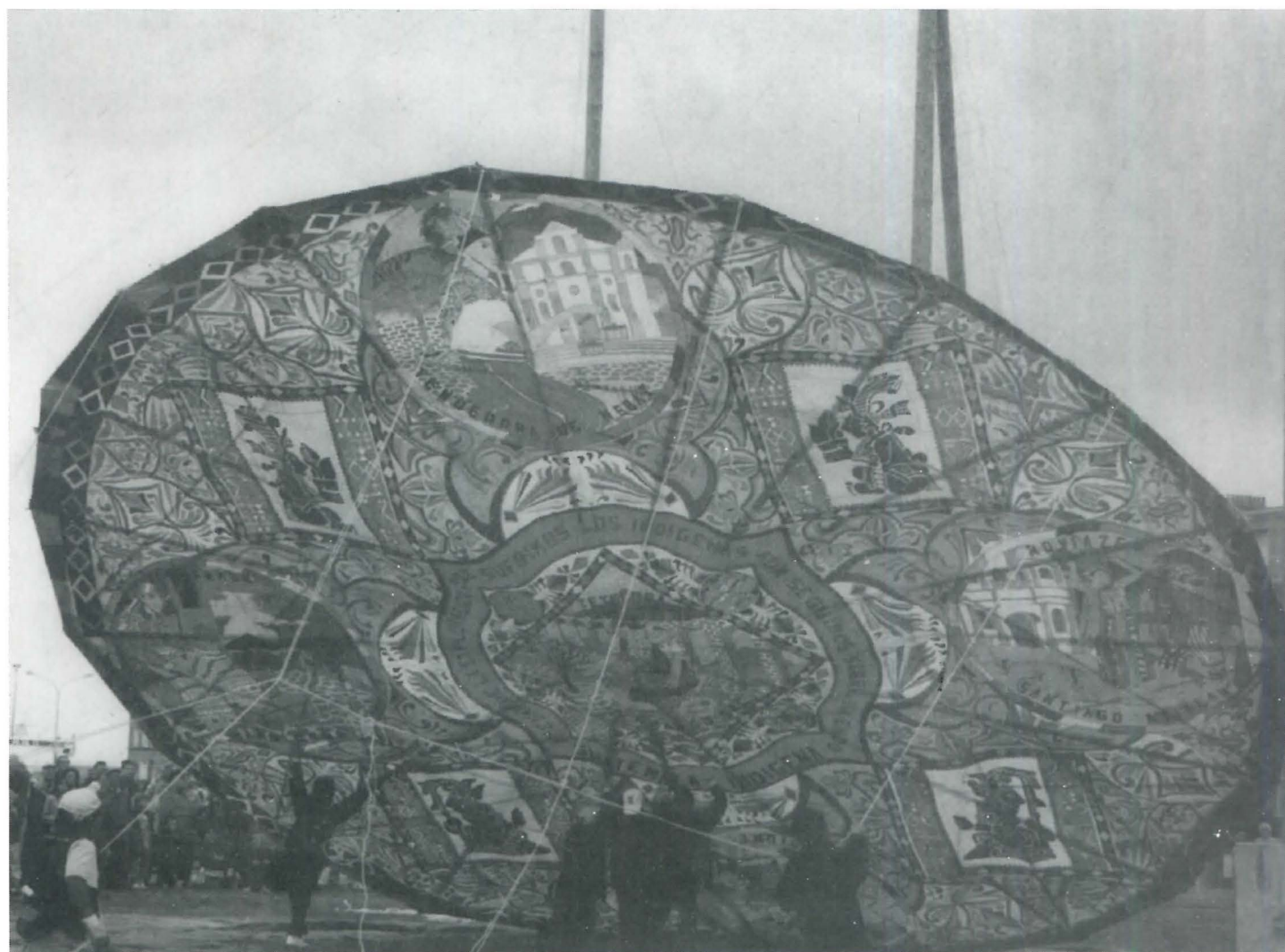


THE KITEFLIER

Issue 85

October 2000

Price £1.90



**NEWSLETTER
OF
THE KITE SOCIETY OF GREAT
BRITAIN**

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In this issue:

- ⌚ Kite Altitude Record Broken.
- ⌚ News about the Kenny Knight Fund
- ⌚ Start booking those trips for the 2001 kite events
- ⌚ Interesting Web Sites



The Kite Society of Great Britain
P. O. Box 2274
Gt Horkesley
Colchester
Essex
CO6 4AY

Tel/Fax: 01206 271489
Email: kites@thekitesociety.org.uk
<http://www.thekitesociety.org.uk>

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Editorial

Dear Readers

After seven years (yes 7!) we have purchased a new computer (don't worry it did not cost the Kite Society a penny! - we bought it ourselves). So hopefully you will enjoy the new look magazine. Of course it would be nice if people could send us articles and plans to help fill it! (Many thanks to those of you who continue to send us items for publication). Because of this we can accept articles in almost any format—or even handwritten is still acceptable!

You may also notice that we have a new email and web address. (We hope that the person who has the other obvious possible web addresses that we could have used, enjoys the use of them and it is not who you may think!).

The web pages should be updated more regularly and we will be working on the pages to expand the range of content. Among the things we are planning are to add some of the pages of past issues of

The Kiteflier and reproduce some of the kite plans that have been published. We would welcome input from our readers, what would you like to see there?

Convention. After an absence of 3 years we are currently planning to hold a convention, in conjunction with the kite festival at Weymouth. The convention will be held on the Saturday preceding the festival (which is Sunday and Monday). There will be a series of lectures and workshops and we would welcome your input about the range of topics to be covered. Plus if there are any people willing to give a talk then please let us know.

We wish all our members a Happy Christmas and we will see you somewhere in the new year.

Copy date for the next issue is December 15th for the January 2001 issue.

Gill and Jon Bloom

Back Issues

Issues from 1997 to the present are available. All are 50p per issue including postage. Send payment and requirements to the above address.

Front Cover Photo

Raising a Guatemalan Sumpango kite at Dieppe. Photo: Gill Bloom

Whilst every effort is taken to get the details correct The Kite Society cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions that occur. Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editors or The Kite Society.

Did you know?

The recognised arbiter for Kite world records is Kitelines magazine published in the U.S.A. In the Spring 1999 issue of Kitelines there was some controversy regarding the recognised record — 12,471ft by Clayton and Sweetland at the Bluehill Weather Station, Milton, Massachusetts on February 28th 1898.

In summary, Val Govig (editor of Kitelines) says that the single kite altitude mark of 12,471ft *may* have been for a *train* of kites, but confirmation of this is awaiting access to the archives of the Bluehill Observatory.

The single kite effort altitude of 12,507ft, established at the observatory in 1898 and quoted by *Nature* in 1899 and again by Ben Balsley in 1998 *may* have been incorrect as well. The only substantiated record is the 10,112ft set by Ben Balsley in Newfoundland 1995.

As Richard Synergy has broken all disputed records the arguments are of historic interest only.

A Delta Did It! - New Altitude Record

Report by Richard Synergy
Photos courtesy of the author
This report written August 20, 2000

On Saturday, August 12, 2000, at 17:44 EDT, a high tech delta, having 270 square feet of nylon kite skin, measuring 30 feet from wing tip to wing tip, and 18 feet tall, sporting hollow fibreglass spars 1.5 inches in diameter, flying on 270 pound woven Kevlar line 3/32 inch in diameter, flew from a flying field in Kincardine, Ontario, 860 feet above sea level, N44 degrees, 13 minutes and 08 seconds/ W81 degrees, 31 minutes, 41.2 seconds, to a height not less than 13,600 feet above sea level, (altitude exact to several feet still being calculated) thereby establishing a new world record for altitude of a single kite on a single string. (previous record 12,471 feet set in 1896)



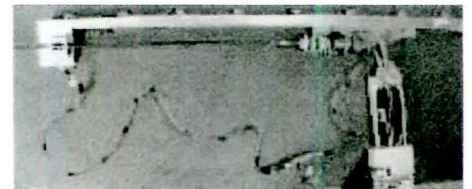
The flight lasted from about 12:00 (noon), until 21:10 in the evening. The winds of the day reported by Dave Hudak of Environment Canada at 13:30 EDT were....

Ground:..... 360 degrees, 6 to 10 kts
3000 feet..... 070 degrees, 11 kts
6000 feet..... 070 degrees, 16 kts
9000 feet..... 060 degrees, 12 kts
12000 feet..... 050 degrees, 26 kts

18000 feet..... 040 degrees, 35 kts

It was also reported that these winds would drop as the day progressed, and that is what we experienced.

The ground crew of the day was made up of seasoned engineers, recreational pilots, and ham radio operators. Their ability to solve unanticipated problems with the tools and materials at hand, contributed greatly to the success of this record attempt. My sincere thanks to all of you. This list includes: David Little and Carol Little (Carol runs the Kincardine Airport. She made sure that any aircraft straying into our part of the sky were contacted and moved out.); Gary Janssen, a high altitude kite flier from Pennsylvania; Michael Cannell, freelance journalist from "Outside" magazine; Michael Hartwick; Gordon Moogk; Hans Dornbusch; Donald Matheson; Michael Dunn; William Spehr. David Hudak our meteorologist remained trapped in Toronto with meetings but did phone us the weather and weather updates throughout the day.



The day was full of mishaps. Trouble started days before when I could not make the time to finish the angle of attack adjustment device. All I could do was transport the parts to Kincardine and hope that I could find the time, once there, to hang the thing together. As it turned out, Hans, Dornbusch and Don Matheson,

A Delta Did It! - New Altitude Record

two radio Hams from the area, helped me with the schematic and Gary Janssen worked with me until 11:30 Friday night, wiring, rigging and testing the device. By using this "Rube Goldberg" special, we could confidently set the angle of attack of the kite to maximum, knowing that if the wind caused a pull of greater than 100 pounds the device would gradually lower the nose of the kite limiting the lift to 100 pounds. The 10 pound gizmo, though crude looking, worked satisfactorily.



The hardships of the trail included a TV down link that decided to pack it in about 3 days before I left for Kincardine. Unfortunately there was no one with the time and the correct electronic tools in Kincardine to repair the down link before flight time. Because of this we were unable to watch the altimeters spin round and round as the kite ascended. It would have been a thrill to actually see the old record fall. However, some concessions have to be made to "Murphy" and better he enjoy messing up the down link than utterly ruining the attempt. The second trauma of the day was arriving at our standard kite flying field, to find the field still 3 feet high in wheat. It took us an hour of driving to adjacent farms

to find a farmer with a harvested field who would let us use it for such a crazy thing as kite flying. Ken Craig just happened to have a field that was oriented North and South and in which the wheat had been cut. Thanks to Ken we had the perfect field, 2000 feet long in which to fly.

After taking almost 4 hours to get everything ready to go, the ground crew hauled the kite down-field, (almost out of sight) and called on the radio that they were ready. The winch took up line the ground crew ran until they were exhausted, but the kite would not take off. Bad luck. We were in a serious lull. There was nothing to do but haul the kite back to the end of the field and try again. This time the ground crew waited until they could feel wind on their faces before radioing to start the winch. This time the kite lifted out of their hands after about 60 feet of hard running. All in all, trying to get the kite airborne took 40 minutes.



As soon as the kite became airborne we checked the line payout meter only to discover that it was not working. Why it failed we do not know. It worked well in the past. This device is basically a bicycle speedometer calibrated to twice the diameter of the line payout capstan (it could not be set to 12 inches in diameter, the capstan's actual diameter). The loss of this meter very much lim-

Project KARA

This was a British Kite Altitude Record Attempt (hence KARA) for a train of kites. Performed by the Midlands Kite Fliers between the 29th March and 8th April 1980.

Carried out at Ynyslas Beach, Borth, Wales the project aimed at an altitude of at least 30,000 but did not reach a third of this height. A variety of kite trains were used during this period — Sleds, Deltas, Modified Eddys and Conynes.

Possible reasons put forward for the failure of the attempt were the choice of site, unusual weather conditions, kite train composition and line drag.

None of these reasons explained why the kite train seemed to reach a limit in height which was then maintained no matter what length of line was fed out. In theory there should have always been a component of lift available to raise the train — a mystery. For example the train of Conynes reached a height of approximately 8,000ft but with 7½ miles of line out!



"Climb you swine—Climb!"

Project Briseatow

Greg Locke made an attempt on the world record for the distance travelled by a boat pulled by a kite on July 17th 1982. Previous contenders for the record were Samuel Cody, who crossed the English Channel in 1903 using a train of his Cody kites; Keith Stewart, in 1977, who re-enacted Cody's crossing using a train of Deltas; Bernard Stewart of Canada crossing the strait of Juan de Fuca in 1979 covering 23 miles.

Greg decided to use a Greens Stratoscoop 4 (2.7m by 2.3m) towing an 18ft catamaran.

The first attempt failed, managing only 9 miles, the second attempt also failed. The third attempt succeeded with a distance of 25.56 miles. This was calculated on a straight line between the start and end points. However, the actual distance travelled was further.

Greg Locke was also part of a group who took the British record for Kite Flying Endurance when in 1981 members flew a kite for 108 hrs and 46 minutes.

SUN 

MUM Julie Open, 30, flew 20 kites simultaneously for 3min 21sec to break the world record of 18 she set last year in Taunton, Somerset.

SPOT 

The Sun's Point of View!

A Delta Did It! - New Altitude Record

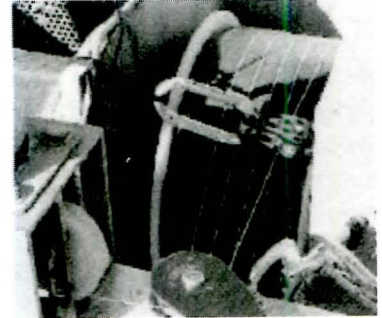
ited the amount and quality of the data we might otherwise have gathered from the flight.

From take off until about 15:30 we battled to keep the kite aloft. The wind under 4000 feet came and went and never amounted to much. Thank goodness for abundant thermals. About every 30 minutes a thermal would lift the kite high before passing down wind. Then for the next 30 minutes we would reel in line only fast enough to keep the kite aloft. It took 4 thermals to get the kite up to cloud base. There were very few clouds and the clouds were just small puffs. Yet we enjoyed the sight of watching the kite pass into one of these small puffs and then emerge from the other side 30 seconds later. About that time the kite caught a steady wind of less than 10 mph. I say this because the pull on the line was less than 20 pounds. It takes 30 pounds to pull line off the winch. I had to push line into the sky by running the winch in reverse. We pushed line for more than an hour.

The meteorology of the day was instructive. No sooner was the kite aloft in the southern sky, than it began to move off toward the western sky. My guess is that it was trapped in the wind that flows back out to Lake Huron. (Lake Huron was only one mile away). It remained in the western and south western sky until about 6000 feet when bit by bit it moved toward the southern sky. Guessing again I would say that until the kite was above 10,000 feet, it had some component of south west to its orientation.

Somewhere between 14:00 and 16:00 we had some excitement. Sixty feet directly ahead of the

winch we had strung 4 strands of 1/2 inch thick bungee cord at right angles to the kite line and fastened it to steel stakes driven deep into the ground. Mountain



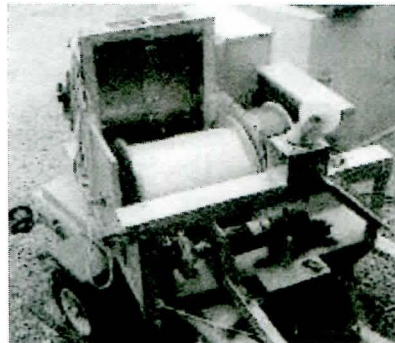
climbing "O" links were snapped on the bungee cord and a pulley was snapped to the "O" links. The kite line was passed through the pulley. The point of this was to provide a shock absorber for any gusts that might suddenly hammer the kite line. The bungee cords remained horizontal most of the time, for there was no tension to speak of on the line. However, in one instance the bungee did pull up to a position of about 6 feet off the ground and this must have undone the knots that we used to tie it to the stakes. As the bungee cord came undone, two or three of the ground crew dashed to grab it before it was carried into the sky. We retied it to the stakes with an abundance of knots just to make sure it stay tied. We had no more problems with knots coming undone. As the flight progressed the shock absorber soaked up any changes of tension in the line. It also told us that the wind all the way to a record altitude was a smooth as wind tunnel wind. Only very rarely did it bounce up and down, and then only with grace and gradualness. The first pulley we used on the bungee stopped rotating after a while forcing us to replace it. The replacement pulley worked flawlessly.

A Delta Did It! - New Altitude Record

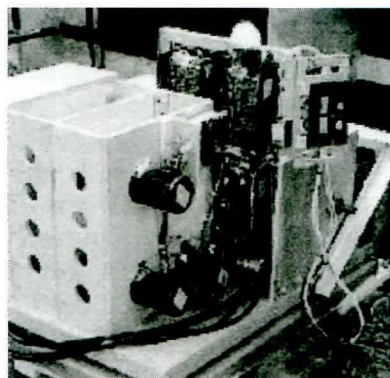
As with all previous flights we sent a 2 meter radio beacon aloft on the kite, and we hung a strobe light from the kite's nose. The radio beacon could be picked up from 50 miles away. In the event we had broken a line this beacon would have enabled us to track the kite as it descended and very probably locate the kite and altimeters.

At about 17:20 we discovered that the Kevlar line coming from the capstan had cut deeply into one of the nylon pulleys that fed line to and from the capstan. This pulley bears the full pull of the kite which by this time was nearly 100 pounds. This was the one time "Murphy" nearly stopped us cold. We walked out well ahead of the winch with two long fibreglass poles and somehow tweaked the line around the poles. Then we twisted the poles at right angle to the line and took up the strain. Five members of the ground crew (Gord Moogk, David Little, Gary Janssen, Michael Hartwick and Michael Cannell) nearly exhausted themselves bucking the 100 pounds of pull for 34 minutes while we drilled, pried and cut the offending pulley off the winch and replaced it with a stronger pulley. To the humour of it, these five men are able to claim that in all recorded history they are the only men who have ever flown a kite by hand for 34 minutes at well over 13000 feet. The kite reached the record altitude during their struggle.

At about 18:00 we discovered that we could see air through the line storage spool. My guess is that of the 24,000 feet of line on that reel all but a few thousand feet was paid out by this time. As it was late in the day, and as we had agreed with Navigation Can-



ada to be down by 22:00 when we filed our NOTAM, we began to haul in line. All went well for the first couple thousand of feet. Then the line started to chatter on the take up reel. The chattering was so bad it grooved the surface of the hard plastic capstan. In due course we solved the problem by increasing the tension of the line storage spool. The line storage spool tails the capstan. The grooving was such that we needed to install an extra pulley to guide the line on to an unspoiled section of the capstan. For me this was the scariest part of the experience. I had fears of having to fly the kite through the night until the wind dropped enough to bring it in. Not so much bad design, but not using the full capabilities of the winch for lack of experience using the winch. I know better now.



We hauled in line at about 2 feet a second which amounts to about 7000 feet an hour. It took forever

New Kite Group?

I am a Kite Society member who lives in West Norfolk where we have good winds and a big sky. Kites are often to be seen over many of our beaches [albeit mainly in the tourist season] and I recently witnessed some terrific Kite surfing, there is even the occasional buggyist[?].

The Hunstanton Kite & Country Fair is now established on the calendar, mainly through the good work of Brian Cattle.

At the recent event on 10th Sept. I attracted some interest by suggesting forming a local kite group for regular fly-ins, as our nearest groups are Thorpe Flyers, Norwich or Great Ouse Flyers, Peterborough, both 50 miles away and with increasing fuels costs etc. it's a long way to go especially as we have such good facilities here!

Could I make a request for any readers in the West or North Norfolk area who might be interested in a local area fly-in to contact me on 01485 570414 or at b.r.faulkner@btinternet.com

Thanks
Brian Faulkner

Charlie Brown

From "Peanuts: A Golden Celebration". Published by Harper and Collins ISBN 0-00-710512-6.

This book celebrates the 50th anniversary of Charlie Brown and the Gang. There are over 1000 comic strips many of which include kites and anecdotal remarks by Charles Schulz—amongst them is the following:

"I have never been a very successful kiteflier, and have used the excuse that I never lived where there are good areas to fly them. When I was growing up, we always lived in residential neighbourhoods which had too many trees and too many telephone wires. Recollection of these handicaps inspired Charlie Brown's troubles with kite flying. As I grew older and tried to fly kites for my own children, I discovered that I still had the same problems.

"I observed that when a kite becomes caught in a tall tree it is irretrievable and gradually disappears over a period of several weeks. No obviously the kite had to go someplace, so it seemed to me that the tree must be eating it. This is how the series developed about Charlie Brown's violent battles with his local kite eating tree."

A Delta Did It! - New Altitude Record

for the kite to get larger. Those who had been tracking the kite could see it clearly. There were many times when I would go for 30 minutes without being able to visually locate it in the sky.

When we finally got below 3000 feet there was no wind and only the winch kept the kite flying. Occasionally the kite would take off like a hang glider heading for parts unknown. Then I would speed up the winch and get the line pulling again. At about 300 feet I lost total control of the kite. It was gliding down faster than I could pull in line. Gary and other members of the ground crew spread out across the field to try and catch the kite as it glided it. The kite landed within 300 feet of where it took off. I immediately checked the angle of attack adjustment device and discovered that it had only tipped the nose of the kite down slightly. This indicated the pull on the line at the kite had exceeded 100 pounds for only a second or three.

It took about an hour and a half working in bad light, and then no light, to stow all the gear and get ready to head over to the Kincardine airport for coffee and look at the altimeters. When Dave and Gary who had set up the altimeters set them to read out, they discovered that they had been thwarted by the Japanese instructions and had never succeeded in locking the altimeters in the recording mode. Therefore the only data recorded and displayed was the maximum altitude. Altimeter "A" read 14,580 feet. Altimeter "B" read 14,720.

The height of the flying field as taken from the topo map was 860 feet. Then there were the calibration curves for the altimeters. Al-

timeter "A" reads 120 feet high at 10,000 feet and 200 feet high at 15,000 feet. Altimeter "B" reads 40 feet high at 10,000 feet and 80 feet high at 15,000 feet. In addition to this there are compensations for temperature and humidity but these adjustments will not change the final figures very much. The altimeters are in the process of being re-certified so we know that the error in their reading is the same after the flight as before.

In retrospect the conditions were as ideal as possible. Very little wind down low meant very little line drag down low. Good wind aloft meant good kite lift. Bright blue sky, very few clouds. The line coming off the bungee pulley rarely dropped below 35 degrees..... and often was 45 degrees or higher. We surmounted all problems and only lost systems that were not critical to the success of the attempt. We did not break the line and the kite was as good as new upon landing. The teamwork bonded us together and our success provides stories for years to come.

At this point I surely hope that I can attract interest from Meteorologists and Environmentalists for the purpose of doing genuine and much needed scientific research.

The above article has been reproduced with permission from KiteLife Magazine—the online Kite magazine.

KiteLife magazine

www.kitelife.com

The Kenny Knight Fund

Portsmouth Kite Festival Auction
26th August 2000

To let you know that the Portsmouth auction was a big, not big, but huge success. The two Auctioneers, Andy King and George Webster did a wonderful job and to all who helped on the night, a very big thank you.

On Friday when we arrived at Portsmouth we had about 12 or so items for the auction, on Saturday at the time of the auction thanks to your generosity, and to the guest flyers at the event, we had a staggering 85 items, and the auction went on almost for ever.

We cannot thank you enough for your generosity in giving and also in buying, we think everybody went away with some fine items at good prices. Four Pots of Plum jam Ian?? Well we did have a few non-kite items. The total including some cash donations was £1,844.14p... Gosh...

A full list of the items and the prices each item made will be available. If you require one, send us an e-mail to:- patnron@compuserve.com or a

stamped address envelope and we will send a copy to you.

We will keep the fund going till the end of October, just in case anyone wishes to send a donation to us. When we will make an arrangement to see Kenny to wish him well and due to your generosity, hand over a sizeable cheque.

We will let you all know the final total in the new year Kiteflier

As before, all cheques to be made to the Ken Knight Fund and sent to :- Kiteability 2 Garfield Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 4RP

Bless you all, and have a good Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Pat and Ron Dell Kiteability. Fund Managers

For those who do not know, Kenny lost his home and most of his possessions in a fire earlier this year whilst in South Africa at a kite workshop for underprivileged youngsters. See the website thanks to Dicky Nourse:- www.kennyskites.fsnet.co.uk

Pat and Ron Dell

Force Nine Kites Press Release

Force Nine Kites would like to express our thanks to all of our friends and customers who supported us at the events at which we traded this season.

Unfortunately following whinging by a few other kite traders we were not permitted to trade at both the Lytham St Annes and Southampton Kite Festivals this year. This also occurred last season with the East London Kite Festival at Hackney and resulted in our exclusion from the festival yet again this year. Following these events we received numerous calls from friends and customers expressing their disagreement with these decisions.

Throughout our 11 years in the kite trade our policy has always been to offer YOU the kite flyer the very keenest prices and a very wide choice of kites from around the world, it seems that this policy is the cause of unrest amongst these traders in question.

At the end of the day we all have the same opportunity to source prod-

ucts worldwide, the fact that certain traders simply do not do this or are looking to form price fixing cartels (a totally illegal practise) at festivals is most definitely not in the best interests of YOU the kite flyer.

So insist on a free trading policy at YOUR kite festival next year, book Force Nine for your event and give the public what they want !!

Your comments are welcome on sales@fnk.co.uk

Merry Christmas and a great New Year to all our customers and good friends !!

P.S. All of you kitesurfers and buggy pilots look out for our brand new web sites at www.kitesurfing.co.uk, www.kitebuggies.co.uk and for the power kite addicts www.powerkites.co.uk for some great offers!

We cannot comment upon the validity of the statements given. Comments anybody?

The Zammo Kite

In reply to Julie White's request for information on the Zammo kite. Bill Longley writes:

Two books I have give information:

Ron Moulton, Kites, 1978 p. 85 and fig. 68, p. 87:-

Ambrose Lloyd. Kite enthusiasts sometimes take the opportunity of turning their hobby into business and Ambrose Lloyd of London has specialised in the sled type. He designed the kite for the British Standards Institution's 1974 schools competition and a similar design of his is produced by Condor.

Zammo; a flexible polythene patterned sled kite with 2 bamboo spars. It is inexpensive and easy to fly in all winds. It has a 36 x 17 ins (91 x 43 cm) centre panel with triple hole vents (fig. 68)

Fig. 68 is labelled Sled and shows three circular vents in triangular formation (one below, two above) in the lower half; it bears the BSI logo.

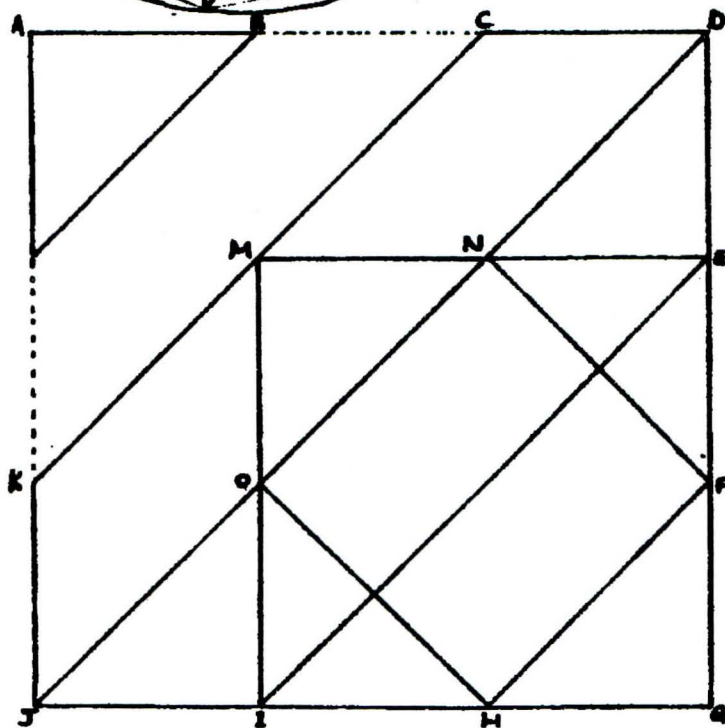
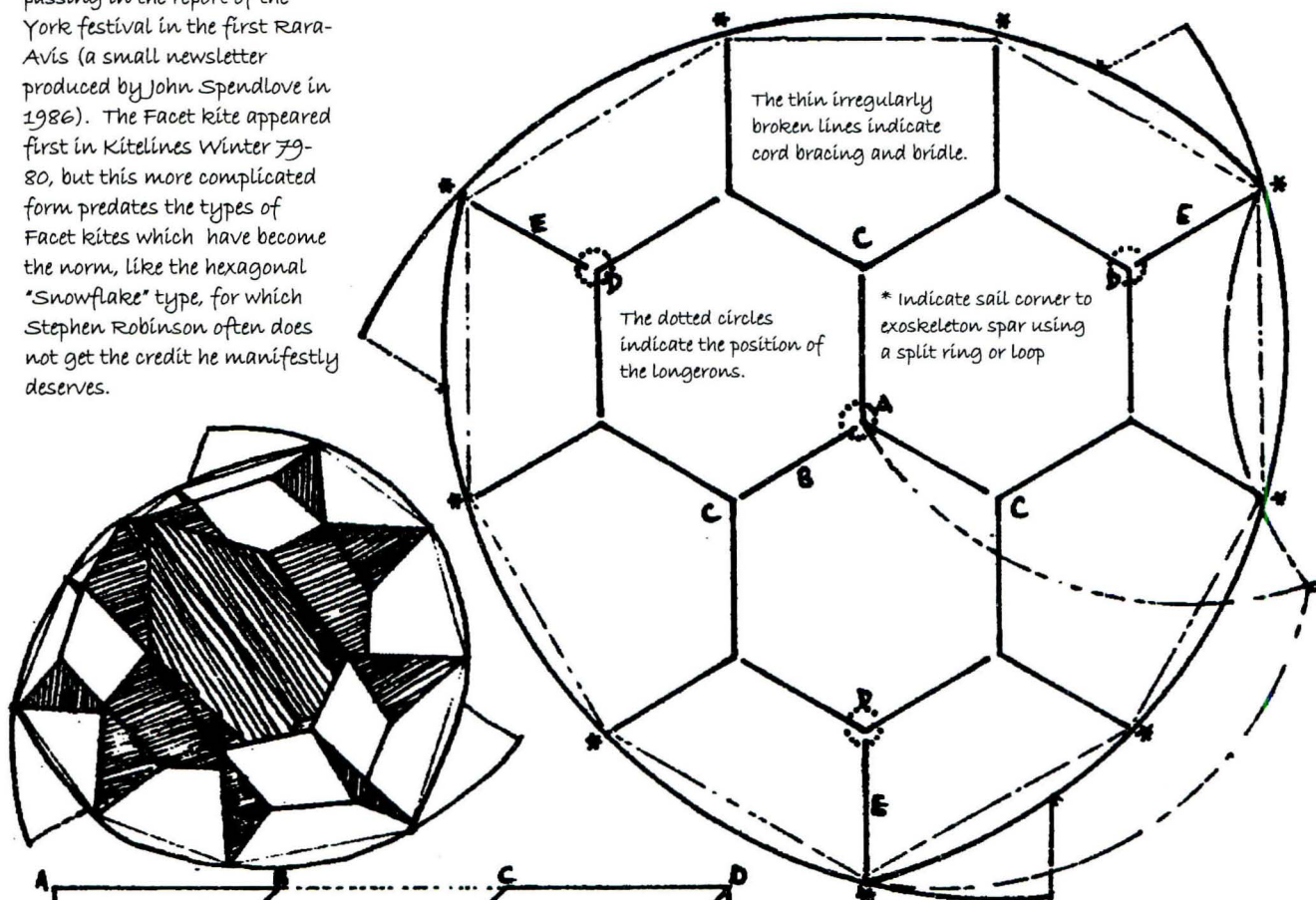
Ambrose Lloyd and Nicolette Thomas. Kites and kite flying. 1978:-

photo, p. 69: kite in flight with 3 small boys (full page) caption: A polythene two-stick vented semi-flexible sled kite by Airsay Kites of London. p. 83: Making an Allison/Scott sled kite (instructions for making one rather similar to the above)

Bill Longley
Essex Kite Group

The Honeycomb Facet Kite by Stephen Robinson
Interpreted by John Spendlove

This design was mentioned in passing in the report of the York festival in the first Rara-Avis (a small newsletter produced by John Spendlove in 1986). The Facet kite appeared first in Kitefliers Winter 79-80, but this more complicated form predates the types of Facet kites which have become the norm, like the hexagonal "snowflake" type, for which Stephen Robinson often does not get the credit he manifestly deserves.



The complete sail is made from 11 pieces. Compare the front view, above, with the diagram on the left. The components are:

Panel A (above)	= CDEIJK (Left):	1 piece
Panel B (above)	= DEJ (Left):	1 piece
Panels C (above)	= MEQI (Left):	3 pieces
Panels D (above)	= MFHO (Left):	3 pieces
Panels E (above)	= ABL (Left):	3 pieces.

These panels result from dividing up a square of 3x3 units.

Note that this makes no allowance for hems or sleeves

Spars: There are four longerons: At point A on the front view is the main mast and three shorter spars are at the three points marked D. These may all be of dowelling. The exoskeleton is made up of three pieces, joined with flexible plastic tubing, and these should be of GRP, as they are curved. The free end of each is tied to the next section.

Bridle: Three point, from one end of the mast and two of the exoskeleton joins. Front leg 2.5 units, rear legs 3.5 units (same unit size as square).

S.F.CODY

Jean Roberts, who now lives in one of Cody's old houses and is one of the experts on things related to Cody has recently completed a S.F.Cody Web Site and would value any suggestions and comments. The address is:

<http://www.sfcody.org.uk>

The site has lots of goodies relating to Cody's kite activities but also covers balloons, theatre and aircraft activities. There are quite a few photos that we have not seen before but it is not clear where these were taken—for ex-



Interesting Web Sites

aeolian A good site for festival reports and buggying stuff. www.aeolian.co.uk.



The British Kite Surfing Association. A good site for surfing with information about where to surf, training schools etc.

The BKSA has over 1,000 registered members and Kitesurfing.org has received over 30,000 visits to receive Free information about basic safety and where to get advice on kitesurfing. Information about the **Isle-of-Wight - Wind Air 2000 - 27th, 28th & 29th October 2000** - WIPIKA KITESURF expression session. Venue—Yaverland Bay, Comp-ton. More details at:

www.kitesurfing.org.



The British Buggy Club. A good site listing places to buggy, training schools and insurance cover is also

available.

www.buggy.demon.co.uk

An alternative site for buggys is pka.mariner.co.uk site for the Parakart Association. Included amongst other yacht type things includes more site to buggy, more training schools and insurance.



S.T.A.C.K. (Sport Team and Competitive Kiting). Site for those into sports kite flying. Events list,

courses available and local contacts.

www.netspaces.com/stack



A really good collection of archival material—especially books from the 1800s onwards. A photocopy service is available on request. www.drachen.org.

Kite Lines Bookstore

The Kitelines Book Store strive to carry ALL kite titles available anywhere around the world.

<http://www.kiteline.com/kitelines/store/enter.html>

New or Relocated Sites

Raindrop.

www.raindropkites.co.uk

An extensive catalogue of appliquéd single line kites.

Kiteability.

www.kiteability.co.uk

The Kite Society

www.thekitesociety.org.uk

Natural Heights

www.travelmatters.co.uk/naturalheights

kHiTe—at www.khite.co.uk. Particularly good for sport kite reviews with up to date information on most of the current models.

If you are into single line Delta kites then this is the site for you.

An excellent

site with more than you may want to know about these high flying kites. Also an interesting section on kites being used for Falconry. www.deltakites.com.

A site that was extremely useful for compiling this information was Andrew Beattie's www.kitez.com with over 1000 links.

Kite Collection

Mrs Symons has written to us to ask if we could find someone who would like to have all her husbands kites. These will be free but must be collected from Barnstaple, North Devon.

Mr Symons has not been flying for a few years and is waiting for a hip replacement. He has now decided it is time to give them all away as he cannot bring himself to put them on a bonfire. Kites, reels, spars etc.

If you are interested in taking up this offer then please contact The Kite Society and we will pass your details on.

Free Private Ads

Do you want to clear out your kite bag?

Do you want to raise some ready cash for that next kite?

Why not advertise in The Kiteflier!

Private ads are free to all readers. All that require is the copy to be with us by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

So for the January issue we require your advert by the 15th December.

Private Ads

For Sale

Box of Tricks - Good Condition £50.

GFAK Megafoil - beautiful sunset appliqué design, complete with spectra line set and straps and carry bag. As new £75.

2 metre Skybums Rokkaku, VGC, £30.

Call Nigel on (0117) 9568772

Wanted

10 foot Flexifoils - to turn my existing two into a team of four.

I need a carbon fitting for the stand-off on my 4m Elliott "Mystic" - it fits onto a 4mm rod and clips onto a 10mm cross spar - can anyone tell me where I can get one (or preferably 3). The manufacturers and distributors haven't been very helpful to date!

Steve Tavener 01483 407922 (day) and 01403 753625 (eves).

For Sale

Prism Ozone £30.

Eolo Tango £20.

Benson Fizz Reflex £15.

Eolo standard 3 line £10.

Eolo Ultra Light 3 line £15.

Rokkaku Owl £10.

Rokkaku Daffy Duck £20.

Wolfgang Grimsel's Traffic Lights £40.

Wolfgang Grimsel's Multiple kite system £10.

Millestelle rainbow, 18 kite train £250.

Box kite reflex £25.

Star Kite £15.

Peter Lynn Peel £150.

Home made kite buggy £90.

All kites in good to excellent condition (all kites ONO)

Contact Tom on 07980 497331

For Sale

Thornbird vented blue/pink.

Good for flying in strong wind.

Good condition £55.

01707 895159.

For Sale

I have to give up flying kites because of a bad back, I have 10 kites for sale:

Stranger (Carrington).

Level 7.

Psycho.

6ft Flexifoil.

4ft Flexifoil.

Skydancer with 100ft tails and lines.

Fijet baby of Skydancer.

Stranger look alike (pulls like a pig).

Two indoor kites.

All the above have lines. All kites & line £400.

Tel: 01223 562193 ask for Phil.

Kite Collecting???

I'm trying to find a vintage "Munsters" kite made in 1965 by Pressman Toys. Is there anything like a Kite Collectors society or site? Do people collect vintage kites or TV-related kites?

Please respond. Anything you could do would be of help.

I'd pay upwards of \$1,000.00 if someone can offer me one of these Munster kites in good condition.

Kevin Burns Hermie1313@aol.

Swindon Kite Festival, May 12th & 13th

Here we go again, its time to announce the date of next years Swindon Kite Festival. It's on the second weekend in May. May 12/13th. The normal laid back format, except for the first time STACK will be at the event, all of you out there who like "Swindon" because of its laid back style, please don't be worried about the addition of STACK, they will have their own arenas, and will only be giving demonstrations in the main arena, all competitive events will be held in separate arenas!

At next year's event we are holding a competition for a kite made from newspaper. I got the idea from a festival that Janet, myself and other members of the WHKF, attended in New Zealand, about 7 years ago. On the plane, on the way to the festival, I thought it would be novel to make a sled from a Financial Times, we couldn't because there wasn't one on the plane! However I'm glad there wasn't, how embarrassing it would have been. I was completely knocked back with the entries, Lots of Eddys, Deltas & Sleds etc but I didn't expect to

see a Cody with about a 4ft wingspan, needless to say it won! however whilst flying, it started to rain, the maker didn't bother to bring it in, and eventually it fell out of the sky, in many pieces, looking more like paper mache', than a kite. So to the rules: it has to be made from newspaper, you can use wood for the spars, No Carbon Fibre!! also in view of what happened to the one in New Zealand you can use model aircraft dope (that's if it works on newspaper?) There will be a prize for the winner, however it won't be a big one! unless some kind soul wants to come forward with a big prize, it will be a voucher for £25 to be spent at one of the trade stalls.

Our main guest at next years Festival will be Dan Kurahashi from Canada. Dan originates from Japan, and is an expert at many traditional kite making methods, especially kite trains, he also exceptionally skilful at making miniature kites, not only will he be flying, he will be demonstrating some of his kite-making skills.

5th Canterbury Kite Festival - June 30th, July 1st

UNIVERSITY OF KENT at CANTERBURY

No it's not a typing mistake, after a rest this year SEKS are already putting together the 5th International Kite Festival at Canterbury for the year 2001. Please put the date in your diary NOW.

We have a new site at the University of Kent, and we hope this will enable the festival to be bigger and better than ever before. Slight draw back, no camping on site is available, but there are campsites in Canterbury or along the coast. Some university accommodation may be possible,

contact me for details if interested.

At present I would like to hear from anyone with big kites, artistic kites who can attend, so that I can start to make up a programme. One arena theme is hoped to be a flying aquarium, so I need, octopus, sharks, whales, fish, mermaid's etc. etc. This in addition to the usual trick outs, Rok fights, teams, altitude sprints etc.

Enquiries from flyers or trade stands welcome.

Contact Alan Cunningham 01227 275604 Or email acunni3747@aol.com

Tewkesbury Kite Fun Weekend 26th 27th 28th May

Tewkesbury International Kite Festival 21st 22nd July

Contact Neville Wing on 01684 295132.
e-mail- neville@nwing.fsnet.co.uk More details at a later date .

East Coast Kite Festival 23rd & 24th June

23rd is the Informal Flying Day and 24th June Main Festival Day

Following the great success of the first East Coast Kite Festival held last June, plans are already in full swing for next years event.

The festival will be held on the weekend of 23rd/24th June 2001 at Low Road Recreation Ground, Dovercourt Essex. This is a seafront location with usually a prevailing wind blowing onshore. Saturday will take on an informal format with Sunday featuring a full programme of displays and competitions from 10 am till 5 pm. Camping facilities will be available. Entrance to the festival is totally free! Further details on the festival will be published in the next Kiteflier, any teams or flyers wishing to attend please contact Michael Howard on 01255 221059 or Lynsey Dawson on 01255 253167

Trade News

Inflight

Last of the little green croakers.

After five and a half years of a continuous manufacture, and worldwide sales exceeding 1,500 we have decided that the small inflatable frog, LeFrog 1.8 metres, which has won many friends and admirers, shall be no more, deceased, gone, has croaked for the last time. With difficulties of maintaining prices at which we could achieve a profit and the falling value of both the US dollar and the Euro last year, sales have now fallen to a level where it is not worth us maintaining production.

All is not lost however. Followers of Le Frog may be interested in a "special" which will be available very soon. A new limited edition LeFrog at 4 metres will be put into production at the earliest opportunity, but it will only be available to order and only direct from Inflight. The package will include a fully sculptured inflatable kite in your own selected colour combination - red, green, blue, black, orange, pink???, two frog pin badges: a numbered certificate; and a frog shaped rucksack style bag to store it in. With production limited to just fifty, the "Lefrog" special edition is likely to become one of the most collectable of kites to be seen for some time.

Eight have been ordered already, but with the set up costs of the pin badges being so high, we cannot proceed until we have a minimum order of 25. If you want one for Christmas, now is the time to order. You can mail us at sales@inflightkites.co.uk, phone us at 01724 280307 and pay by cheque and there will be order and credit card facilities payment facilities available on the web page. www.inflightkites.co.uk/kites/buy.htm

(Continued on page 17)

To Buggy or How to Get Arrested

It's a tricky one, how to discuss this without offending anyone or getting arrested?

It's no good; I've just got to grab the bull by the horns!

Being overheard in a public place, while discussing one's latest buggy experiences is not without its perils.

An innocent comment like, "It was great buggying around the beach and dunes, with John and Mike all week", could, if misheard by the unsuspecting public, land you all in jail for lewd behavior, and indecent exposure! And that's only one of the problems when discussing 'Traction kiting'!

Our sport, let's call it 'Traction kiting,' has, let's face it, suffered since inception from the lack of a definitive name!

Ok! Ok!, the thing's called a buggy, so we go to buggy meetings and buggy around, and we call ourselves buggies/buggyers.

Careful with the diction, the public is looking worried!

To be fair 'Parakart' is really no better! One can be a parakarter or pilot, and parakarting is a bit of a mouthful! The public is looking perplexed?

As if that's not bad enough, the kites are, what? Power kites? Traction kites? Kite engines? You name it so no wonder the public and sponsors are confused!

Do we require an all-encompassing name for the sport to prosper?

This is where being arrested comes in, as you can bet your bottom dollar that a very heated argument would ensue if this topic ever found its way into any kite association meeting!

Let's take a look at comparable sports/interests that have been faced with this same problem.

'Landvacht' = It sails like a yacht, on the land, and it sounds better than 'Landdinghy'. It works because it relates to a thing we already know (yacht), and it tells us where it happens (land).

'Go-Kart' = No so good this one. It's

a kart that goes? But it's been around long enough for folk to identify with the word.

'Windsurfing' = This is more like landyacht. We associate with 'surfing', and the 'wind' provides the power. 'Sailsurfing', 'Powersurfing', 'Windboarding' could have been contenders, but they sound so out of place now!

'Kitesurfing' = This works because it's kept the 'surfing' bit, so folks can associate with the 'word', and people know about kites in general.

'Buggying' = It just glares at you, doesn't it. There is nothing for the public to associate with! In fact the mental picture is of a light horse-drawn carriage from a Western movie?

'Parakart' = I'm not even sure how this came about? 'Para' I assume relates to parachute, and 'Kart' comes from the American form of motor racing, invented in 1956 to use up surplus 750cc lawnmower engines!!!

This still leaves me in a quandary? So let's try out a few things.

'Kitekart' = Doesn't really roll off the tongue does it?

'Windkart' = So they all sound silly the first time!

Maybe I should try a completely different tack. Not blending words together, but inventing a new word.

'Frisbee' = We all understand this now, but 20 yrs ago?

'Bungey Jump' = Self-explanatory, but 10 yrs ago?

Don't look at me, I'm not sure we need to do this, as the words and names we have suit the needs of our small worldwide band of land traction kites.

But has this been one of the reasons why Land Traction Kiting has not seen the promotion that Kitesurfing, has experienced in its brief history?

The general public's inability to associate with land traction kiting terminology?

Steve Walt Webb.

Ever Run a Workshop for Juniors?

(I can already picture the knowing smiles of those who have).

'Gladly', I said, 'how many people will there be?'

'There'll be four sessions on the Saturday morning, each an hour long. Twenty; twenty-four lads at the outside'. Six in a group, I thought, that's OK; and I should think I could cope with four sessions on the trot. 'And there is somewhere to fly?'

'Yes, there's a sort of parade ground just outside, or a bigger field, if you prefer it, up the top of the site'.

So I set to. I'd better be prepared for a wet morning, so I'll get three designs of kite to occupy the hour in full if need be. If it's fine, they can make one of them and spend most of the time flying some of my kites. I cut paper, plastic, bamboos and lines to size for thirty of each (to be on the safe side). No two-foot split bamboos at the shop for the sleds, only 18-inch; never mind, I've been flying my 16-inch ripstop sleds for years, so an 18-inch sled should do; no problem ...

Five days before, I await confirmation of the times of the sessions. Which I get: there will be three sessions, not four, and we've got 30 boys signed up as of two days ago. Deep breath, and down to cutting more components and winding ten more lengths of flying line. Our six pairs of scissors will have to be shared, but no problem ... The day dawns; forecast fine, perhaps rain by the afternoon. My wife and I get there early to look at the flying site. The 'parade ground' is small, rough and surrounded by tall trees, obviously useless. The field at the top of the site is indeed at the top - up a steep rough wooded path—and is another clearing surrounded by trees. Fortunately, the area is a bit larger and the prevailing wind is coming from the side with a few trees missing; no problem ...

'Good morning. How many of you? 13 in each group? Fine, yes, really splendid. No problem'.

I pass quickly over the rest of the morning. Suffice it to say that the ability of some 8-year olds to build an aerodynamic object with little close supervision can easily be overestimated. Likewise their being able to carry it safely to the flying area and keep it free of other fliers and the rampaging thistles. Remarkably, one or two creations actually took to the air.

The leaders assured me the lads thought it a success. 'We might ask you to do it again'. Really, oh sure, no problem ...

Bill Longley

Best Laid Plans

I'm a keen reader of kite plans in books and magazines; one day (roll on retirement) I might get a chance to make them all. Meanwhile, I am all too often disappointed, annoyed or downright baffled by some of the plans.

I presume the designer wants to convey an idea to the reader, and the reader is keen to follow it and learn something new; sometimes the process is made unnecessarily difficult. May I float a few suggestions for making life easier, all of them based on instances where I have been misled?

1. ALWAYS PROVIDE SCALE DRAWINGS. With a scale drawing, you can make an intelligent guess at what is meant even if written instructions let you down. Plans not to scale can at their worst distort one's idea of the shape of the kite. If you want to scale the kite up to a different size, it is also easier to do so if the scale plan is there. But always have a sketch view of the kite as well, illustrating its general shape, bridling etc.; it's not always easy to grasp the three-dimensional effect from a flat plan alone.

2. USE METRIC MEASUREMENTS. I am happier with feet and inches in general life, but at kite scales

too many odd fractions are required; how many rulers have twelfths and other odd fractions in a usable form? And don't attempt conversions from one scale to another; they can end up being nonsense, like both 2mm and 3 mm spars being given as equal to a tenth of an inch.

3. MAKE SURE IT IS CLEAR WHAT EACH MEASUREMENT REFERS TO, and which lines on the plan represent spars or cords rather than outlines of the fabric. Are all the points mentioned in the text actually shown on the plan? And do the measurements include a seam allowance, or not?

4. GIVE INSTRUCTIONS STRICTLY IN ORDER. It isn't helpful to say, to quote another context, A. Boil water; B. Fill teapot; C. Before B, put in teabag!

5. PUT RELATED TEXT AND DRAWINGS TOGETHER, at least on the same page, and if possible immediately alongside. Having to 'see overleaf' or 'diagram, p. 93' drives one up the wall. Sometimes a drawing for each stage of the work can be helpful; a picture really can be worth a hundred words.

6. CHECK, CHECK AND CHECK AGAIN before you send your work out on the world. Get someone else to look it over to see if it makes sense to them; get them to actually make the kite from the plans, the acid test. Just think of all those readers tearing their hair out (and thinking of you 'who is this blithering idiot?') if you get it wrong. But you won't now, will you?

Bill Longley

We thought these were ideal guidelines for producing kite designs for The Kiteflier. So, why don't some of you put finger to keyboard (or even pen to paper) and send us your favourite kite plan. All types of kites, single line, dual line, quad line are wanted.

*Kreative kites would like to thank all of our
customers that have visited us
during the festival season this year and made
the season so enjoyable!.*

As This is the end of our festival season
why not take advantage of our ex-display
clear-out!

This is a genuine sale of ex-display stock
that has not been flown, merely used at festivals
for display purposes.

Mainly Two line deltas and all are one only!
So if you are interested give us a call.

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We have a small range of the
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3rd Silloth Festival

The 3rd Silloth (Cumbria) Festival saw something which had been missing from the first two - sunshine - and as a result drew good crowds to a spectacular setting overlooking the Solway Firth and Scotland. We were again very well supported by fliers from across the north, with an excellent turnout from the Northern Kite Group in particular. Grateful thanks are due to all who supported us, with particular thanks to Steve Aspey and Chris Jones (two-thirds of Team Oblivion) who turned their hands to most things over the weekend.

Sunny it may have been, but the wind was still light and distinctly fluky on the Saturday, vanishing altogether with the high tide at just after midday. Gradually, though, it returned just enough to let some flying continue - if not the full programme planned. Some impromptu (and kiteless) buggying and mountain-boarding down hills overlooking the festival site threatened to damage limbs, and then Steve & Chris (Duoblivion??) showed extreme bravery in flying a pairs routine to music - their first time ever in practice, let alone in public, and they did well. Unfortunately though the wind died during the routine, which they finished having walked well back out of the arena to windward. And there wasn't enough wind then for Graham Lockwood to fly his "3 kites at once" routine. But people seemed to be enjoying themselves, and there was always tomorrow.

Sunday morning the wind was again light, but come the high tide it started to fill in and blew more through the afternoon, an afternoon which saw an excellent turnout and large numbers of

kites in the air. Many of them had been made in the hugely popular children's kitemaking workshops - including one pair of lads on their way to the shore to fish, who showed great ingenuity in gaining extra height by abandoning the line provided and attaching the kite to their fishing reel! There were lots of highlights - Graham Lockwood flying 3 kites at once, Mary Jones' tetrahedrons, John Dobson's enormous and spectacular ghost kite (which we learnt later could be seen from 6 miles away), the launching of a kite to promote a quality mark for local childcare providers, and of course the sweet drop organised by Gene & Margaret Watson. But really the highlight was the number of visitors - based on estimates by local journalists, we think more than 5000 were there over the weekend.

If you were there and I've not mentioned you specifically, please accept our thanks - and we hope to welcome you back next year. Oh, next year - well, a week beforehand there certainly wasn't going to be another festival next year - but now? Yes, of course there is!

Ian Gilmore

Southampton Kite Festival

This was the sixth annual event. The Solent Kite Flyers had a successful weekend with good weather but light winds. Some things connected to this event did not go quite as planned but we hope to do better next year.

We had a number of spectators who were impressed by the many types of colourful kites. Our hard pressed kite workshop made over 600 kites, many of which were seen flying. The kite buggies put

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 14)

In case there is any doubt about the other versions of the frog. The LARGE frog, at 7.2 metres will continue to be available from Inflight and all international distributors and a MEGA frog, at 14 metres, will soon to be heard pining for a mate, from the other side of the Atlantic.

News concerning future availability of "Lefrog" special edition will be posted on our newsletter www.inflightkites.co.uk/misc/news.htm

Dunstable Kites

SPIRAGLYDE IS HERE.

At last! a sustainable supply of quality Ripstop at a realistic price.

SPIRAGLYDE is a 48gsm PU coated Ripstop Nylon available in 15 colours including fluorescents.

SPIRAGLYDE is a first grade kite quality fabric on rolls trimmed to 150cm.

Designed for single, double and multi line kites. Also being developed are two other grades of Ripstop Nylon, one being suitable for soft inflatables and the other is a water resistant fabric suitable for parakites used in buggy and surf kitting.

SPIRAGLYDE has been developed by Henderson Textiles and is available from Dunstable Kites.

For more information contact;
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From the Press

Kite festival proves a major success

Space was at a premium in the air and on the ground as the kite spectacular which annually launches Petworth Festival took place, on Sunday.

At one point more than 100 kites were in the air simultaneously above Petworth Park, and organiser Lady Mersey said room on the ground was a bit tight as well.

"There must have been 7,000-8,000 people there, and we almost ran out of space. I think the area we have between the house and the lake might have to be expanded in future," she added.

The kite festival drew participants and spectators from a wide area. Actress June Whitfield launched 1,000 balloons in a race named after the Angels International charity. The charity, which is based in Petworth, will share the anticipated £7,500 profit from the day with the National Trust.

A major attraction was the parachuting event for teddy bears run by the Beatty Made It Sky Dive Squad.

One hundred bears brought by visitors were sent skywards by kite, and then parachuted down from 200ft into a

dropping zone.

Lady Mersey said a northerly wind was helpful, because it kept the hapless bears away from oak trees in the park where some of them have ended up in previous years.

"The wind direction meant one or two kites landed on the cricket field during a game, but no one called foul. The cricketers were very good about it," she said.

The prize for kite flyer of the day went to David Cross from Portsmouth, for his 15ft diameter kite linking hoops depicting gold and silver wedding rings.

Eight schoolgirls from London were named top junior flyers.

The pupils of Greycoats Hospital School had some last-minute tuition on kite-flying when they arrived in the park, because they had had little opportunity in London to test their creation.

Petworth Festival, which is in its 23rd year, is now in full swing with events ranging from concerts to country walks.

The box office for tickets and inquiries is at Petworth Tourist Information Centre in Market Square, tel 01798 343523.

Cutting from the West Sussex Gazette sent by Fred Bennett.

(Continued from page 17)

on some displays. The wind man came from Holland with his sound making machines. S.T.A.C.K staged a national competition. The demonstration and skills of kite flying to music by members attracted a lot of attention. The Solent Kite Flyers were very pleased with the work done by S.T.A.C.K. over the two days in making this festival a success for Southampton. We have a S.T.A.C.K. winter league planned for October to November. Next year the 23rd and 24th June is the provisional date for Southampton's seventh kite festival.

David Webster

Parakart Events

U.K. Parakart Association's (PKA) National Race Series 2000 July 8/9th, Lytham St Anne's, Nr Blackpool, UK.

The National Fleet

An amazing 'motorcross style' of a course presented all with an unbelievable spectacle!

35 PKA pilots battled across the pothole pitted course six times over the weekend during the final round of the National & Club fleets race series. Saturday was breezy and dry, while Sunday presented a very wet beach and rain, with a wind speed range of 11-18mph.

The pilots were being bounced around, like corks in a storm, as they streaked around the course at over 30mph! No mean feat when you can barely see where you're going? Some close racing in difficult conditions made for an exciting final series, which resulted in **Andy Sands** achieving 5 wins & one 2nd place, dominating the Third round to become the overall **U.K National**

Champion 2000. **Mark Kingshott** went hell-for-leather to win 1 race with five 2nd places, to finish 2nd overall in the series, and **Dom Early** fought his way into 3rd overall position!

These three will be representing the U.K., including 7 other top PKA pilots, at the European Championships, and World Championships during 7th-13th October in Holland.

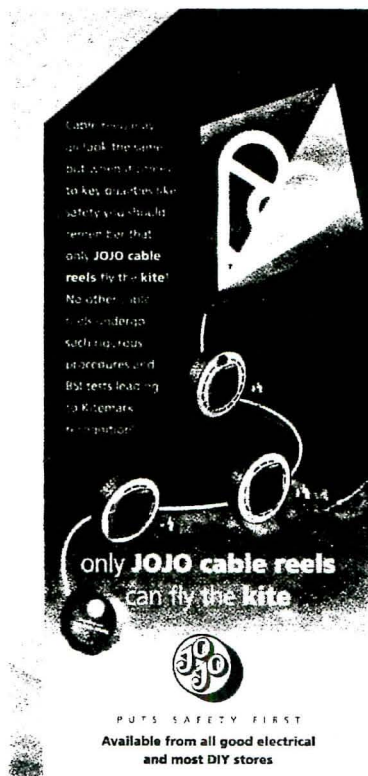
Steve Walt Webb

Suffolk Kite Festival

This was the third Suffolk Kite Festival and hopefully it has got better each year. Once again we were blessed with excellent weather, but as with a lot of festivals the wind could have been a knot or two stronger.

Once again we had the support of Art of Air and Stafford Wallace who both put in a lot of effort to make sure Saturday went well.

On Sunday the sun was shining again and it promised to be a good day. The rest of the display teams arrived so we were able to program a full day of displays. Art of Air and Stafford ably supported by Skydivers, Team Adrenalize from Cambridge and Dark Star (this man takes some believing) kept the public entertained all day. There were competitions for the spectators, one being the best child's kite made in the kite workshop. Full marks to Philippa and Pat and their assistants who were kept busy on both days. We would like to say a special thanks to all the club fliers who also performed in the arena and we would like to think Rougham is a festival for everyone. If you came along to this event we hope you had an enjoyable time.



Little known, but a fact the same, but when it comes to key brands like JOJO cable reels fly the kite! No other kite reels undergo such rigorous procedures and tests leading to JOJO's reputation.

only JOJO cable reels can fly the kite

JOJO

PUTS SAFETY FIRST

Available from all good electrical and most DIY stores

From the Daily Mail—August 25th. Couldn't resist this one!

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 3500 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.

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.

More information about The Kite Society, U.K. based kite groups, kite traders and kite events is available via the internet at <http://www.thekitesociety.org.uk>

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	£10.00
Family - all members in the same household.	£11.00
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* 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

Dieppe 2000 Competition

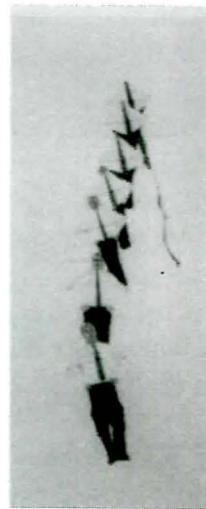
The theme for this year's artistic competition was Metamorphosis. On this page we show some of the entries and winners. We also show the winners of the Cerf-Volant Club de France "Coup de Coeur".



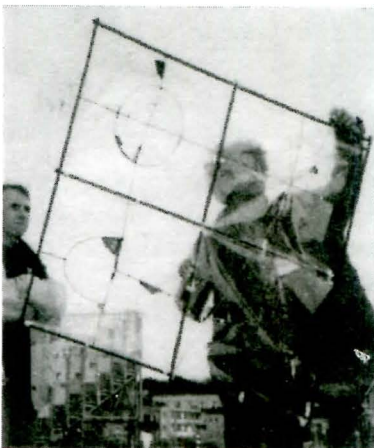
Joel Theze with Leda the Swan Kite.



Marco Cassadio's three dimensional Devil/Angel Rokkaku kite.



Andreas Agren with his winning Man to Kite Train.



Etienne Veyres with his winning kite.



Pierre Fabre with his Leaf Kite winner made of paper and leaves.

Jan Houtermans checking the bridle of his first prize winner. Made of twigs and leaves with a dihedral and dowel spine. Just waiting for Autumn we think!



Junior competition winner. As the view of the face changes he becomes a Vampire!



Two of the kites from the group of fliers who won the CVCF Competition. Kites were constructed from doilies, sweet wrappers, bubble wrap, cheese wrappers and so. An effective way of recycling.

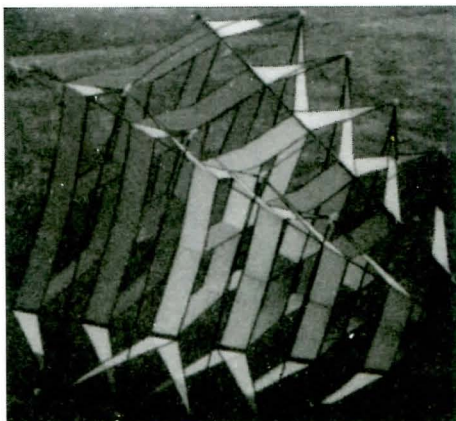
Dieppe 2000 Sights and Kites



Theo Van Beek—Biplane Kite



Barcelona Estelles Club—Cartoon School Bus



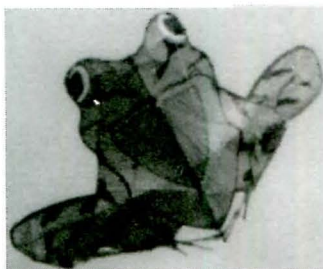
Crystal creation by Jan Houtermans



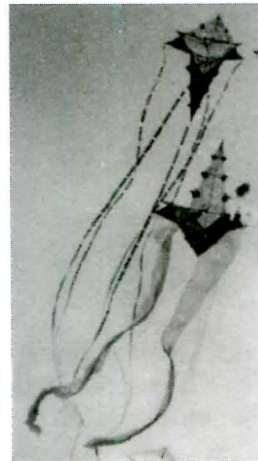
Is this a type of Marconi Jib Rig?



The crowd enjoying the event—Team Generation (France) with Multicelled Tetrahedral.



Unknown Frog!



Michel Gressier Kites (on right)



The alternative British Stand—Some people appeared not to move for the whole weekend!



Barry Poulter—Laid back kiteflying. Note the reel round the arm—leaves the hands free for the glass of wine!



Painted Rokkaku

Variations on a Fugu. Killer Whale and Friend.



Dieppe 2000 — Guatemalan Sumpango Giant Kites



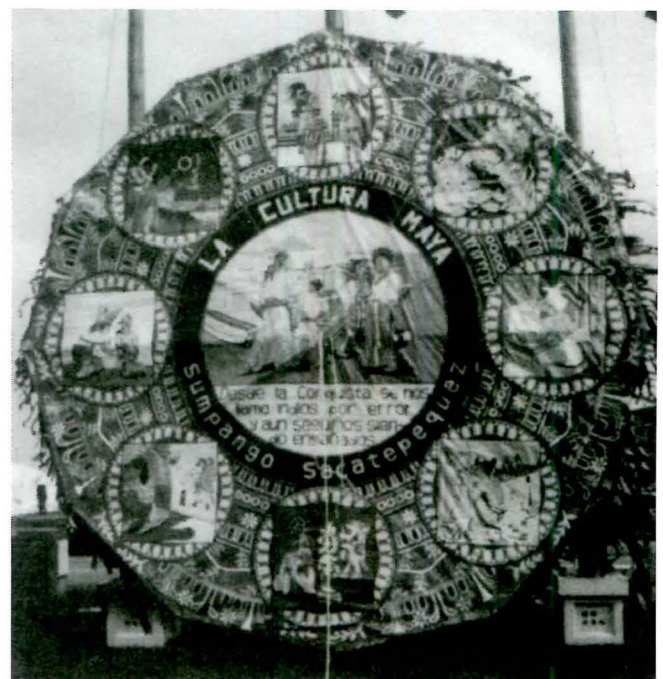
Dieppe marked the first time in their history that these Sumpango giant kites were flown in European skies. The kites are known as barrolettas and are made up of two fine layers of tissue paper—one coloured and the other plain (some of the larger kites also had a plastic backing). The kites are supported by a cartwheel like frame made up of 2" diameter bamboo poles.

Tiny pieces of tissue coloured tissue paper are carefully glued together until the desired effect is achieved. The colours and pattern in each kite play a part in invoking the illusion of heavenly bodies drifting in the vast empty skies. Even the kite tail, it

has been suggested, is the symbolic equivalent of a ladder by which the souls of the dead might reach the heavens. Made by local villages the kites take to the skies on the 1st November—All Saints Day when the kites are flown over graves.

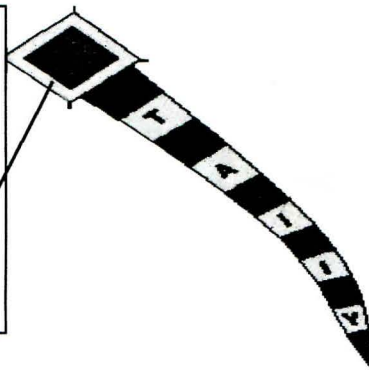
Although the kites were introduced by the Spanish during the 19th century the cultural and spiritual basis for the ceremony is probably of Mayan origin (this is reflected in the designs on the kites).

During the weekend we were in Dieppe they only succeeded in flying one of the smaller kites.



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"It's September now" Said Mabel
"and soon the leaves will fall.
It's time for you to come indoors
set to and paint that wall"

"Can't do it yet" said Harry
"We have to say goodbye
got to go to the last Old Warden
and have a final fly"



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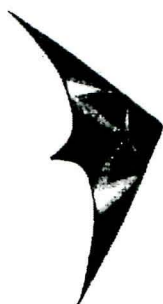
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www.kiteability.co.uk

Proprietor: Mrs P Dell

Our best wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year. See you in the spring.

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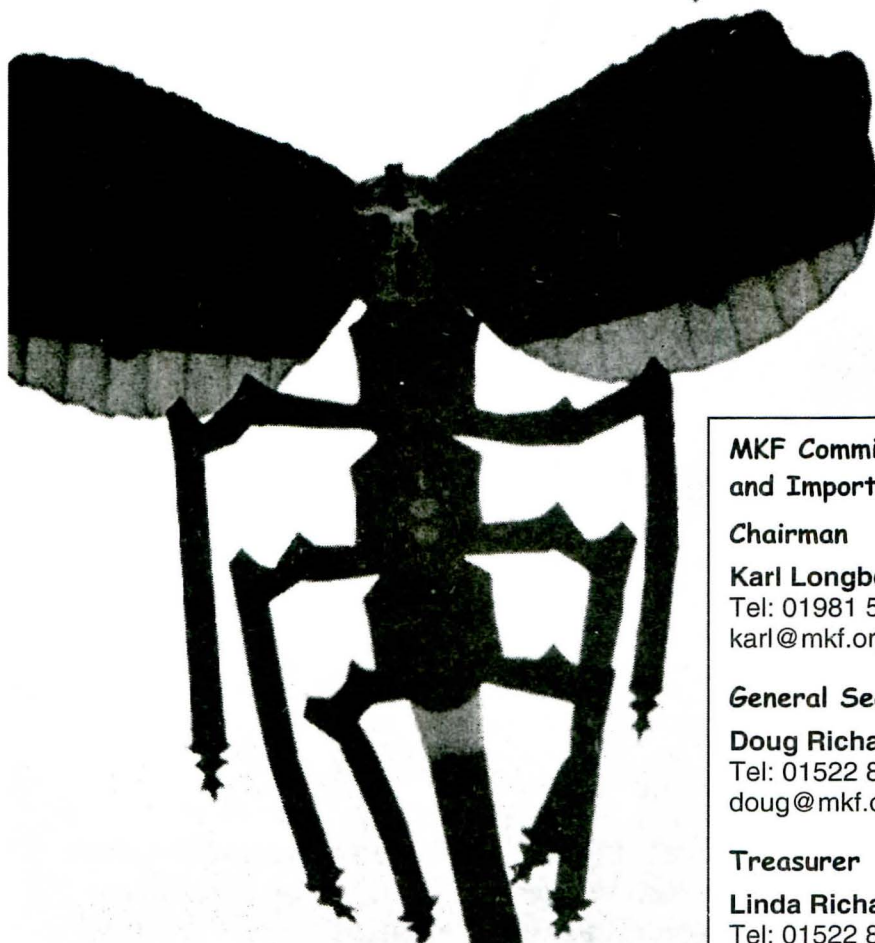


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MKF EXTRA

The Extra Newsletter of The Midlands Kite Fliers



May is the
Mayfly
flying at
Sunderland

MKF Committee Members and Important People

Chairman

Karl Longbottom
Tel: 01981 550326
karl@mkf.org.uk

General Secretary

Doug Richardson
Tel: 01522 884744
doug@mkf.org.uk

Treasurer

Linda Richardson
Tel: 01522 884744
linda@mkf.org.uk

Membership Secretary

John Larson
Tel: 0114 255 3410
john@mkf.org.uk

Events Co-ordinator

Alan Bill
Tel: 0121 360 1955

Newsletter Editor

Alan Poxon
Tel: 01773 716047
alan@mkf.org.uk

Website Manager

Julie White
Tel: 01332 669203
julie@kitefliers.co.uk



Cover Picture:

Mavis the Mayfly, created by Martin Evans, presented to the Club my his mother, May.

Mavis is a very large two-line inflatable, with 'bi-plane' wings, and lots of legs as you can see. She is particularly difficult to fly, and needs just the right conditions, which is why you may not have seen her at all the festivals.

This was her flying at Sunderland in July.

Picture: Alan Poxon.

Notes from a Happy Events Coordinator

Menithwood, Nr Worcester Saturday 24th June 2000

This event was organised by Karl and Sara as a small village fun-day billed to start at 5.00 pm. We were allowed on site at 12 noon, giving plenty of time to fly/play. Most Club kites had an airing, however, the wind was light at times and there was a short spell of rain. Time passed in a very pleasant way until the hog roast arrived and the beer tent opened. Now we had a proper fly-in! I left before the fireworks which were billed for 10.15 pm (the older kite fliers need their rest!).

Charity Farm, Baxterley, Nr. Atherstone Sunday 25th June 2000

This venue had been instigated by Julie White. On her recommendation I visited the site early this year to find a private airfield, well-mown grass and the prospect of a good event with extras! Let's get to the good bits... an air display by a light aircraft flying under buntings held between two poles, a hot air balloon with tethered rides free and one brave guy flying a very large inflatable wing with a 'desk fan' strapped to his back for power. Shirley and Dick sold kites from the air hanger. Alan P. gave a running commentary from 200 feet up in the balloon. The subjects ranged from kites, aircraft, land yacht and the brave guy with the 'desk fan'. The winds were very low but this did not appear to upset anyone. I was asked by Club fliers if we could use the site for MKF fly-ins and following a discussion with Ken, the landowner, the possibility looks good. Read on further in the magazine.

C.A.K.E.S. Event at JCB Rocester June 17th 2000

You can only start by saying a great day was arranged by Nellie and Alwyn. This was to be a major fund raising event by JCB on behalf of the NSPCC whose objective over the past year has been to raise £1million. No creature comforts were overlooked by our organisers. Our base and flying site was to be the Helipad with secure parking adjacent and fliers were able to visit the factory at no charge. This gave a break from the sun, it sure was hot! A full programme of arena events followed with live music and a fireworks finale. On a personal note the heat got the better of me and I left far sooner than planned but not before Nellie had made a collection from kitefliers towards the appeal. She was asked to say a few words by the Organiser, which I sadly missed. The event raised in excess of the target and would be doubled by Sir Anthony. Alwyn gave me a very nice JCB pen which drafted this report. Thanks!

As a footnote may I thank all of those people who have made the effort to support the Club at the events so far this year, especially Roy Ashton, for all the hard work at Coventry, despite being poorly just before, and Bryn and Lesley for turning up just about everywhere. It makes my job so much easier.

Rainbows Hospice Thanks

Thought you would like to know that the Rainbows Summer Spectacular fund raising day raised £19,000. Not bad eh?

The workshop took £70 (thanks for giving us a break Martin and Lesley), the kite raffle took £40.

There is already a cheque for £100 to go to Rainbows (raised at last years AGM) we should be able to make it £200 - and

get a local member to present a big cheque to them, with press coverage. Thanks all for coming - I know you felt a bit left out, and no wind made life difficult, but when the kites were in the air they were talked about. (And don't forget the yoghurts!!)

Next years event is being planned already - at a bigger, better venue, north of Loughborough. We have been invited to view the site, and have an input early on, instead of at the last minute. Will keep you up to date on developments.

Thanks again for being there.

Julie White

From Scyro Kites

Dear Alan,

You will have already heard from Linda and Doug that my dear wife for more than 50 years, Joan, passed away on the 22nd June, last.

When advising Members in the next issue of the Club Newsletter, would you please incorporate the additional information that as a result I have discontinued monthly trading at the St. Gregory Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon.

However, I am continuing to trade, in kites and accessories, alongside the flying field at Evesham Country Park every Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday, weather permitting.

With thanks for your help,

Kind Regards,

Philip (Roberts).

I am sure all the members will join me in sending their very best wishes to Philip. We hope he continues with his kites. It was nice to see him out and about at Coventry. Alan.

New Members

We have had 22 new members join, since the list for the June MKF newsletter was issued. As you can see, the club is growing steadily and it is my pleasure to officially welcome you into our club and hope that you will enjoy fellowshiping with us.

Many of you have already made friends with others in the club and we hope that you all will stretch out the hand of friendship to all the fellow fliers that you meet. The applications came via the usual mix of forms from notice boards, forms off the internet, and forms from Shops. In some cases the prompting came from existing members and their friendliness so keep up the good work, all of you!

John Larson, Membership Secretary;

Email:- john@mkf.org.uk ;

Tel:- 0114 255 3410



Charity Farm, Baxterley

25th June 2000

Arrived at Charity farm just after lunch, Roast Beef, Yorkshire pud, Strawberry Pavlova & half a bottle of white wine!! Linda does really look after me!! .even after careful directions you still have to make sure you don't miss the turn off the main road going towards Baxterley! Driving up the Long and winding road (cue for a song) I could see a hot air balloon being inflated; after parking the car and walking onto one of the many fields, (there's acres of space here, really!!) I noticed at the bottom of the field it was laid out for a Runway, sure enough throughout the day, the owner of the farm treated us to a display of low level flying in a red 1940,s type SPITFIRE (*don't think it was a Spitfire, or 1940's ED.*), doing low level runs down the runway ,climaxing by flying under a 15-foot bunting.

Back to the plot. There was little or no wind for most of the afternoon but Valiant Kite Flyers that we are, we endeavoured to place some kites in the sky throughout the afternoon. Trusted flyers like Jim & Jewels, Roy Aston, Alan Bill, Dave Troy and "assistants" were some of the members "Doing their stuff", together with my SKY SYMPHONY display team.

Our intrepid commentator did it again!!! Alan Poxon surveyed the scene from the hot air balloon to inform the public on what was going on, (What will he do next??). Many of us were fortunate in have a ride, if that's the right term in the tethered balloon. Its when you are trying to get in and out of the balloon that you really appreciate not having that extra piece of CAKE!!!!

Later in the afternoon we had a display by Simon (unfortunately I don't know his second name), of a powered paraglider!! Just out of the "BOND" films. A 3ft diameter fan strapped to his back which generated wind to fill the sail, and after some minor hiccups he gave us quite a display of this unique sport. Looked a bit much!! even for me!!! Any volunteers??

Sky Symphony performed their ballet routine, in almost no wind, but due to the vast amount of space, and the ability to constantly walk backwards, our routine was completed successfully.

This venue is SUPERB, we should use this as a regular site, right in the heart if the Midlands, the proprietor is Ken Broomfield and I'm sure he would only too delighted for us to use this site on a regular basis. (Some negotiation is needed here but for a pound a car we could all have an excellent days flying. (Knocks spots of Sutton Park!!!)

Shirley and Dick did some brisk trade in the AIRCRAFT HANGER, and the drinks stall kept us refreshed for most of the day. If you missed this event this year don't miss the next event held here, it could even be this year, watch this space

That's all folks, got to catch a plane!!
Graham Binney.

Warwick Kite Festival

6th July 2000

report from the Warwickshire
Town Crier

A HIGH-FLYING event has been pronounced a resounding success by organizers, after taking visitors up, up and away.

The first ever Warwick Kite Festival attracted crowds from near and far to Aylesford School in Shelley Avenue, to sample the delights of kite flying.

Arranged by Warwick Rotary Club, the day was officially opened by mayor Cllr. Maureen Hooper, and was also attended by town crier Graham Sutherland.



A host of attractions for young and old alike ensured the event went with a swing, while some clear skies also gave the occasion a boost.

A teddy bear drop delighted youngsters,

who paid for the privilege of allowing their cuddly companions to perform a parachute jump from a large kite - with each bear receiving a certificate for bravery.

And the drop proved popular with some of the older visitors too – Cllr. Hooper returned later in the afternoon, to give her own teddy bears a chance to take the plunge!



Children and adults were amazed by some dazzling falconry displays courtesy of Chris Neal of the Hagley Falconry Centre, while demonstrations of formation kite flying from the Midland Kite Fliers also ensured that all eyes were on the skies.

Jagjit Kohli proved popular with younger visitors, as she taught them how to make Indian style kites, while Barry Clay held spectators breathless with his aerobatics and flying demonstrations by a selection of model aircraft.

Mr Clay has promised even more if the event is held next year, including a display model Avro Lancaster, which he has built as a tribute to his father who flew Lancasters.

There were also a variety of kite displays on ground level, while a bouncy castle, stalls and refreshments supplied some alternative entertainment.

John Walker of Warwick Rotary commented: "Planned with the aim of filling a gap in the summer tourist season by attracting visitors to the town, and also of providing an activity package for local families and children, the festival was packed with features based on the theme of flight aimed at drawing visitors throughout the day."

"Based on a thoroughly successful event, Warwick Rotary Club now plans to take the lead in encouraging the town of Warwick to stage a bigger and better show based on the same theme in 2001."



Lost and Found

As there were no calls for the items in the last full edition of the Newsletter, they are listed here in the hope that their owners will come forward. I personally hate to lose things, so please have a look, and, even if they do not belong to you, if you think you know to whom they might, please tell them about the items.

Found at Shipley Park in April: contact Alan Poxon

- **A pair of sunglasses.**
- **A set of quad-lines and handles.**

If you think these items are yours, just describe them and you will be reunited.

Sunderland - Kites 2000 1st & 2nd July by Alan Poxon

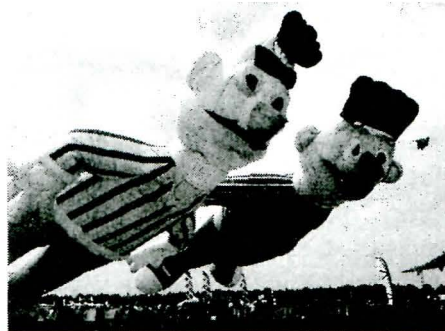
Everyone takes different impressions away from a festival, so I won't give you a complete run-down of what happened or what I did, but suffice it to say, the MKF had a big turn-out, probably highlighted best by George while commentating on a round of the Rokkaku fighting. 'Come on MKF' he shouted. Partisan, you might think, except that all the combatants left were MKF members anyway.

I was very impressed by the mass Dragon Kite flying. You sometimes see a Chinese Dragon Kite at a festival, but not often are there eight (or possibly more) flying together.



I also spent quite some time talking with Sven Weidhase, of the No Limit Team from Cuxhaven in Germany. He and Andy Schmeelke were flying 'Bert' & 'Ernie', two giant inflatable Sesame Street characters. They fly them both from one enormous centre anchor, and then use side-lines to control the kites. Now, you might have seen our divers

and been very impressed with them (I know I still am), but when put at the side of Bert & Ernie they shrank to fairly small proportions.



Each character is about 23 metres long (75 feet), but it is the fact that they are very bulky which makes them seem so big. Each one has 560 square metres of fabric, 13/14 kilometres of thread, took two and a half months to build, but about six months to bridle up and make fly. There are eight members in the team, and each one owns a kite, which are all characters from Sesame Street (I wonder how big 'Big Bird' is?).

These guys were really nice; I spent quite a bit of time talking with them, which they were happy to do. They get invited all around the world now, and have a very laid-back attitude to flying, something I appreciated greatly.

There were lots of other really nice kites (and people) at the festival and along with my friends, we had a great time in Sunderland. Remember that an integral part of festivals like this is the social side, even after the kiteflying has finished. Although I was outbid for most of the things in the auction the entertainment on Saturday night was worth it, and the 'camaraderie' was excellent.

Golden Valley Kite Festival, Tewkesbury 22-23 July

Doug & Linda Richardson

We have always found this to be one of the friendliest festivals with a most relaxed atmosphere. It's a pity this year it clashed with the First Shipley Park festival which made our choice difficult.

We arrived at Tewksbury mid Saturday morning, to be directed to a space saved by Bryn & Lesley. Within the hour Doug was out flying a kite. Various displays took place in the main arena, such as a mass bird kite fly, Kite Magic flew their Dragon kite, Teddy dropping, sweet dropping, children's kite fly and many more. Saturday finished with a BBQ and Auction.

Sunday dawned bright, the wind was good, and Dorothy & Ken Campbell had their inflatable balls & donut anchored near their caravan. The sky was soon filled with kites; arena events were the same as previous day. Ray Hopkins seemed to have kites flying from dawn to dusk. There were many fliers from various clubs:- MKF, Northern Kite Group, Alcester & Worcester and of course Golden Valley who helped make the festival a success.

Thanks to The Golden Valley kite Fliers for the hard work put into the festival.

Footnote:

A little bird (kite) told me that the Richardsons actually won a trophy for putting on the best individual display at the festival. This comes as no surprise, as they have been two of the most active this year. Ed.

Been doing anything else during the summer?

I have been up-to-my-eyes in kiting things this year, and when space allows, I'll share some of these things with you in the hope that they will be of some interest.

But I can't be the only one out there who has other kiting-related tales to tell. If you have been flying anywhere a bit special, done workshops, talks, or other events, please put pen to paper and let me know.

Alan Poxon.



Fylde Kite Festival 5th & 6th August 2000

By Doug & Linda Richardson

For the second year running the MKF display kites were booked for this festival. MKF members made their way to the west coast for the event: we were the first to arrive at Gilletts Farm caravan & camp site, closely followed by Bryn & Lesley Baggaley, and space was left between our vans for Karl & Sara's tent. From our caravans we could see the Hunt family setting up their tent on the adjoining site.

Saturday dawned bright, and we arrived at the beach in convoy: soon four MKF banners marked the spot, and Sandy the diver & Lady Godiver were flying steadily from their sand bags. The wind was good particularly for inflatables and soon Polly, Phil Womack's octopus was in the sky, and this was joined by two large whales and three frogs, plus numerous other kites of various shapes & sizes.

The North East Kite Fliers flew the Air Gallery in the arena, Malcolm Goodman's Dragon kite was flown, plus displays of 4-line kites, power kites & buggying. Other members of the MKF flying were Alistair Hunt, Mark Bowlas, Eddie & Anne Megrath and Ian Vesty.

The skies were full of colour until 3pm when the wind began to drop, & with it the inflatables. Doug decided it was time to try his Forse Rotor on the beach; with trepidation a sand bag was filled and the rotor anchored to it. After a while the rotor worked well, too well, in fact, as we have yet to master the art of collapsing it again. I tried to pull it out of the wind, fine! until it started to rotate in my direction, and I ended up squashed. It finally took three of us to collapse it; there must be an easier way. The day finished off with a hotpot & an auction, then back to the camp site.

Sunday was similar but the wind was stronger, which suited the inflatables, but the Air Gallery display was delayed. Jim Rowlands was unable to put up his Jester, but displayed his frogs and new clowns on the beach instead.

By lunch the skies were full of kites and looked a picture when viewed from the sand dunes. Kite traders present were The Highwaymen, Sky Bums & Gnu Kites. A most enjoyable weekend.

From China to Derbyshire A Kite Exhibition, Erewash Museum, Ilkeston, Derbys. 5th August to 9th September

By Alan Poxon & Julie White

Suggested by Jim and Julie White, organised by Curator, Julie Biddlecombe and the museum staff, and set up by Jim and Julie with kites on loan from many an MKF member, the exhibition has been an opportunity for the people of Derbyshire to see some of the history of kitemaking and kiteflying, right up to the present day.

Kites from the far eastern leaf kites and Chinese whistling Bird-scaring kites up to the modern sport kites and four-line parafoils have been displayed to illustrate the story.

Major milestones in kiteflying history have also been represented, with examples of a Chinese Dragon Kite (like the ones flown at Sunderland earlier in the year), a Hargrave Box, a Cody kite, a World War II 'Gibson Girl' RAF Rescue Kite, and even a 'Peter Powell' stunter (well, three actually).

There have also been text and picture displays, a video showing the exhilaration of Power Kiting, and a competition for the children.

The exhibition has been running for five weeks, and in that time has generated a considerable amount of interest.

Since seeing the exhibition advertised (on the internet among other places) people have even travelled the country to see the display.

Jim and Julie would like to thank:

Alan Bill
Flexifoil International
Chris Gage
Bill Gardner
Allan Gilbert
Ground Control Kites
The Highwaymen
Kite Magic of Lincoln
Alan Poxon
Doug & Linda Richardson
Andy Smith
Jim Whitehouse
John Yates

7th Coventry Kite Festival 19th & 20th August 2000

By Alan Poxon

Hands up all those who missed Coventry? I shall expect letters from your parents!

All I can say is the sun shone on the righteous (the wind didn't blow, but it rained everywhere else and the sun shone on us) and we had a really jolly time.

Lots of public, lots of stalls, lots of side-shows, and lots of kites. A really packed day of things to do and see was helped on by compère Ian Meredith, who was on particularly good form (he's now on several flyer's hit lists due to exhaustion - he had us running everywhere). A particularly good P.A. system helped the event too (I love flying to music). The wind garden also attracted a lot of interest, as it was bigger and better than last year: well done Dave.

The only real victim of the low wind was the Coventry Cup pairs competition, which could not take place, but Vortex and Sky Symphony teams tried their best to entertain the crowds.

If you made a weekend of it there was all the 'extra-curricular' activities such as night flying, eating, drinking, and generally making-merry. Oh yes, and the cheese.

I shall accept no excuses next year.

See you at Coventry

**Thanks to everyone
who has sent in
articles, letters,
pictures, and generally
done research and
'running around' for
this magazine.
Please don't stop!
Alan Poxon, (Editor)**



EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS

Apedale Country Park Newcastle Under Lyme Sunday 15th October 2000

MKF Fly-in and Display This is our third visit to the hill top at Apedale Country Park. Situated on the top of a hill overlooking Newcastle, the children's kite making workshop will keep your child happy for the ten minutes it takes to make it, and the three months continuous flying once in the air!!

Plenty of room for everyone to fly a kite. The toilets and burger man van at the top of the hill in the car park at the top of hill. A warm welcome of the visitor centre at the bottom.

For more details on this event email the Event Stewards Ken and Dorothy Campbell or email MKF, or ring Alan on 0121 360 1955.

10th Family Fun Day, Botanical gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham 22nd October 2000

Steward: Alan Bill. Tel: 1021360 1955

Mainly a single line event due to the lack of space, wind at ground level, and exotic kite-eating plants. If you want to find out everything about kiteflying, this is the place to come and chat.

Free entry on production of your membership card, and all the usual activities, but please be careful with large kite bags as you move through the greenhouses. (From the main entrance, bear left through the picture gallery and Japanese garden, which will bring you out to the gardens near the cafeteria.

Baxterley, Nr Atherstone

Remember Charity Farm at Baxterley? Many kite fliers liked the site and asked if we could have a Club Fly-in there: yes we can, but a small charge of £1.00 per head has been requested as this is a private airfield and requires upkeep. The fee is the same as Sutton Park, and would give toilet facilities.

The Midlands Kite Fliers Annual General Meeting to be Held at The Upstairs Function Room Drakes Drum Public House 11 Old Oscott Lane, Aldridge Road, Great Barr Birmingham

**On Sunday, 29th October 2000
Commencing at 10.00am prompt**

How about a Fly-in and barbecue later this year or early next. It would be late October or November this year as we have a full calendar.

Please advise.

Alan Bill

5th Rainbows Childrens Hospice, Summer Spectacular, Stanford Hall, near Costock, Loughborough, Leicestershire 22nd July 2001

Including children's kite making,

Cleethorpes International Kite Festival, Cleethorpes Beach, Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire 19 & 20th May 2001

2nd Shipley Park Kite Festival, Shipley Country Park, Heanor, Derbyshire 29th July 2001

And Finally...



How much do you give to your Club?

A very tired Doug Richardson collapses exhausted at Hackney Marshes after flying Sandy the Aquaman on the field for hours.

I am told that this is not a snap-shot (he really was very tired).

Picture by Linda Richardson.



BRIGHTON KITE FEST 2000

P hew! Another fab fest worth all the stresses and strains of its organisation. Support from fliers and public was inspiring, especially considering the completely uninspiring weather - still, we've seen better... and worse! Saturday morning arrives and, after a fliers meeting and reunions with our commentators Simon Dann and George Webster (sadly Chris Matheson's car has expired en route), Ray Bethell opens the event with one of his many superb performances in horrendous wind conditions. Things don't improve for Team Hyperactive but Simon Hennessey & Ray Oakhill hang in there and just manage to pull it off. Despite the ominously gathering rain clouds, Mikio Toki bravely makes his way into the arena and, with help from

Barry Pitman, launches a vast and exquisitely hand painted traditional Japanese Edo. Attached is a huge hummer which instantly strikes up a deep and mesmerising sound that fills the air. Meanwhile, Janneke Groen is also busy launching her appliquéd Sode kites. She is delighted when, with the aid of several fliers including Carolyn & Jerry

Swift, Pat & Ron Dell, Mik Jennison and myself, she is able to witness more than one of her kites flying simultaneously for the very first time. None of us can quite believe this... or just how hard those Sode's pull for their size! After a spot of Indian Kite Fighting by Mac Mcleod, Ron Moody and Danny Rice (to name but a few), Andy

aerodyne

october 2000

the newsletter of the brighton kite flyers

Wardley wins the Trick-Out Comp and Martin Croxton trounces the opposition (again!) in the Rok Fight. Over in the single line field, huge kites are the order of the weekend - Andrew Beattie puts on a fab show with 'Veronica' (30m Icarex Maxi Octopus) and Pete Linnell's giant Cody is displayed. Dave McArthur, Pat & Phil Chitty and Gill Pitman (amongst others) are hard at work in the Festival Info Tent and Norma & Mick House (plus volunteers) have come to the end of yet another successful Children's Kite Workshop. Ken Boddy manages to herd a fair proportion of children into the arena for a mass fly plus spot prizes for the best kites and fliers, followed by a sweet drop courtesy of Alan Outram and Danny

Steer (our chief fest bear bungers). The afternoon sees more from our international guests in the arena plus Sara & Karl Longbottom with the MKF Windbow - the wind hasn't dropped... but at least there will be some for the night-fly for a change! The Avon Kite Flyers arrive (Stuart Lafferty, David Johnson, Gary Griffiths & Carlos Luxa), I meet up with Jim Cronin for the first time and everyone appears to be in party mood. Alan & Anne Outram have organised a fantastic array of food for the BBQ and the cider & real ale tent stays open until 11pm - we all party hard and even get to meet Mikio's brother Makio... who provides much entertainment in the beer tent! Sunday sees intermittent showers but a surprising amount of people. Things run in a similar fashion to Sat, with no hitches (apart from the downpours) and the Mayor of Brighton gets completely hooked on bunging

PAST BKF SHIELD WINNERS

T he Brighton Kite Flyers Shield is awarded annually to someone who has made a significant and unrewarded contribution to kite flying over the years. The engraving reads:

'In honour of and with thanks for that excellence in all aspects of the sport that you have displayed.'

1987	Ron & Keith Macey
1988	Greg Locke
1989	Felix Mottram
1990	Ron Moody
1991	The Moresbys
1992	Stafford Wallace
1993	John Barker
1994	Martin Croxton
1995	Ray Oakhill
1996	Pat & Ron Dell
1997	Danny Steer
1998	Mik Jennison & Toody Oakhill
1999	Ray Bethell
2000	Alan Outram

TROPHIES 2000

- ◆ **Best At The Fest:**
Pete Linnell
- ◆ **Best Kite:**
Alan Cunningham:
'Starship Enterprise'
(soft inflatable)
- ◆ **Young Kiteflier:**
Joe Davis (age 10)
- ◆ **BKF Shield:**
Alan Outram
- ◆ **Sid Horton Memorial Trophy:**
Ron Moody

bears! All too soon it's time to draw the Kite Raffle and award the trophies - there are two surprises... Dicky Nourse & Harry Douglas present Ray Bethell with 3 miniature Kestrel kites in a display case (see: <http://www.poolekites.freemove.co.uk/ray2000.htm> for the full story) and the Brighton Kite Flyers present Ray Oakhill with one of Mikio's Edo's in appreciation of his previous Brighton Kite Festival organisation. Thanks to all who supported the event - roll on 7 & 8 July 2001... but not too fast!

Toody Oakhill (BKF Editor/Brighton/UK)

VERONICA'S TALE... OR SHOULD THAT BE TENTACLES?!

As some of you will already know, Andrew Beattie brought his Icarex Maxi Octopus (AKA 'Veronica') along to fly at this year's Brighton Kite Festival. It made a spectacular and large (@ 30m!) contribution to painting the somewhat grey skies over Stanmer Park throughout the weekend - cheers for all your hard work Andrew! Here's Veronica's tale... (Ed)

We had a good time. It took a while to start with to work out how to fly Veronica. We went up the hill, down the hill, round the back, nudged the teddy-launching line, pulled up into the woods and back again, before eventually settling for the place we started in! Flying on the long line made a significant difference - it got us up and out of the turbulence.

On Sunday, I had things sorted. I parked the car/anchor in the right place, ran out the line (in a damp mist) and pulled just her head out of the bag. Unaided, I launched her, grabbed the bag and she whisked up, streaming straight out of the bag into the air.

As Sunday progressed, the wind grew stronger and stronger and I waited for the inevitable failure of the line, wondering whether she would land in the park or on top of the large university hall. To my continued surprise, the line held firm... I sat in the car and felt it pull and rock the chassis!

When Veronica took a dive, nearly to the ground, I figured that it was time to take her down - the last thing I want is to sweep someone up with the line... the

friendly, bearded guy from the teddy-drop came and gave me a hand to get her down - I'd like to thank him - I couldn't have done it on my own!

Once I'd tidied the line and car away, I went back and, with the helping hand of a marshal, flew Natalie from the bridle. This was a little more exciting

than anticipated - she took me for a 40 yard drag through the long grass on my belly. I did, however, make it safely onto the cut grass, and I spent a while playing with kids in the tentacles.

I was half-way through packing when a couple of guys from <http://www.brightonweekend.com> came and begged to take some pictures. They promised to help pack up again, so she came out the bag again for another frolic.

We might have left early at 2pm, but it had been a full weekend. I had run up and down that hill so many times that when I got home, I was so shattered that I collapsed in bed at 6pm...

Many thanks for a fun (if exhausting!) weekend.

Andrew Beattie (Basingstoke/UK) Website: <http://www.tug.com>



POST FESTIVAL BLUES!

A big thanks to Stuart Lafferty, Carlos Luxa, Gary Griffiths, Dave Johnson and Sally Meadows of the Avon Kite Flyers - who joined us for the first time at the Brighton Kite Festival this year. Despite the lousy weather conditions they did the AKF proud by participating in the spirit of the fest - ie: having fun, despite having to rescue their treed Team Rok after Sunday's battle; with the help of a local window cleaner (cheers John Cooper) and his ladders!... (Ed)

I've got those! Just to say how much we enjoyed the festival, and meeting everyone, in fact I can't remember the last time I felt that relaxed, must be the Ballards ale! It was a good job we brought loads of kites, helped to keep the cabana in place anyway. Even the trip back round the (unprintable) jammed up behind an

FESTIVAL THANKS FROM SWITZERLAND...

Toni Glauser turned up on the off-chance on Sunday and flew a superb arena demo with his stack of Rainbow Diamond Stunters. The weather conditions were pretty appalling, with unco-operative winds and intermittent showers... thanks Tony! (Ed)

Thank you for that wonderful afternoon in Brighton. It really was great to fly... and the conditions haven't been so bad. I am used to kite festivals in Switzerland where we often have rain without wind... or just no wind. I was really happy to fly my kites and I am happy to hear that you liked it. It would be great to meet again sometime... here in Switzerland or in the UK.

With greetings from Switzerland.

Toni Glauser (Switzerland)

BRIGHTON KITE FESTIVAL

Just to say a big thank you to you and the rest of the crew for a great day and I am aware of all the hard work that is put in so others can enjoy. As Big Daddy would say, "Good stuff!"
Regards,

Harry Douglas

(Chairman: Poole Kite Fliers/UK)

Club website: <http://www.poolekites.freemove.co.uk>

accident didn't faze us. And then there was work (aarg!).

Big thanks for the BBQ. It was excellent. Shame we didn't get Roly up, maybe another year the wind will be kinder. Hope to see you all at another festival IDC, somewhere without kite-eating trees perhaps, who knows. Regards -

Stuart Lafferty (AKF/Bristol/UK)

Club website: <http://www.argonet.co.uk/users/parsons>

AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURE

ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL (Y2K)

Once again I am back in the world of my childhood dreams... Australia. This beautiful country has always held a deep fascination inside of me. I remember at school there was a poster pinned on the wall showing a man and a boy on horseback, riding through the bush towards their home - sort of a log cabin type of building that could be seen in the far distance, with eucalyptus trees and native shrubs growing in the orange and red soil. I have always had a vivid imagination and many times, in my daydreams I was that boy, and in bed at night this poster would come to mind and I would live it. No other country held any interest to me whatsoever, and I would constantly daydream about going to Australia one day... which I have now done many times. I love to be in the bush and think back to the days when I

was a boy gazing longingly at that poster... when all this before me was just a dream! That is one of the reasons I'm so eager to join all the local kite buggiers on the trip to the Outback Safari. It's a 4 hour drive from Adelaide on the highway, then a 2½ hour drive through the bush in the Gawler Rangers before arriving at Mt. Ives - a working 327 square mile, 209,000 acre sheep station owned by the wonderful Joan of the 'Never Never' and her husband

Mervyn Andrew. It's like going back in time when I guess all of Australia was like this... untouched and beautiful. I especially loved it at night, the southern sky filled to overflowing with stars, a breathtaking sight - no words can describe the awesome feeling of stillness and humming silence that has reigned for eons.

The ride through the bush in early morning after Joan's super bacon and eggs breakfast (cooked on the huge barbie) is a 35 minute drive to awesome Lake Gairdner. This is the time when all the animals - kangaroos, emus, etc are feeding and this all adds to the days adventure. The buggiers are all excited, the

wind is up and in no time flat they are shooting across the lake like bats out of hell, then they just become

dots on the horizon. They return after many hours covered from head to foot in salt with an ear to ear smiles on their faces!

I like to go for a walkabout back into the bush for a few hours soaking up what I could only dream about when I was boy while gazing into that poster. Then I would return and fly for a few hours on the beautiful 160 million and 26 year old Lake Gairdner, according to Joan's husband Mervyn (he said with a big grin on his face), "It was 160 million years old when I came here and I've been here 26 years", so there you go! ☺ Hey what have I done? Sorry, I got carried away and

should've put this part after the festival... never mind!

This was the best flight I have had so far from Vancouver to Australia, with just one stop in LA, then a 15 hour non-stop flight to Sydney, where I caught a domestic flight to Adelaide in South Australia. Upon arrival I was met by my true blue Aussie friend of many years Allison Robin. My kites arrived but not my suitcase, the lady at the lost baggage asked me, "How will we

know your suitcase? Give me a description." I said it should be no problem to find... as there's two weeks of dirty laundry in there! ☺ It arrived two days later, it had for some reason gone back to Vancouver then all the way to Western Australia before I got it. News really travels fast in Australia as everywhere I went in all four States I was ribbed all the time about "How come the person that delivered your lost suitcase was wearing a gas mask?!" ☺

Adelaide is a beautiful city known as the 'City of Churches' and you can understand why when you see all the lovely old churches with their beautiful spires reaching to the heavens. It's also a city

BRIGHTON KITE FEST PICS

We were delighted that Mikio Toki could join us for the first time at this year's fest. His kites have to be seen to be believed! Mikio has since put

together pages for both the Brighton and Washington/Sunderland Kite Festivals 2000 on his website at: <http://homepage1.nifty.com/mikiotoki/> where there are some excellent pics! (Ed)

I arrived home safely. Thank you for all your kindness during my stay in the UK. I enjoyed your festival very much.

I would like to make a page for the Brighton Kite Festival 2000 on my website. I will tell you when I get the pictures on the web.

Again I was really happy that I could attend your festival. Thank you very much. Best Regards,

Mikio Toki (Japan) Website: <http://homepage1.nifty.com/mikiotoki>

FEST THANKS FROM THE AKF

We had a wonderful time and owe you and the rest of the BKF thanks - "Thank You" for a splendid festival (so the weather wasn't the best, but we're kiteflyers, we know the risks!) and "Thank You" for our barbeque dinner on Saturday night, very much appreciated, and "Thank You" again for all your hospitality and friendship. We're already looking forward to next year!

David Johnson (AKF Club Secretary/Bristol/UK)
Club website: <http://www.orgonit.co.uk/users/pjones>



full of art, culture and festivals - many parts are very modern, yet a lot still hold that Victorian era feeling. The Adelaide International Kite Festival is one of the biggest kite events in Australia and especially one where everything goes - single liners, sport kites, kite surfing, buggying... you name it, it's done. Anne Marie Parry, owner of The Kite Factory in Adelaide and the festival organiser, along with her super team of volunteers, do an awesome job of putting on a world class kite festival. It all happens at the beach at Semaphore, a 20 minute drive from downtown Adelaide - a great beach, with so much room that everyone is able to do their thing. It has good winds off the ocean and the real bonus is that there's a very wide jetty that runs for over three blocks out over the beach and water - so the spectators (which attend in their thousands) have a grandstand view of the whole event. It is also a number one centre spot for Di Delli Paoli, who keeps the spectators informed through the day in what is going down on both sides of the beach, she's a number one commentator and is well versed in all the aspects of kiting. This is also a great dividing line: sport kites on one side... single lines on the other, so no problems - "Well, just a few!" I know I was really liked by the younger single liners because they only wanted to cut me out of the sky, "Bless their little hearts!" - but I must admit that it helped in learning new words!! ☺

So much was happening at this year's festival that it was hard to keep track of everything that was going on. The Australian Kite Surf Challenge finals, kite buggy competitions and displays, sport kite demonstrations by Australia's best kite flyers plus yours truly, art kites designed and flown by Scott Skinner of the USA, Peter Lynn from NZ flying all his flying creatures plus his newest creation - the huge 'Honey Bear', plus showing his skills in kite surfing, the Aussie's favourite and a must for any kite festival - Michael Alvares, great workshops by Scott Skinner, Michael and Jean Alvares, Maggie Phillips, Joane & Ricky Baker, and Di Delli Paoli, just to name a few... in fact there were over 100

Millennium event participants taking part in this year's fest. The weather throughout the

two days was great - with light winds in the morning and increasing to a beautiful 10mph by noon. Not quite enough for the kite surfers though, as they like heavier winds - they did have their 25 to 40 knot winds during the week... it's amazing what these guys can do on their boards and the speed they travel at! I think the kite surfing world will have to watch out for these mad, none fearing but terrific kite surfers from Down Under - especially Kane Hartell from NZ who is awesome and rated as one of the top 10 in the world. Kane and his girlfriend Stephanie Gamble, who is a super video and film maker plus also a good kite

surfer I may add, have been sponsored to Europe for 6 months - where he will be competing and giving demos, so keep your eye out for his name in the future. Australia would be the one of the best places to cut your teeth on kite surfing as they have the room, weather, beaches and surf - plus many talented surf board innovated manufactures whose workmanship is pure art.



BKF NEW YEAR'S DAY FLY-IN 2001

- ◆ **Date:** Monday 1 January 2001
- ◆ **Time:** 11am - 5pm
- ◆ **Venue:** Devil's Dyke/East Sussex
- ◆ **Map Ref:** 198 TQ 258 112
- ◆ **Height Clearance:** 1500ft
- ◆ **Contact:** Ray Oakhill (see p6)

Fly off that hangover - for those in need of a 'hair of the dog'... the Devil's Dyke Inn is open all day!

Toody Oakhill (BKF Editor/Brighton/UK)

BKF ONE SKY ONE WORLD DAY 2000

- ◆ **Date:** Sunday 8 October 2000
- ◆ **Time:** 11am - 5pm
- ◆ **Venue:** Devil's Dyke/East Sussex
- ◆ **Map Ref:** 198 TQ 258 112
- ◆ **Height Clearance:** 1500ft
- ◆ **Contact:** Ray Oakhill (see p6)

Come and join us flying kites for peace across the planet. As every year, the number of fliers and kites flown on the day will be registered and sent to Jane Parker-Ambrose at One Sky

One World HQ in Denver, Colorado, USA. There they will be added to the figures collated from other events worldwide.

Check out the OSOW website at: <http://www.oneskyoneworld.com> for further info about the event, its origins and history. Details of other UK events can be found on Jim Cronin's website at: <http://www.jims-place.org.uk>

Toody Oakhill (BKF Editor/Brighton/UK)

I was once again given my own arena on the beach with my back to the wind and the kites in full view of the spectators. For me the wind was perfect and everything came together like clockwork - I could do no wrong and flew continuously 8 hours plus every day of the festival and loved every minute of it. I was disappointed only when I got the message it was time to pack up, but that soon disappeared after getting together with old friends and making new ones at dinner at many of the great eateries in Semaphore. For the first time I tried some kangaroo steaks, it had a somewhat mild liver flavour and was quite good really - the only thing was that it took

me a day to walk normally again and I spilt too much beer hopping around! ☺

The festival was truly a huge success as were all the other activities throughout the week beforehand. In spite of cloudy and cooler conditions, the Buggy Challenge was held at Lower Light beach, about a 45 minute drive from Semaphore - a huge area where the tide goes out over 2 miles. There's enough space to hold all the buggy races in Oz at the same time, the kite surfers had their good and bad days but finished their finals in good style. All the workshops went off like clockwork at Semaphore and the schools too.

Australia is famous for its beautiful sunsets and I think it out-did itself with the sky over Semaphore beach, which looked like it was on fire just before the night fly. Alas the wind died but, "No worries" as Bob Dawson's firework show was awesome and a super added attraction which was enjoyed by the thousands gathered on the jetty and beach, "Good Stuff Bob!"

As always a joy and a great bonus for me is sharing the area with all the new friends I have made at this festival and renewing friendships with many old friends from all over Australia. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my sponsors to the 4th Adelaide International Kite Festival - 5adfm, National Power, Australian Major Events, City of Port Adelaide Enfield, The Kite Factory, Adelaide Kite Flyers Association Inc., plus all the festival supporters; far too many to even

start to list here. Thank you Anne Marie & Phil for your friendship and hospitality, also to your son Daniel for being

my chauffeur (and a damned good one at that!), plus all the countless flyers who attended from across Australia and who made me feel so very welcome. Last, but not least, my thanks to John who was there all day to help me if necessary, and after being cut down a few times I sure needed all the help you gave me so relentlessly... "Thanks a million mate!" Thank you for listening.

Ray Bethell (BKF/Vancouver/Canada)
Website: <http://home.istar.ca/~rbethell>

Ps: Steve McCormack, owner of the Power Kite Shop in Googee (NSW) & Geelong (Victoria) - a friend of mine for many years, when hearing I was sponsored to the Adelaide Kite Festival again, offered to be my agent to organise and find sponsors for other festivals and fly-ins in Victoria, Queensland and NSW. This would mean spending 6 weeks travelling across Australia and, to tell you the truth, he never had to twist my arm... I mean "Wow!" ☺ So my next article will be about the Darebin Kite Festival in Melbourne, Victoria.



TWO GO TO WALES...

We took a trip to Wales in June for our first visit to Margam Park (South Wales) and the Fairbourne & Barmouth Steam Railway (Gwynedd), incorporating a week's holiday travelling between them both. We set off from Brighton on the Friday evening of the 9th with a pretty rough weather forecast for the week ahead. We stayed at the first of many B&B's on the coast at Porthcall, about 3 miles from Margam.

The next morning on arrival at Margam Park it was a bright day with a light breeze. As we entered the park we saw two kite arches, which stayed up for most of the weekend, and an assortment of kites. In addition there were four marquees housing an International Bonsai exhibition and a building which the Welsh lovingly call a castle (more like a mansion to us!). Arriving at the campsite we bumped into flying friends Dorothy & Ken Campbell, John Southerton, Dave Salmon and Karl Longbottom (Sara was arriving later that evening) and a few others. We spent the rest of the day chatting, having the odd fly and a visit to the Bonsai exhibition.

Day two, much the same as day one, with weather improving all the time. Norma went off to go round the maze, and I watched on whilst Karl, with some friends, tried to pull a tree over with his flying line. I went to help with the rescue but unfortunately we could not get his kite back. All in all we had a really good time at Margam Park and we feel sure we will go back there.

We arrived in Barmouth town in a blaze of sunshine on the afternoon of Friday the 16th having spent the last few days making our way up the west coast of Wales. Looking across the estuary towards Fairbourne we had our first view of the flying site, Chalkie's banner and the spectacular scenery around that part of Wales. We spent the rest of the afternoon looking in the shops, followed by a trip to our B&B (the same one as Ken & Dorothy Campbell) overlooking the estuary, on the road to Fairbourne.

The next two days turned out to be the hottest we have had for a long time, we met more friends including John & Joan Larson (not forgetting Sammy their dog). Winds varied a lot over the weekend giving us a chance to fly a whole range of kites. The Saturday evening bash was fun, lots of food, rides in the steam engine with the driver, viewing of the video shot during the day and, of course, even some flying. On the Sunday, Chalkie White, John Larson, Sammy and I went into the estuary to swim on a couple of occasions between flying - temperatures rose to the low 90's towards the end of the afternoon. A great weekend was had by all.

A big thank you to Big Dave and to all of the staff of the Fairbourne & Barmouth Steam Railway for a great weekend and making us feel very welcome, I am sure we will go back there as well.

Mick & Norma House (BKF/Brighton/UK)



BKF FLY-IN REMINDERS

1ST SUNDAY MONTHLY (THROUGHOUT THE YEAR)

General fly-in day - a chance for club members to meet up and fly together:

- ◆ **Venue:** Telscombe Tye/Brighton
- ◆ **Site:** Next to the A259 coast road between Saltdean and Peacehaven
- ◆ **Map Ref:** 198 TQ 392 017
- ◆ **Time:** 11am - 5pm
- ◆ **Parking:** On roads next to the site or in A259 lay-by
- ◆ **By Bus:** Nos 14/711/712/713 from Brighton
- ◆ **Height Clearance:** 1500ft

BKF FLY-IN REMINDERS

2ND THURSDAY MONTHLY (APRIL - SEPTEMBER INCLUSIVE)

Summer flying evening - with a get-together afterwards at the nearby Swan pub at Falmer:

- ◆ **Venue:** Stanmer Park/Lewes Road/Brighton
- ◆ **Site:** Next to Sussex University
- ◆ **Map Ref:** 198 TQ 342 088
- ◆ **Time:** From 6pm
- ◆ **Parking:** On road through the site
- ◆ **By Bus:** No 25 from Brighton
- ◆ **By Train:** Falmer Station
- ◆ **Height Clearance:** 200ft

THIS ISSUE'S BACON SAVERS...

Thanks to all of this issue's contributors - without whose efforts you wouldn't have a newsletter...

- ☆ **Andrew Beattie (UK)**
- ☆ **Ray Bethell (Canada)**
- ☆ **Harry Douglas (UK)**
- ☆ **Toni Glauser (Switzerland)**
- ☆ **Mick & Norma House (UK)**
- ☆ **David Johnson (UK)**
- ☆ **Stuart Lafferty (UK)**
- ☆ **Mikio Toki (Japan)**

FURTHER BKF INFO...

- ◆ **Co-ordinator/Chairperson:**
Pete Linnell:
Tel: 01273 683082/email:
brightonkiteflyers@bigfoot.com
- ◆ **Membership Secretary:**
Corinne Hennessey:
Tel: 01273 582309/email:
corinne@hennesseys.freemove.co.uk
- ◆ **Events Co-ordinator:**
Ray Oakhill:
Tel/Fax: 01273 306842
email: rao@mistral.co.uk
- ◆ **Editor:**
Toody Oakhill:
Tel/Fax: 01273 243528
email: toody@bigfoot.com
- ◆ **Club Library:**
(Loans to BKF members only)
Pete Linnell:
Tel: 01273 683082/email:
brightonkiteflyers@bigfoot.com
- ◆ **Club Merchandise:**
Enamel Pins/Cloth Patches:
Ray Oakhill:
Tel/Fax: 01273 306842
email: rao@mistral.co.uk
- T Shirts & Sweatshirts:**
Alan Outram:
Tel: 01737 771196/email:
alanoutram@connectfree.co.uk
- ◆ **Brighton Kite Flyers Website:**
<http://www.brightonkiteflyers.co.uk>
<http://www3.mistral.co.uk/prchitty>
Webmaster: Phil Chitty:
Tel: 01273 305831
email: prchitty@mistral.co.uk
- ◆ **Brighton Kite Festival 2001:**
Date: Sat 7 & Sun 8 July 2001
Venue: Stanmer Park/Lewes Road/Brighton/East Sussex
Organised by the Brighton Kite Flyers Festival Team
Joint Festival Co-ordinators:
Simon Hennessey/Alan Outram

Further Festival Information:
email: s_hennessey@bigfoot.com

- ◆ **Brighton Kite Festival Website:**
<http://www.whizzieworld.free-online.co.uk>
Joint Webmasters:
Mik Jennison & Toody Oakhill
Tel/Fax: 01273 243528
email: mikandtoody@bigfoot.com



CURRENT COMMITTEE

- ◆ **Chairperson (Officer):**
Pete Linnell
- ◆ **Secretary (Officer):**
Simon Hennessey
- ◆ **Treasurer (Officer):**
Gill Pitman
- ◆ **Committee Members:**
Norma House
Alan Outram
Toody Oakhill

USE THIS SPACE...

Please contribute to your newsletter - even the smallest of items is appreciated. Anything sent to the 'Editor' will be considered for print unless marked otherwise. Please include a stamped sae for return.

Please send contributions to:

Toody Oakhill (Editor)
Brighton Kite Flyers
Lower Ground Floor Flat
43 Grand Parade
Brighton
East Sussex
BN2 2QA
Tel/Fax: 01273 243528
email: toody@bigfoot.com

Deadlines:

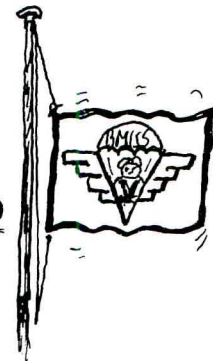
January issue: 1 December
April issue: 1 March
July issue: 1 June
October issue: 1 September

Whilst every care is taken to get the details correct in 'Aerodyne', the Brighton Kite Flyers cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions that may occur.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Brighton Kite Flyers.

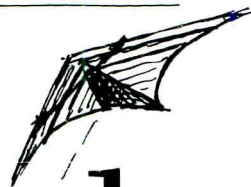


42 ROMAN CANDLE 58.



The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad. The International Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils.... Truly a little bit of the fun has gone now, but we'll carry on regardless, 'cos thats what the little bit of fun would have wanted.....

Leap of faith for a student of Leonardo



Seen on T.V. it was very apparent just how stable Leo's design was. Obviously with the benefit of modern experience as to how various Chutes perform the makers pretty well knew what to expect, plus they had the get out of a modern chute if it had gone bad...

A BIZARRE contraption of wooden poles, canvas and ropes was launched from two miles high yesterday by a Briton who had nursed a lifelong ambition to prove that Leonardo da Vinci invented the first working parachute.

Adrian Nicholas ignored the advice of experts who told him that the 187lb design would not fly.

Strapped in a harness to which four thick ropes were strung beneath a frame of pine poles covered in canvas, Mr Nicholas was hoisted by a balloon 10,000ft above southern Africa.

The balloon dropped altitude for a few seconds, filling the parachute with air, before the harness was released. There was no sudden fall or dramatic swinging and the parachute floated gently through the skies. Its descent was so slow that two parachutists accompanying

Mr Nicholas's attempt twice had to brake to stay level.

"The whole experience was incredibly moving," said Mr Nicholas. "Looking down I could see Mozambique and the sugar cane and fruit plantations below us.

"It didn't feel like I was under a modern parachute at all. They descend forward and push wind into your face. The sensation was like floating under a balloon. It gently suspended me and it didn't twist and turn."

Mr Nicholas, 38, fell for around 7,000ft, with a black box recorder measuring his five-minute descent, before cutting himself free and releasing a conventional parachute. The Leonardo device floated to the ground and was not badly damaged.

Last night, its builder and Mr Nicholas's girlfriend, Katarina Ollikainen, was checking it before a repeat drop

today in the Mpumalanga province of South Africa.

Mr Nicholas, from London, who holds the world record for the longest freefall — a 10-mile descent — said: "I think Leonardo da Vinci would have been pleased. Parachute designers, balloonists, helicopter experts and pilots all told me that it wouldn't work and that it would be unstable. It's taken 500 years to find out, but it seems they are all wrong."

Leonardo, who scribbled down his design in a notebook in Milan in 1485, envisaged a four-sided linen pyramid, 24ft square at the base.

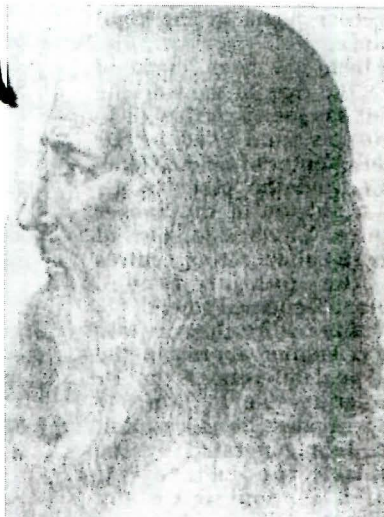
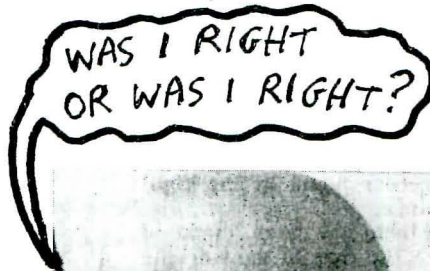
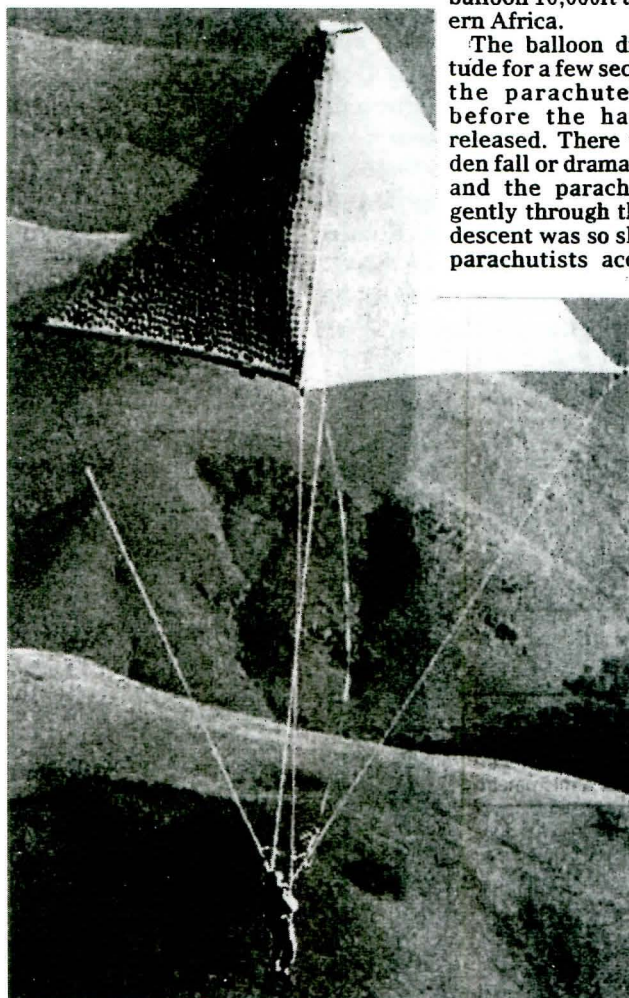
Yesterday's parachute was made using tools and materials which would have been available in 15th-century Milan and the only concession to the 21st century was the use of thick hot air balloon tapes to prevent the canvas ripping when it was being lifted by the balloon.

The descent was studied by a team of computer scientists from Salford University, who plan to create a three-dimensional computer model of the parachute in flight.

Although Leonardo sketched many designs for flying machines, it is likely that the parachute was designed as a quick escape from a bridge or tower.

Alongside his drawing he wrote: "If a man is provided with a length of gummed linen cloth with a length of 12 yards on each side and 12 yards high, he can jump from any great height whatsoever without any injury."

Without a means of getting into the air, however, the parachute had no practicable value. In 1783 a Frenchman, Louis-Sebastien Lenormand, was said to have made the first parachute jump when he leaped from a tree with two parasols.



Inventor: Leonardo da Vinci

Brown bears reprieved in French Pyrenees

A Group of Slovenian Bears from the French Pyrenees has won a reprieve from deportation.

The bears lucky escape only happened after a Conservationist took the case to the highest court in France.

Impoverished farmers in the Ariège area claimed that the bears were responsible for killing 200 sheep in the last year.

The bears were turned loose in the mountains in 1996 as part of an attempt to restore the native population after ruthless hunting led to the bears disappearing from the Pyrenean

Area in the eighties. Apprehensive farmers had lobbied the French government to insert a clause in the latest hunting bill, which would enable local mayors to capture and deport any bear considered to be a danger to the local domestic livestock.

However the highest court in France has decreed that this would be against EEC rules on conservation, and now the farmers are up in arms. There are only about 10 bears in the area and the conservationists would like this number to rise to about 100.

Roland Guichard of Artus, the organisation trying to protect the bears said, The hunters are furious, we are happy. The bear was always part of the pyrenean landscape before they were exterminated, reintroduction on a larger scale would be good for tourism, but the bears opponents dont understand this, they just see them as a wild animal, there to be killed.

Trouble is, that whenever a sheep is killed, the locals immediately say it was a bear that did it and yes, baers are resposible for about 60 sheep deaths a year, whilst domestic dogs on the rampage, kill more than a 1000.

The European brown bear (URSUS ARCTUS) is a cousin of the North American Grizzly and can weigh up to 900lb and reach 7ft in height. Essentially vegetarian, the bears is not above opportunistic animal kills. It is however in a catastrophic plight according to the World Wide Fund for Nature, and is in greater danger of extinction than the giant Panda. The bears have been under attack ever since they were reintroduced, a protest march in the small town of Foix even had people carrying placards reading quite openly TUONS l'ours (Lets kill the bear) By 1999 the local mood had grown so ugly that Lionel Jospin the Prime Minister felt obliged to visit the region to try and calm things down.

It is now argued that the key to man and bear living in harmony is the return of the PATOU the Pyrenean guard dog which became much less used by shepheds as bear numbers dwindled. Consevatinists say that if the dogs are on guard then the opportunistic bears will not go after the sheep.

Local farmers however remain far from convinced Jose Barbosa who manages a flock of 250 sheep in the Orlu valley where 54 sheep were mauled last year, said The bear is bloodthirsty and carnivorous, it is'nt a Teddy Bear.

**TOO RIGHT, BUT SURELY THE POOR CREATURES
HAVE TO LIVE SOMEWHERE, IS THAT TOO MUCH
TO ASK ?.....**



OH CHUTE! SKYDIVER LANDS CLINGING TO PLANE AFTER HIS LEG IS TRAPPED.....

Skydiver Andy Judy of Morgantown, Pennsylvania had a lucky escape when he survived a landing whilst clinging to the underside of a Plane, after getting hung up.

It all started to go Pear shaped at an altitude of 10500ft as Andy attempted to leave the Aircraft. Somehow a foot got caught in the ladder beneath the door and for thirty minutes Andy was bashed and battered by the slipstream as he struggled to free himself.

Even though Any unfastened his jump suit and removed his boot, hewas unable to to release and fall free. The Pilot of the Aircraft finally decided to attempt a landing on the grass alongside the paved runway at Connellsville Airport, fully expecting the unwilling passenger not to survive Funnily enough, although Andy suffered cuts and bruises all over, he walked away from being part of the Aircrafts undercarriage. Although this was a pretty good Parachuting go wrong, it still does'nt qualify Andy for membership of BMISS.

CHINESE TO RELEASE 500 BEARS.....ABOUT TIME TOO.....

After a Seven Year Campaign, British conservationist Jill Robinson was in a celebratory mood after the Chinese Government signed an agreement, releasing the 500 bears

Jill, the founder of the "Animals Asia Foundation" had long campaigned against the somewhat dubiouspractice of holding the endangered Asiatic Black Bears in captivity on primitive farms, where they were fitted with catheters in order to extract the poor creatures bile from their gall bladders, for use in traditional Chinese medicines.

good on yer Jill, more power to your elbow.

MURDER BY PARACHUTE.....WEIRD OR WHAT?.....

A man who murdered a nurse by sabotaging her Parachute after learning that she would never return his affection has been jailed for life by a court in Germany.

Ralph Kasperek denied the charge but was convicted after a nine day trial on the charge of sabotaging both the main and reserve canopies of Andrea Ulrich, leaving her to plummet 10,000ft to her death after a routine jump at the Skydiving club in Munster where they were both members

From Roman Candle 50 Years ago, he lied.....

GRADINGS GRADINGS GRADINGS GRADINGS GRADINGS

New Members are hereby advised of the official B.M.I.S.S. Gradings. these have been developed over a long priod and are to be rigidly adhered to. There are no shortcuts

Zero to 10 jumps, NOVICE, The member must be under supervision of an expert at all times; 11 to 20 jumps, IMPROVER, The member is allowed to jump alone and to plan basic cock ups and go wrongs; 21 to 50 jumps, EXPERT, The member has a full grasp of tactics and techniques and can train and supervise the two lower grades; 51 jumps onwards, PRO, The member on attaining this grade is adjudged to be in total command on every jump. He or She is Master of every tactical situation and can Direct, Train and Supervise all lower grades.

Members of the two lowest grades are reminded that they should at all times heed the advice of a PRO if they are desirous of attaining the first rank of Parachuting Fauna.

B.M.I.S.S. as a brother and Sisterhood are a particularly self effacing group, but we do have one award and one only, it is "THE BROWN SKIDMARK" awarded for Valour and Devotion above and beyond the call of duty. The very first recipient of this was Gamley Bear, awarded the TBS for his conspicuous gallantry whilst testing the Fiendish GL SMOKEFLARE, It nearly blew the poor sods bum off.

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FAREWELL DROPNIK RON

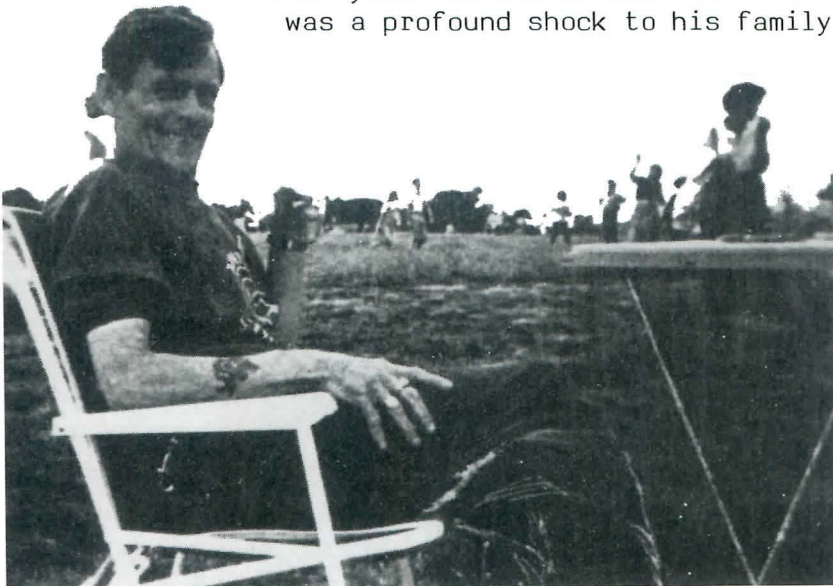
SO THERE WE WAS, BACK IN THE MISTS OF TIME, EIGHTYONE TO BE PRECISE, 'COR WAS IT THAT LONG AGO ?, BOMBING THE ODD BEAR, AS YER DO, WHEN THOUGHTS OF FORMING A PARACHUTING CLUB OR WOTEVER FOR PARACHUTING TEDDY BEARS CAME UP.....

Forming a club is one thing but, said club could really do with a snappy title and whilst quite a few had rattled around the bonce non had really caught what passes for the Boring Old Farts imagination.

Until that is one memorable day at Blackheath, or was it Thorndon ? who knows, when Rusty, one of Ron Macey's bears pulled off the pretty neat trick of delaying the deployment of his chute until he was about 20 ft from the ground,

All of a sudden a voice boomed out "*****" ***, 'e bearley made it" Bingo! Ronnie had just named the club. Unfortunately we were never able to use the full title in print, and ever since we have had to be content with the truncated version, though lots of you out there do know the full unexpurgated one.

Retired ex postal supervisor Ron Macey quit this vale of tears on June 20th this year. He had'nt been well for some time, but his passing was a profound shock to his family and friends. He was 70.



Ron was actually born in Wales, but would have made a better cockney than many born within the sound of Bow Bells.

He was an accomplished Kite maker, but actually bought far more than he ever made, but that was Ronnie, he just had to have them.

But, if Ron loved Kites , then he loved bombing fauna even more. First I know of to use a Radio Controlled release for his "Tottnam" mob he was also the first and only Dropnik to have a Par-

Ron Macey 1930-2000
achuting Rat, horrible looking thing but it did the para bizzo.

With Rons passing, BMISS will never be the same thats for sure, but there again thats life. I for one will miss our face to face and telephonic rants as we tried to set the world to rights.....Farewell Ronnie, you was a good 'un boy.

Not really much more to be said, so as ever its the usual to the usual at ye olde Teddy torial, c/o THE BORING OLD FART, 48 Laurel Lane, West Drayton, Middx, UB7. 7TY. in what forever will be ENGLAND no matter what the traitors have planned, Bah! may their certain parts fester.

P.S. We have been asked, what is the significance of 42 in the R.C. logo, and at risk of boring the pants off those of you who know, we'll tell you that ts the answer to the ultimate question. "What is the meaning of life, the Universe, everything."

YEAH THEY TRULY
DID BREAK THE
MOULD



Kite Event Calendar 2000/2001

	<u>December 2000</u>	
27	Mince Pie Fly-in, Bibury, Wiltshire.	Neil Harvey
	<u>April 2001</u>	
28	Stowe Kite Festival, Stowe Gardens, Bucks.	White Horse Kite Fliers
29	Stowe Kite Festival, Stowe Gardens, Bucks.	White Horse Kite Fliers
	<u>May 2001</u>	
5	The Kite Society Convention, Weymouth. Provisional	The Kite Society
6	Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival, Weymouth, Dorset.	The Kite Society
7	Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival, Weymouth, Dorset.	The Kite Society
12	Swindon Kite Festival, Wroughton, Wilts. Includes STACK competition.	White Horse Kite Fliers
13	Swindon Kite Festival, Wroughton, Wilts. Includes STACK Competition.	White Horse Kite Fliers
19	<u>Cleethorpes International Beach Kite Festival.</u>	Andrew Pidgen
20	<u>Cleethorpes International Beach Kite Festival.</u>	Andrew Pidgen
26	<u>Tewkesbury Kite Fun Weekend.</u>	Neville Wing
27	<u>Tewkesbury Kite Fun Weekend.</u>	Neville Wing
28	<u>Tewkesbury Kite Fun Weekend.</u>	Neville Wing
	<u>June 2001</u>	
12	Peterborough Kite Festival,	Great Ouse Kite Fliers.
23	East Coast Kite Festival, Dovercourt, Essex. Southampton Kite Festival (Provisional). Includes STACK competition.	Force Nine Kites Michael Lowe
24	East Coast Kite Festival, Dovercourt, Essex. Southampton Kite Festival (Provisional). Includes STACK competition.	Force Nine Kites Michael Lowe
30	5 th Canterbury Kite Festival, University of Kent, Canterbury.	Alan Cunningham
	<u>July 2001</u>	
1	5 th Canterbury Kite Festival, University of Kent, Canterbury.	Alan Cunningham
14	Silloth Kite Festival, Cumbria. Newbury Kite Festival. Includes STACK competition.	Ian Gilmore Kreative Kites
15	Silloth Kite Festival, Cumbria. Newbury Kite Festival. Includes STACK competition.	Ian Gilmore Kreative Kites
21	Tewkesbury International Kite Festival	Neville Wing
22	Tewkesbury International Kite Festival	Neville Wing
	<u>August 2001</u>	
4	Middle Wallop Kite Festival, Andover Hants. Includes STACK competition.	Kites Up.
5	Middle Wallop Kite Festival, Andover Hants. Includes STACK competition.	Kites Up.
25	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hants.	The Kite Society.
26	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hants.	The Kite Society.
27	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hants.	The Kite Society.
	<u>September 2001</u>	
1	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol.	Avril Baker
2	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol.	Avril Baker

Contact	Address	Telephone	Email
Kites Up	Roy Broadley	01256 812487	kites@kitesup.co.uk
The Kite Society	P.O. Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY	01206 271489	Events@thekitesociety.org.uk
Avril Baker	5 Lilymead Avenue, Wells Road, Totterdown, Bristol BS4 2BY	0117 977 2002	
Neil Harvey		01285 740295	
Andrew Pidgen		024 7232 3004	
Neville Wing	9 Howard Road, Tewkesbury, Glos GL20 8QX	01684 295132	neville@nwing.fsnet.co.uk
Great Ouse Kite Fliers	27 Milton Way, Peterborough, Cambs PE3 9AP	01733 269687	Gokf@tinyworld.co.uk
Force Nine Kites	40/42 High Street, Clacton, Essex CO15 1UQ	01255 221059	Sales@fnk.co.uk
Michael Lowe	44 Bellemoor Road, Shirley, Southampton, Hants SO15 7QU	023 8077 0788	
Alan Cunningham		01227 275604	acunni3747@aol.com
Ian Gilmore		01900 881371	
White Horse Kite Fliers	P.O.Box 585, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 4YR	01793 824208	Dajjmi@tesco.net
Kreative Kites	4/5 Sadlers Court, The Broadway, Newbury RG14 1AZ	01635 528400	