Park, Lewes Road, Brighton, East Sussex. Grid Ref: 198TQ 342 088.

**By Car:** A27. Routes will be signed. Parking at Sussex University (TBC). Car passes are NOT required.

**By Train:** To Brighton then Falmer (3rd stop from Brighton).

**Accommodation:** For local B&B's etc call the Marketing Bureau on 01273 327 560.

**Camping:** Fri/Sat/Sun Limited numbers only.

**Height Clearance:** 3000ft (TBC)

**Saturday Evening Barbecue:** BYO food etc... we'll supply the barbies.

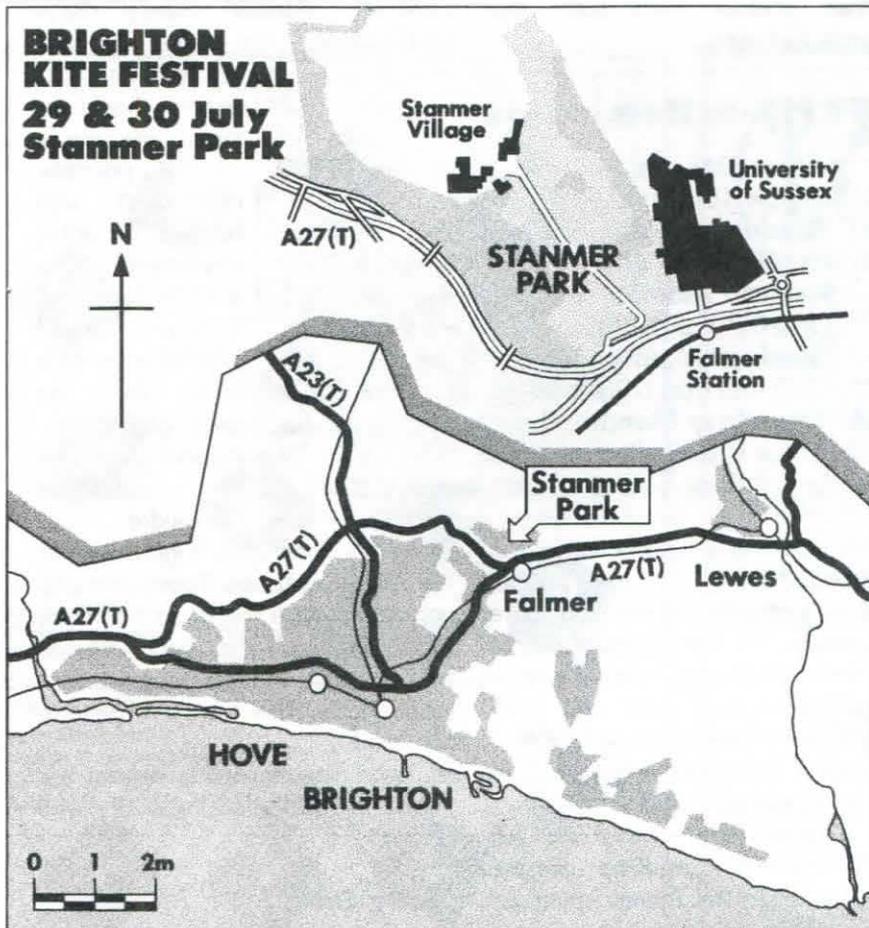
**Buggies:** With own insurance only.

**Traders:** Please contact the event organisers: Estelle Barton & Paul Thody on 01273 676740.

**A**pologies to all those of you that have made plans based on the previously published date for this years Brighton Kite Festival. Due to an administrative cock-up (more of which below) we were left with choosing between moving the festival date or having no festival at all. We are fully aware of the problems this may cause to other festival organisers and to the traders that have supported us so well in the past, and can only hope that any (thoroughly deserved) brickbats are directed at Brighton Borough Council. The original date was agreed with the Council (who provide sponsorship for the event as part of the annual Arts Festival) in September last year. This was *not* a provisional date but a confirmed booking for the venue. You can imagine our horror when in mid February we were told the site had been double booked and that the Carriage Trails people were also expecting to use Stanmer Park over the same weekend. The vision of both kites and horses in an enclosed space just doesn't bear thinking about! Amongst the offers of (totally unsuitable) alternative sites we clung to the hope of being the ones to actually get use of the Park - after all, we were told we were the *first* to book it. Despite continuous badgering, the Council declined to make (or at least tell us about) any decision until 7 March, at which point we were informed that it was the Kite Festival that would have to make other arrangements. Obviously, as kite flyers, we haven't got the legal resources, financial clout or connections of Prince Phillip et al with which to threaten the Council. The club cannot mount the Festival at such short notice without Council support so we were left with the choice outlined above - a new date or no festival at all. Of the dates on which the Park was available

only the 29 & 30 July appeared free of conflicting festivals. We have just received confirmation of the new dates and all breathed a sigh of relief! However, we have just heard that there may be a Blackheath Rally on the same weekend - but the 1995 Brighton Kite Festival will now have to go ahead as planned.

## BRIGHTON KITE FESTIVAL 29 & 30 July Stanmer Park



## Use This Space...

Thanks to all this issue's contributors. Please send items for inclusion in the July issue by 10 June 95 to...

**Toody Oakhill/BKF Editor**  
Flat 29/Astra House

Kings Road  
Brighton  
East Sussex  
BN1 2HJ

Tel: 01273 321395

**brighton  
Kite  
flyers**

## Further BKF Info...

**Membership:** Ray Oakhill (01273 306842)

**Festival:** Estelle Barton & Paul Thody (01273 676740)



# BRIGHTON KITE FESTIVAL

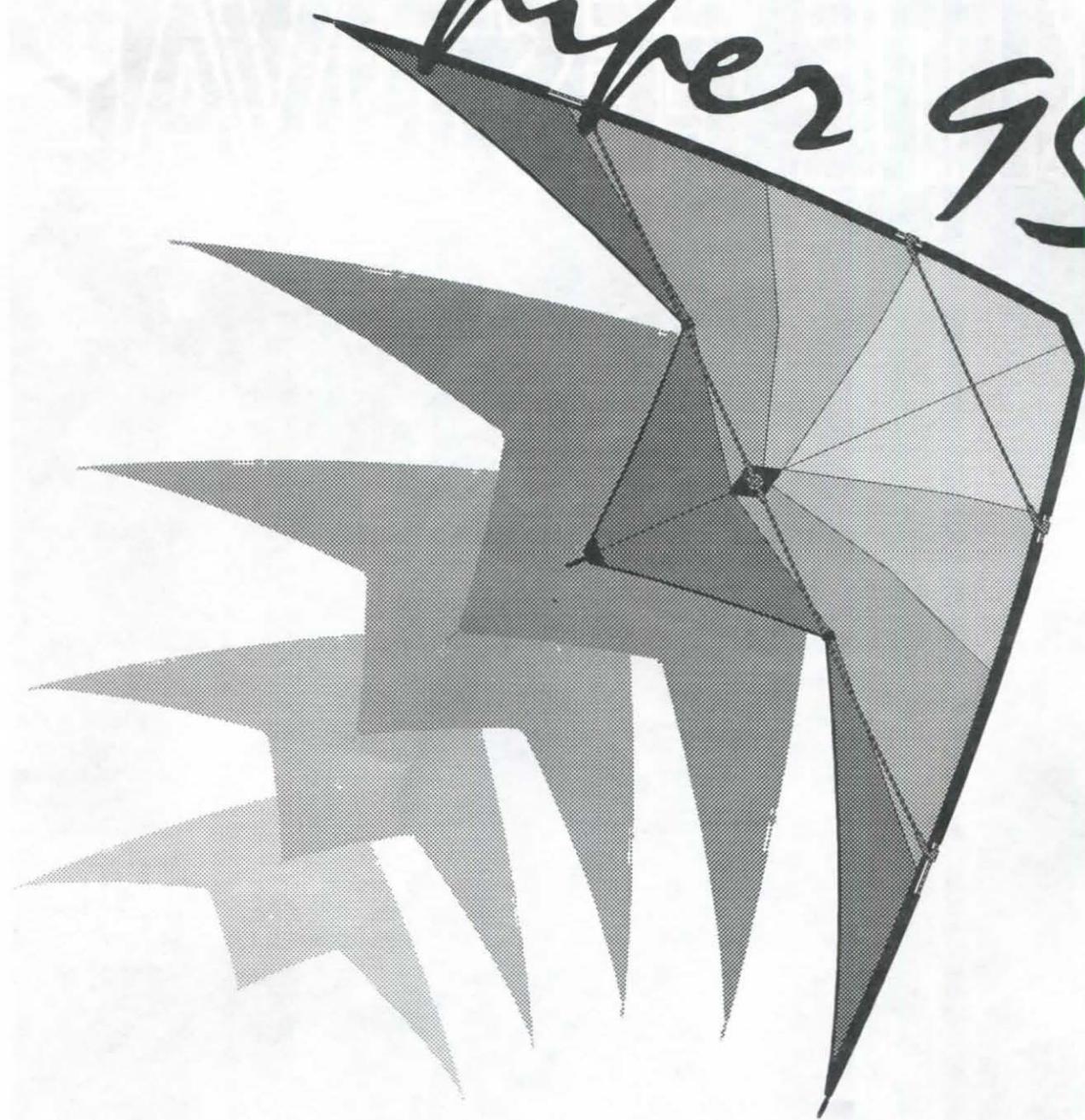
flyer foil

BRIGHTON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

brighton  
Kite  
flyer

STANMER PARK JULY 29th & 30th  
Saturday & Sunday 10am to 5.30pm  
Displays Kite Stalls Demonstrations Refreshments

# Sandpiper 95



**AIR BORN KITES**  
97 TRAFALGAR STREET  
BRIGHTON  
BN1 4ER  
TEL/FAX 01273 676740





# MKF Extra

## AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN... TO YOU ?

Whilst attending kiteflying events, large or small, local or national, I have seen incidents that make me shudder.

Everyone knows of the dog that loves to chase your kite as it flies through the air - but what of the dog that is hit when the kite comes down. Who is in the wrong? And what if a kite injures a child - your child?

At a major Festival we attended, dozens of the public were flying kites without any thought for the safety of others, it was unbelievable! At one stage one of our party (a four year old) was actually hit on the head. When the organiser was told of this he replied that the Festival was 'responsible for what went off in the arenas - but not what went off outside them!' It seems only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured by a kite and an attitude such as this event organiser's does not fill me with confidence that anything will be done to help prevent it happening.

Although we could all say that it is the responsibility of the event organiser to ensure the safety of all, at the end of the day it is our own responsibility to be a safe kiteflier.

And safety does not just apply at a festival or event, the same rules apply on your local park, on holiday, on the beach or elsewhere. Stunt kite fliers should take a look around before they set up. If someone else is going to be underneath the lines or kite as you fly is this a safe practice? It should not matter whether that person is another flier, an interested but uninformed member of the public or even the one who 'walks this same route every day - and you are not going to stop me'. Flying over someone else is a dangerous practise.

Some single line fliers like to think it is safe to stake out a kite and leave it unattended. Even by being 'nearby' may not be near enough to see it fall out of the sky and then manage to rescue it before it hits the ground or some unsuspecting member of the public. Single line kites can weigh a lot more than a stunt kite and can travel just as fast, causing an injury just as severe. The very worse scenario, of course, it staking out more than one kite and not supervising them correctly. Some clubs have adopted rules of 'not more than one kite to be flown at any one time.' No organisation likes rules and regulations but it may become necessary to do so if the need arises.

So, when you get your kite out should you ask yourself the following question -

**Am I really safe to fly my kite here?**

After all

**SAFE KITE FLYING IS HAPPY KITE FLYING**

# Safety

Never fly near pylons on a wet and windy day,  
Never fly near cables or a price you will have to pay.  
Never fly near pylons when you're flying high,  
'Cos if your kite hits a cable you'll end up Crisp 'n Dry!

Never fly near airports  
kite and lines all set,  
for you will create disaster if you hit a low flying jet.

Never fly in a public place or by a public path.  
For if you do some damage you will feel the public's wrath.

Never fly your kite near trees or you'll soon realise,  
that when you try to get it down  
It's a strenuous exercise.

Never fly kites near a road to distract a drivers view,  
'cos someone near just might get hurt,  
that someone could be you!

# Sculpting the sky

Sunday 23rd April 1995  
Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield  
Near Birmingham  
(Streetley Gate Entrance)

Due to cut-backs, and possible redundancies, Birmingham City Council are no longer funding this event.

So, The Midlands Kite Fliers will be putting on a smaller event with kite traders and food where there will be lots of space for flying kites.

The four spectacular kites made for The Midlands Kite Fliers by top American kite maker George Peters will be there.

Bring along your home-made artistic kites and enter the competition organised by Charlie Charlton of the Artistic Kite Group with prizes awarded on the day.

Car park charge of £1 will apply.

For more details contact Julie White on 01332 669203

A recent report from a medical journal

## **KITEOMANIA**

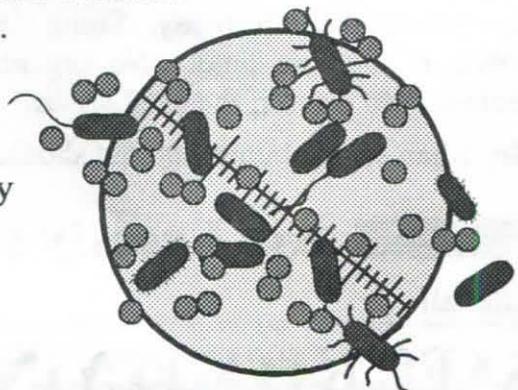
Kiteomania originated in the Far East and has since spread throughout the world. It is caused by the Virus known as Kite.bug.

The symptoms of the disease are an obsession to buy kites, buy books on kites, buying a sewing machine (Hello Jim!) and materials to make kites and to fraternize with others suffering with this terrible affliction. Recent outbreaks of kiteomania have been reported from Sutton Coldfield, Coventry and Stafford and has reached Epidemic proportions in Leicestershire.

Kite.bug has proved to be resistant to Vaccines, antibiotics and tranquillisers. It can however be relieved by a combination of hypnotherapy, heavy sedation and the amputation of both arms and legs.



Midlands Kite Fliers Medical Officer  
Julie White

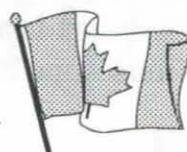


# William J Lester

reporting

from

## CANADA



I have lived in Canada for almost 14 years now and I work for John Deere tractors. I saw The Midlands Kite Fliers when they appeared at the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham and last year joined as a fully paid up member.

I am now a member of clubs in the UK (MKF), America (American Kitefliers Association) and one in the Netherlands (International Friends of Small Kites).

Of interest over here for 1995 is a planned attempt for the world kite altitude, both for single line kites and for a train of kites. The venue for this is Cowley, Alberta, a small town about 10 minutes drive out of Pincher Creek, about an hours drive from where I live in Claresholm, Alberta. The task is being taken on by Richard P Synergy of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. From what I understand the reason for choosing Cowley is two fold. One being the geology of the mountain ranges causing a wave effect in the wind up to a very high altitude. The second being that the Cowley Glider and Soaring Club already have a block of FAA cleared air for soaring without a ceiling limit in the wave. A friend of ours who is a member of this glider club set a world record for endurance not so long ago. After being towed to 3,000 feet he rode this wave to, if I remember correctly, 43,000 feet. Anyhow, I will keep you posted on this endeavour and get news updates to you as and when they become available.

I am now an official on the Children of the Wind committee. Children of the Wind is now a registered non-profit organisation and not just an inconvenience to the Pincher Creek Chamber of Commerce. With this new freedom we are all going to be working to raise funds for the next couple of years and hopefully really get this show off the ground. Its going to be a bit of work, but I'm hoping it'll pay off a few years down the road. Who knows, might even get Stafford Wallace to come with some of his dancing kites and give a demonstration and perhaps a few lessons.

So, until next time, fresh breezes, tight lines and eyes to the sky.

William J Lester Claresholm, Alberta, Canada

# ☺ The MKF smiley page ☺

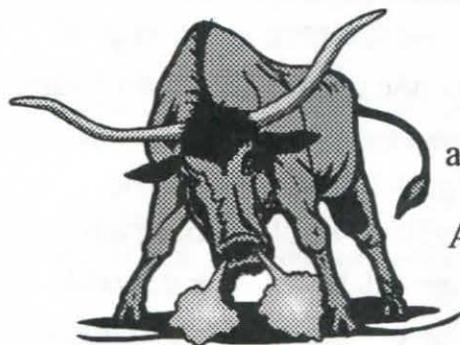
Now that the days are drawing out, and with it the chance of flying a kite or two after work, with all those sore hands and fingers from all that cutting and sewing of new kites The Midlands Kite Fliers hope to bring a smile to your face. So, here goes:-

## **A load of bull**

Having acquired our new club tee-shirts and sweatshirts I jokingly said to my friend Keith "I am not going near any bulls wearing these!"

"That's a fallacy" said Keith, "Bulls are colour blind, they only attack when something is waved in front of them".

But, I thought, as my ignorance of Red and Bulls was only exceeded by my ignorance of Bulls and Red, kites wave about, don't they? I am still giving myself the benefit of the doubt!



## **Imagine this picture**

Two men and their kites  
flying in a meadow,  
a big black bull, he saw red  
and now they are both dead-o.

At MKF we do our own thing  
with a kite, the wind  
and a long piece of string!

## **Superkite**

This is the tale of a Superkite.  
It flew on the wind with all its might,  
higher than the highest tower.  
To demonstrate its awesome power  
it terrified seagulls flying by  
as it drew pictures in the sky.  
It looped, it dived, it banked and soared  
as thro' the windy sky it roared.

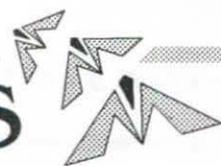


From side to side, and figure of eights  
it turned up its nose at the 'Pearly Gates'.

Birds in treetops sat on high  
watching and learning new ways to fly  
People came from miles around  
awed and amazed and on the ground  
'Is is a bird, a plane, a meterorite?'  
'Ho no, my friends, 'twas Superkite'.

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# MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS

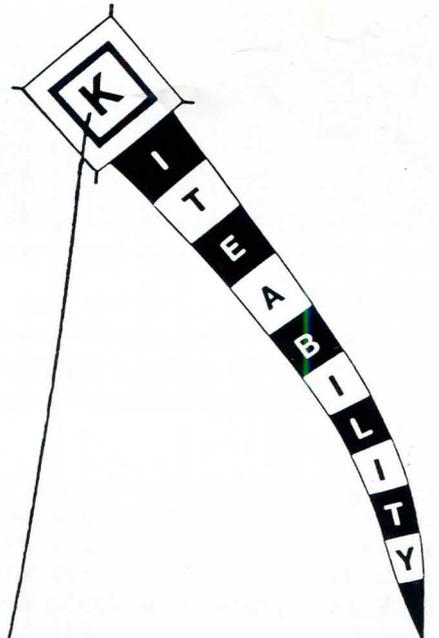


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4 Hermitage Court Oakwood Derby DE21 2LG Tel: 01332 669203

# KITEABILITY

## HANDMADE KITES AND KITE MATERIALS



The day was dark and dreary,  
the air was full of sleet,  
The old man stood by the garden gate,  
and his boots were full of feet.

"Since I retired" he said to me,  
"Life hasn't been too sweet,  
Her indoors just shouts at me,  
"Get out from under my feet".

"So," I said to him "come with me,  
Lets make a kite today,  
Then we can go down to the park,  
And play, and play, and play".

Kite making is now his favourite sport,  
The bits from Pat and Ron he bought,  
and her indoors now does complain,  
"Suppose your flying your  Kites again!".

He don't care, he's as happy as Larry,  
Its just him and his friend Barry,  
And when his kites get stuck in a tree,  
He'll get more spares from **KITEABILITY**.

\*\*Don't forget we are still looking  
for animal or insect kite photo's  
for possible inclusion in Scott  
Hamptons next print\*\*



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

Proprietor : Mrs. P. Dell

+ FAX

# The Kite Buyer

Newsletter of the Kite Store of London, England

Issue 3

April 1995

So, trends for 95- cheaper versions of last year's products, self-published books, more magazines and close downs.

The problem with kite books is that they have a limited appeal in the mass market and when you have a really specialised subject, such as stunt kites, then main stream publishers tend not to be interested. Hence self published books on stunt kites, how to, where to etc.

At present there are three intro books on the subject- "Kaptain Kite's Stunt Pilot Flying Course" by Simon Bargery, "Sport Kite Information" by Manfred Kluge and "Highflyers Stunt Kite Flying Manual" by Fred Prior. The first two you have to pay money for, the last is currently being included free with some of Highflyers larger swept wing kites, although you can buy it separately from Just Kites.

KK Stunt Pilot Flying Course is basic and adequate. Sport Kite Information is better both in layout and contents, but the HFSK Flying manual puts both to shame for completeness (although the print/typesetting quality does your eyes in) and information contained.

Apart from American Kite, KiteLines, Drachen and this mag did you know there are (at least) four other glossy, professionally produced kite mags available in Europe- Cerf Volant Passion (Fr), Cerfs Volants (Fr), Sport und Design Drachen (D) and Aquiloni (It). Although we don't sell any of them we do have info regarding subscriptions/ contact addresses for them. My favorite is Cerfs Volants which has a delightfully gossipy approach to reporting. Sport und Design Drachen is a traditional hobby style magazine with plans etc and less festival reportage- the other two are of the glossy kite festival photo variety. If you drop by our emporium of things kiting and fancy perusing any of these mags do ask the upstairs staff to go find the latest copies (but you can't keep them cos they're mine).

The biggest trend seen so far this year is cut-throat, all out, stunt kite price wars. All right, so it's not quite that bad, yet, but there have been many a reworking of last year's designs to yield what is outwardly the same kite, but corners have been cut, materials substituted and a cheaper (but invariably good value) product produced. The only problem with this is that if someone goes to buy a certain kite based on a recommendation given about last year's (higher spec) kite what they come

away with isn't the same kite and won't fly the same. Sigh. Oh the joys of retailing kites for a living. Guess who catches the S\*\*t every time and guess who has to try and keep up with the spare part problems created by this continual chase for more market share by cheaper price (I estimate our spare part inventory at about ..... a lot).

You know the way ripstop fades and loses strength in sunlight, well, apparently, there is a simple solution to this problem. Research has shown that the loss of strength is due to the chemical change in the dye when it is bleached by sunlight affecting the underlying fibre. So, if you use a fabric that has much less dye in it to start off with, you lose far less strength during sunlight exposure. The problem is where to get such suitably lightly dyed fabric. However, this is not a huge problem- during ripstop manufacture fairly large amounts of "faded" fabric are produced when changing colour baths (the fabric changes from the full colour thru to white). This fabric is normally sold off as "fades" and can be recognised by its pastel shades and slow change of colour as you move along the roll. This low dye content fabric fulfills the requirement for sunlight resistance and I suppose this means that all this years Summer kites are going to be pastel shades- well, it'll be less painful that the previous fluorescent colours!

By the time you read this we'll be starting our 20th year of trading (!! ) and during this time we've seen many other businesses come and go. At present we seem to be in a period when businesses are going (four so far this year), but according to the Kite Society's 1995 shop/van traders/front room book there are still about 75 others to choose from so you aren't going to be deprived of your (2nd) favorite pastime yet.

New products- Flexifoil International have introduced a cheaper, more durable version of their Ultraflex spar for 8ft and 10ft models. The original Ultraflex spar, although excellent for light winds, was not terribly durable if mis-used and expensive- the new ones, whilst not quite as high performance, are much stronger and about 1/3 of the price. Straps- we have flying straps in all sizes from Finger thru to Round your Back available for stunt kites.

This is the April advert. We believe in All Fools Day. One (or more ) of the preceding items may be codswallop, but all the rest are quite real. "Ha Ha Ha - gotcha" as Mr Hell would say.

The Kite Store Ltd, 48 Neal Street, London WC2H 9PA

Tel; 0171 836 1666

Fax; 0171 836 2510