

# THE KITEFLIER

ISSUE 92

JULY 2002

PRICE £2.00



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

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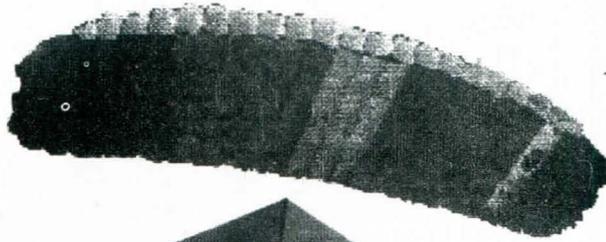
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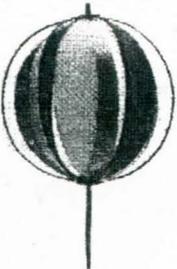
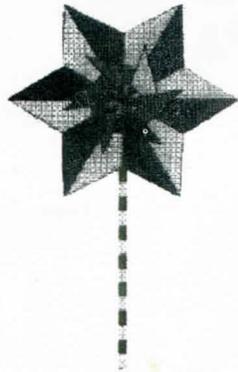
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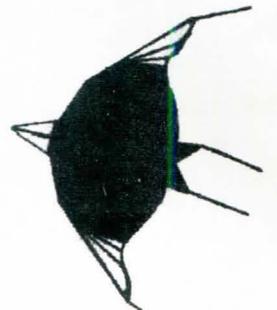


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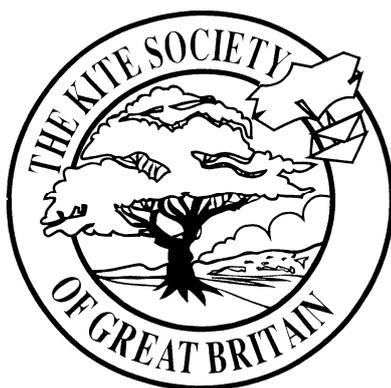
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The Kite Society of Great Britain  
P. O. Box 2274  
Gt Horkelesley  
Colchester  
Essex  
CO6 4AY

Tel/Fax: 01206 271489

Email: [kites@thekitesociety.org.uk](mailto:kites@thekitesociety.org.uk)  
<http://www.thekitesociety.org.uk>

## Editorial

Dear Reader

We are now quite a way through the season and what a mixed bag of weather we have had. Let us hope that the rest of the festivals have good wind and sunshine.

Near the end of the season kite fliers have three major events to look forward to. Bristol is back on again this year (see page 13 for more details), Portsmouth, which promises to be bigger and better this year (page 17) and lastly Dieppe, which while lacking in space has the most kite

flying countries represented at any kite festival. The registration form can be found on page 15. For everyone it is an event worth attending but please make sure you send your forms back to the organisers before the 15th August to the address shown on the form.

See you there.

**Jon and Gill Bloom**

### Membership Information

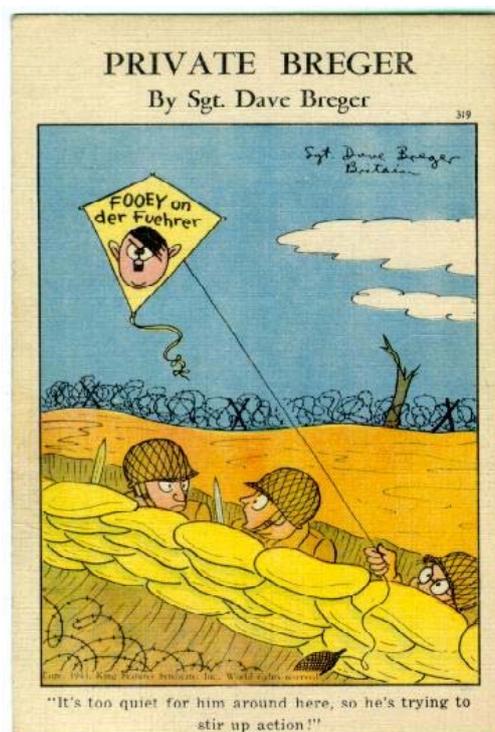
The main vehicle of communication between members is the quarterly publication 'THE KITEFLIER', published in January, April, July and October of every year. 'THE KITEFLIER' contains news of forthcoming kite festivals, kite retailer news, kite plans, kite group news and a comprehensive events list.

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.

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 send your name and address (plus the names of any supplementary members) and your payment for the appropriate membership type, to the address shown above. All cheques, 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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We are always on the lookout for unusual kite memorabilia and we spotted this postcard. The caption reads "It's too quiet for him around here, so he's trying to stir up action".

We are always interested in publishing any kite related items—large or small. Please send them to the address at the top of the page.

### Front Cover Photo

**Skyscape at Weymouth 2002. Many of the kites belong to the Flying Aquarium who will be at Portsmouth in August.**

**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.*

## Letters

### From Nicky Cruden

Thank you for organising the Weymouth Kite Festival, it was splendid.

As usual, I came without kite, knowing that there was too much to see and enjoy. The events were good and the ROK fight was a treat.

I try and attend as many kite festivals as I can and have become aware of something that I think is missing; a kite-flyer(s) who will tour the flying areas and help-out those that are having difficulty flying their kite. I have seen many Mums and Dads trying with difficulty to launch kites recently bought from kite stalls at the festival, their children frantic with impatience to fly! Most of the problems I've come across are simple, such as kites put together incorrectly (usually by Dad who never reads the instructions - "I'll do it, Son. I flew kites when I was a lad!"), bridles the wrong way round and tails in the wrong place. On a rare occasion, the purchased kite is faulty and help is needed to return the kite to the vendor for replacement. Not once have I been dismissed, people are only too pleased to have advice (and to have a bit of peace and quiet when their infant goes off flying their new kite!).

There's nothing so off-putting as purchasing a kite that won't fly.

Perhaps there are some of you out there that would be willing to do a stint at kite festivals looking-out for kites that won't fly and lending a hand?

On another matter, I attended the Swindon Kite Festival on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>. May 2002. The festival was organised by The White Horse Kite Flyers. This was at a new venue - Lydiard Country Park - and you may be interested to know that it is a fine site. In my opinion it is much better than previous Swindon Festivals held at Wroughton Airfield. The scenery is better and more interesting as was demonstrated when there could be seen a collection of kites attempting to rescue a parascending Teddy that had become entangled in a tree. After a ladder and long pole were brought into action, the tree was climbed and the rescue was successful! All in all I had a good day and commend it to those of you who may have stayed away because of the change of site.

---

### From Julia Chapman

We've enjoyed our kites and kite flying for many years and have also enjoyed reading The Kiteflier for years, so I decided it was time we wrote and said so – the view from the ordinary man on the street so to speak. We had a particularly good time at Weymouth this year and would like to say to anyone not yet getting out there on the beach – just grab your kite and go for it! You'll have a great time.

Kites are for everyone – and this couldn't be more true than at Weymouth this year. From little kites to superb co-ordinated displays it was all there. There is no snobbery, no elitism, just people – and kites. For the first time this year we actually flew a kite in the single line arena – our biplane graced the skies and we felt proud of it. It was great just being part of it all and may I say, if you are like us and think you are not good enough to be out there – rubbish! – just get your kite and go. Everyone is so friendly and helpful – fellow fliers and traders – you'd be amazed how much we learnt just by being there. Next year, we are bringing more kites and maybe we'll start thinking of designing our own.

On the cold and windy bank holiday Monday we especially had a great time. The sand blew in our faces, but we were busy flying our kite; the rain fell while we ate our ice cream, but we were busy watching the aerial displays; we shivered in our two jumpers and coat, but we didn't care – we were busy having the time of our lives at a great kite festival at Weymouth.

So a big thank you to everyone who makes this festival so enjoyable. We can't wait for next year.

---

### From Denis Chappell

Following on from Graham Binney (ref No Magazines). No you are not alone with your thoughts with the lack of a quality kite magazine. I started kite flying last year (2001) and the first thing I looked for was a magazine which was not to be had. I came across the KSGB whilst I was on holiday and happened to come across Kruzy Kites in Barnstaple who put me onto the KSGB and also assured me there was not another magazine printed commercially. All the points Graham mentioned I agree with and I must also thank Gill and Jon Bloom for producing such a good newsletter/magazine for us.

## Bird Kites by George Webster

### 1 Introduction

I thought it would be interesting to write about bird kites (or BKs) from across the world emphasising 1980 onwards and concentrating on commercial kites rather than 'one offs'. In particular I wanted to classify BK types in some way. I ended up using their wing structures – this seems to work and produces a classification of 6 types. And it was interesting.

Definition. For this article a BK is one which is designed to suggest a bird in flight using structure, pattern and colour.

Clearly in some cases the kite shape symbolises the bird in a way which might not be apparent outside that culture. Photo 1 is a raven bird kite from Sri Lanka. No I haven't seen a raven like it. But it does have 'wings' and a 'tail' section which will move in-flight. Some variants of the Chinese Rigid Wing kites (see 4.4 below) use symbolism which to my eyes clashes with realism.

I have excluded:

- bats and pteranadons;
- bird men (New Zealand and Icarus);
- Thunderbirds and the Phoenix;
- and for all I know flying squirrels.

No multi-lines.

I've also excluded kites where the kites' plan isn't changed but a bird pattern is superimposed. Some very effective kites have been clear plastic Malays with a good bird print. I haven't seen an 'Indian Fighter' to include in the article although there are pictures of kites with a formalised bird design. I've seen a mylar fighter shaped to produce the hint of a head and tail. Back in the 1970's Helen Bushell made a very birdlike version of her trefoil delta just by putting black wingtip colour on the trailing edge. But there has to be a limit – and the Ostend Bird (Photo 2) just scrapes in.

Starting to write about BKs it soon became clear that you have to realise:

- that you are writing from a particular corner of the kite world viz Britain as some islands off the North West coast of Europe which is a bump on the left hand side of Asia.
- that even from my limited knowledge of what has been done you have to be selective while still trying to show the enormous variety of BKs.

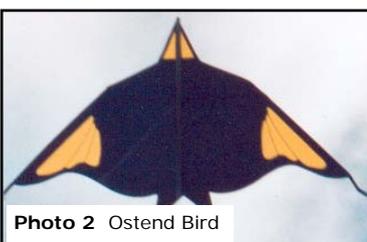


Photo 2 Ostend Bird

The layout of the article is:

Section 2 – History; Section 3 – Compound Birds; Section 4 – Wings; Section 5 – Heads etc.; Section 6 – Exceptions; Section 7 – Omissions; Section 8 – Conclusion

Where a name appears in capitals (eg PELHAM) there will be a full reference in the bibliography at the end. The photos (2,3,4,6,10-13,20) are all by one of the Websters, 1,5,7-9,14-19,21,22 are by David of Holwick. There are sketches, plans and illustrations (X1-X17), also drawings 1 & 2.

### 2 History



Photo 1. Raven Bird Kite, Sri Lanka

While expert opinion has now swung to believing that kites were invented in South East Asia/South Pacific, rather than in China, it is from China that we get the earliest clear written records and they describe wooden bird kites. Not so surprising as until quite recently humans imitated the natural form which had the properties they wanted. Birds could fly, therefore the best shape for a flying device was a bird.

The earliest Chinese kite maker was Gong Shaban who, it is claimed, made a wooden kite which imitated sparrow hawks circling the sky. Others credit Motzu (also pre 380BC) who took 3 years to make a wooden bird which was wrecked after one day. His followers said 'What skill the Master has to be able to make a wooden kite fly'. He answered 'It is not as clever as making a wooden ox-yoke peg'. (We all know the feeling). A contemporary called Kungshu Phan is said to have made a bird from bamboo and wood which flew for three days (I feel for Motzu).

At about the same time Areltyas of Tarentum, a Greek, is claimed to have made a 'flying dove'.

WILL YOLEN has a photo of a clay model of a bird shaped kite in the Cairo Museum which at 2,200 years easily pre-dates the other claims. But no one is very sure.

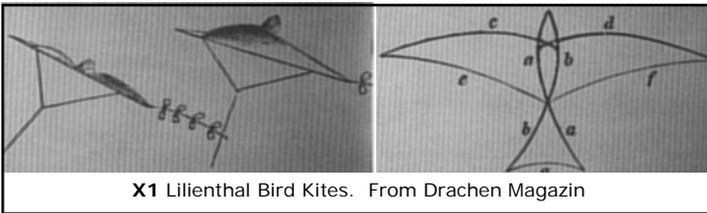
Japan imported kites, together with its' pick of the rest of Chinese culture in 607AD.

Since flying men are excluded, Maori kites don't figure and BKs are not a feature of traditional Indonesian/Malaysian kites. This is 'not quite true' for the Malaysian Wau does have bird named variants. But they are even less bird like than the Raven from Sri Lanka.

I don't know much about the development of western BKs until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. None of the 19<sup>th</sup> century developers of kites for lifting or traction used a BK. Of those who were after powered flight, to my knowledge only Lilienthal seemed to use bird shapes (X1).

So 'adult' kites in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century used Malays, Conynes and box shapes from Hargreaves et al. Children's kites were largely home made so the builders

## Bird Kites by George Webster



X1 Lilienthal Bird Kites. From Drachen Magazin

had enough problems using gardening materials to get archtops, diamonds and 3 sticks to fly without going for bird designs. Of course there were some BKs sold as toys and Brookite had a compound bird design (see section 3). L L Hunts book '25 kites that fly' published in 1929 shows an Owl kite in the shape of a face-on sitting owl where the beak projects from the front surface to provide both a fin and the bridle point. The outline is to be formed by steam bending sticks made from orange crates. I don't really understand the plan but Hunt was a kite builder to the U.S Weather Bureau.

Four things affected western BK development in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century:

- the development of the delta
- the spread of knowledge of the Papagaio
- wider knowledge of oriental kites
- new materials. Not only ripstop but light stiff wing spars and flexible thin spars as a base for feathers etc.

What was happening to Chinese and Japanese kites is a separate specialist area (see HA K. & HA Y., STREETER and HOSKING). Briefly traditional Chinese kites have always had a high artistic and craftsmanship content. As well as traditional designs they seem free to invent new designs. Going for western shapes hasn't always been successful (I have a flexible wing squatting Kangaroo) but they have now established quality manufacturing e.g. of Joel Scholz's Sky Delight range.

In Japan craft kite making seems always to have been in the hands of relatively few makers who kept to traditional local designs. While there has been a resurgence of interest in some traditional kites, kite flying in Japan – associated with culture and tradition – is declining.

Back to the 'west'. Kitelines Fall 1980 had a great review article 'Tal Streeter on Kites as Art' with 8 BK illustrations. Curiously he didn't include the Larus Seagull and the papagaio, probably as his main concern was the 'one off' hand built kite.

A list of some of the kites which will be mentioned later, and their dates, is given below. Several of the dates are 'by' as I couldn't research launch dates.

1983 (by) Windy Kites Seagull  
 1984 George Peter's Skybird, Martin Lester's Goose etc.  
 1987 Joel Scholz's Parrot  
 1990 Jackites. Dove in 1996  
 1992 Martin Lester's Hawk  
 1996 R Tiens 'l'oiseau'  
 2001 Didakites 'Ostend Bird'

### 3 Compound Bird Kites

There is a range of kites to consider before going on to BKs proper. None are very 'realistic'. These examples are:

- Will Yolen's Bird Kite (X2)

- Pelham's Compound bird – illustrated here from Vlieger 1984 (X3)
- The Sherbird (P3)

The basis of these kites is a Bell 2 celled triangular box (or Conyne centre section) with the 2 cells connected by a horizontal surface (Diagram 1 hopefully makes this clear). To this would be added a pointed 'head' as shown and then one of a variety of wing/tail shapes.

Yolen used a papagaio wing/tail shape. Pelham shows a type of Pearson wing. The Sherbird has a delta wing and a small winged tail. See Don's Delta Conyne (X4). A Brookite Eagle kite from about 1910 had a very similar plan but with a papagaio wing.

Obviously using the triangular sections gave the designers stability and the ability to cope with stronger winds at a considerable cost in realism. The versatility of the Bell centre section has led to the recent American 'Sky Hook Modular Kite' where a variety of wings (Delta, Conyne, etc) can be attached by velcro to the common base – not new, Brookite in 1909 had a double Conyne with detachable wings using press studs (See Paul Chapmans article in Kitelines Winter 1997).

### 4 – Types, classified by wing design.

Wing Designs, The obvious feature of a kite representing a flying bird is the design of the wings. I believe that, with very few exceptions, BKs can be classified into 6 types:

- 1 Papagaio
- 2 Delta
- 3 Pearson
- 4 Chinese Hard Wing
- 5 Chinese Soft Wing
- 6 Japanese

#### 4.1 Papagaio Wings (papagaio is Portuguese for Parrot).

How and when the papagaio was developed in Brazil I have no idea, but I also know that there was only limited information about the kite in Europe and USA until into the 1970's. English kitefliers know the story that Martin Lester got into kites after being asked to make a kite as an art school project – the kite he made was based on a papagaio which he had seen some time earlier. (X5) shows Martin flying one in 1977.

The key distinguishing feature of a papagaio wing (P4) is that there is a single cross spar which extends to a firm fixing at the wing tip. This is an obvious way of adapting a basic Malay shape. Traditional papagaios as shown in the plan from Will Yolen (X6 and X7 the sheet of BKs from BONDESTAM) have some slack bracing lines which limit the flap and encourage a lift making shape. My own papagaios, bought in 1982, are made from fairly light printed cotton with a cotton stuffed head and 1cm x 0.6cm spars. The method of fixing the cross spars and dihedral is 'quaint' – see P5. A commercially produced dihedral would be far better.

There was considerable 'hype' about papagaios in the early 1980s (X8). Some UK fliers began to



Photo 4. Papagaio

# Bird Kites by George Webster

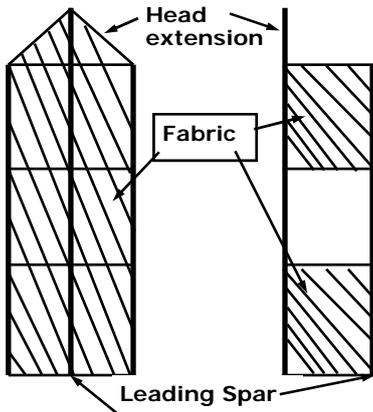
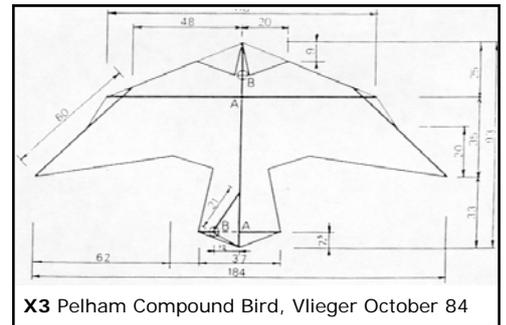


Diagram 1. To show the 'Bell' cells of a compound box.



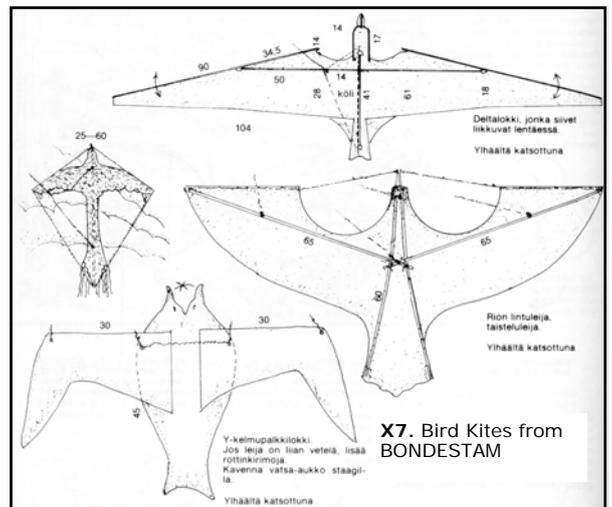
X2 Will Yolen's Bird Kite



X3 Pelham Compound Bird, Vlieger October 84



Picture 3. The Sherbird



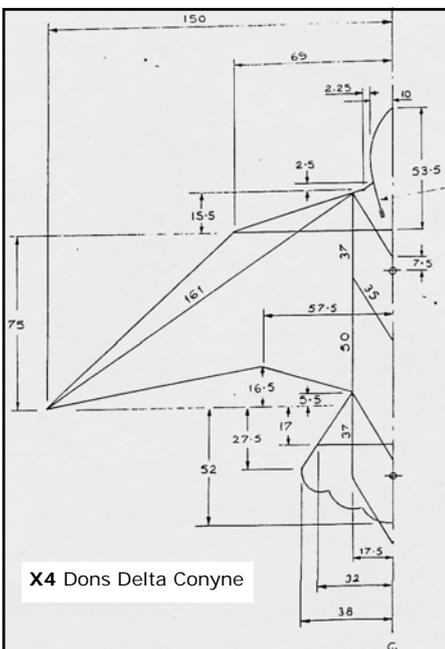
X7. Bird Kites from BONDESTAM



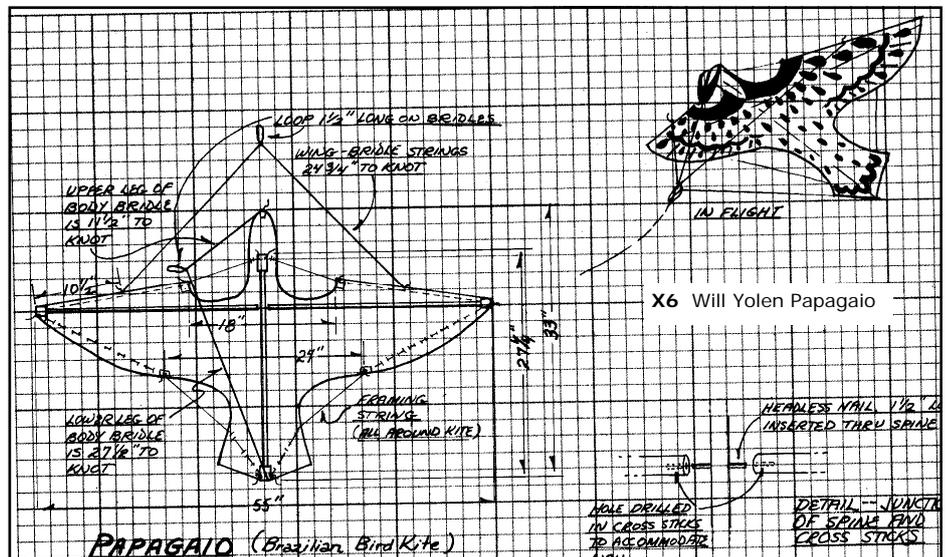
X5 Martin Lester Bird Kite

The world's most written-about\* kite—the *falcon*

X8. Lifelike, manoeuvrable, legendary - designed by the famous Ed Hanrahan, International Kite Flying Champion. The description goes on to say "The kites dual and manoeuvre in the sky - or swoop down on the crowd and using fishhooks on the wingtips pick up pieces of paper on the beach hundreds of feet away - and then soar back up overhead."



X4 Dons Delta Conyne



X6 Will Yolen Papagaio

## Bird Kites by George Webster

believe that Brazil wasn't just girls, Ipanema and football but beaches decorated with swooping fish hook carrying kites. Apart from personal experience – they need a



Picture 5. Papagaio Dihedral.

strong breeze, flew at a low angle, were 'twitchy' but not really controllable – it all looked strange when Kitelines Spring 1994 told us, and the Brazilian stand at Di-eppe showed us, that the real kite of Brazil was the

pipa – a fairly small paper or bamboo fighter kite with a tail. The papagaio wing principle has been used on a great range of interesting kites. Joel Shholz has used it in one of his most successful designs – the Sky Delight Buzzard (P6) in which the trailing edge can be held by a carbon fibre strut. Martin



Photo 6. Sky Delight Buzzard

Lesters Hawk saves on spar weight with an ingenious reinforcing arrangement. The Indonesian bird kites that I have seen have been commercially made and sold in Bali. They have brilliant colours on opaque fabrics which

together with the 3D bodies (P7 and X17) and feet add to a sort of realism. Their wings have a bamboo spar attached to the leading edge and the tip of the wing which is designed to rotate around the fixing to the body so that the spar ends can be jammed into a Y fitting.



Picture 7. Indonesian Bird Kite

The final papagaio BK is the 'l'oiseau' developed by Ramlal Tien in, I think 1996. This kite, and the Sentinelle were attention grabbers at Dieppe 2000. Nothing could be further from the original papagaio than this superbly elegant kite using high tech materials. I hope that the 2 photos (P8 and P9) give an impression of its grace in flight and its elegant structure. Two things that don't show – there are small whiskers near the wingtips, the curved keel is narrowly 3D. But if you haven't seen one you would miss the other great attribute of the kite – it is very happy to be played with in the wind rather than simply looking serene in the



X17. Indonesian Bird Kite.

### 4.2 Delta Wings

From the earliest days of delta development it was recognised that adding a 'head' to a fairly high aspect ratio

wing plan produced a type of bird e.g. several Van Sant designs in older books. There was a favoured commercial kite with such a good bird print that it was claimed to have been mobbed by birds (NB. None of my bird kites has been assaulted by real ones who seem about as interested as they are in other soaring designs. But a sparrow did once perch on the line).

The key feature of the delta is, of course, the flexible mounting between the spreader bar and the leading edge spar. The necessity of a keel gives some 3D to the body although the ideal fin depth was usually too deep to help realism. Dan Leigh (P10) produced an elegant and quasi-realistic design by outlining the body with two light long-erons, losing the fin into the body colour and using other colour to produce a quietly realistic BK.

I have included two Japanese delta BKs: the Hiroi Owl (X9); a paper and tyvek model from NISHIBAYASHI (X10).

One of the most innovative kite designers of the last 15 years has been Joel Scholz. His Buzzard has already been mentioned but for me his greatest design has been his parrot (P11). The photo shows the design to be a standard ratio delta with a long tail made interestingly from the extended spine and two light spars pocketed but not spread. I have seen a train of about 20 parrots more than once at the Bristol festival. They have wonderful colour combinations and are easy and reliable fliers.

However for me the greatest of the type is the George Peters Skybird (P12). Like all of his kites it is strongly built, designed to fly stably in a good range of winds and has a wonderfully rich colour scheme (honest!). The keel just shows in the photo; the tail is well displayed.

My final delta BK is the most recent. The Ostend Bird came on the market in 2000 in a range of sizes. As Photo 2 shows it is not wildly realistic (and sometimes makes me feel it is a Beijing swallow designed by committee) but it is a good flier with real 'sky presence'.

### 4.3 Pearson Wing

I'm not at all sure that this wing type was developed by Alick Pearson, the famous flier at the Round Pond Kensington from 1925 into the 1980s. Certainly his wider frame stems from his Roller kite; nor was he the only Round Pond flier to build birds. However it is my tribute to a great kiter.

My Pearson BK (P13) is not a great example, one of the last he made, but hopefully the bad photo still allows the rakish outline to be seen. The distinctive wing plan can be seen on X7.

W.H.BRICK has a development of the wing to be used in small plastic BKs.

### 4.4 Chinese Rigid Wings

(A note on types of Chinese Kites. Chinese books classify their kites into 6-8 types. There is no agreed system and matters are complicated by problems of translation. The best book for this is by HA K. and HA Y. A simple classification is:

Rigid Wings (aka Hard Wings, Plank Wings)

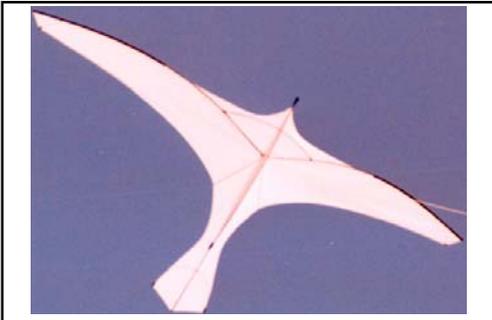
Flexible Wings (aka Soft Wings)

Flat (the amazing range of shapes)

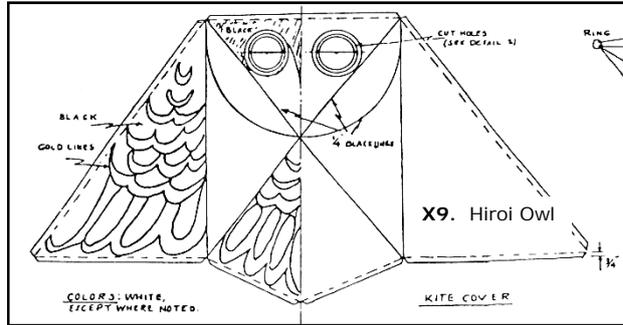
Multiple Layered (aka Series Strung) e.g. Dragons

Cubic (aka three dimensional) eg Chinese Lanterns and 'the first box kites?'

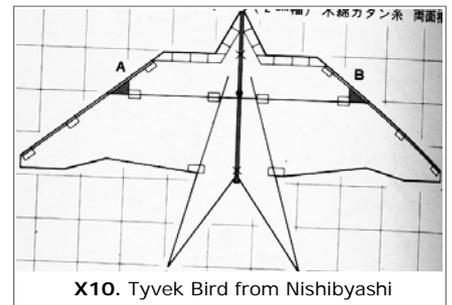
# Bird Kites by George Webster



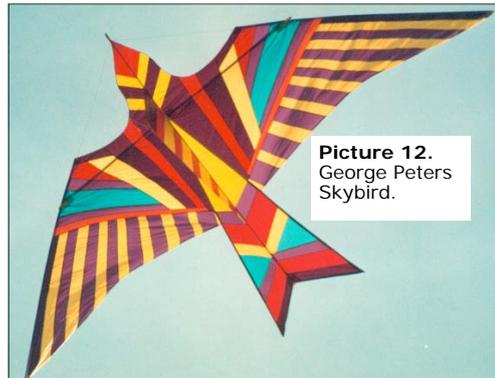
Picture 8/9. 'l'oiseau' developed by Ramlal Tien.



Picture 10. Bird Delta by Dan Leigh



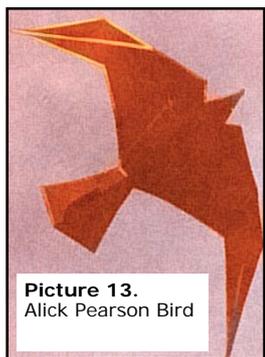
Picture 11. Joel Scholz Parrot.



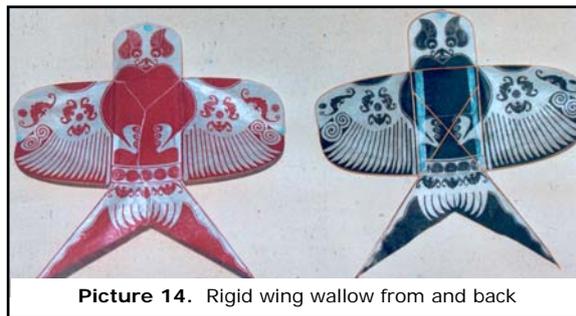
Picture 12. George Peters Skybird.



Picture 16. Silk Bluebird



Picture 13. Alick Pearson Bird



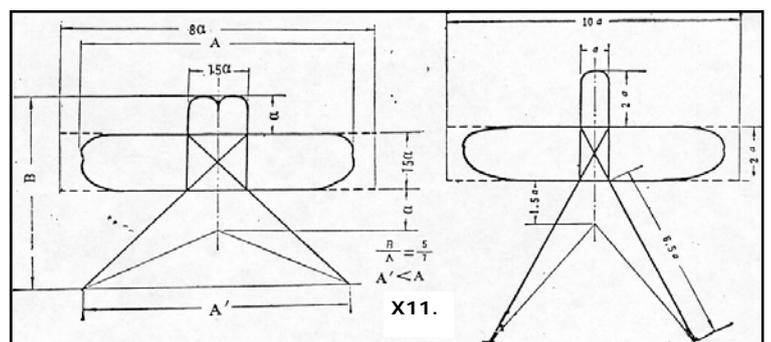
Picture 14. Rigid wing wallow from and back



Picture 18. Owl with paper mache body.



Picture 15. Married Harmony Rigid and Flexible Wing



## Bird Kites by George Webster

Umbrella carrying – don't ask).

Rigid wing kites are designed to fly well in the stronger winds found in Northern China – basically north of the Yangtse. The classic design of the rigid wing swallow (P14) is said to have been developed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by a famous author Cau Xugin. Up to 6 types of rigid wing swallow can be found including fat (adult male), slender (adult female), fledgling etc. An interesting variant is a twin bodied kite symbolising married harmony. Photo 15 shows the sentiment interpreted in both rigid and flexible forms.

While the plans (X11) and photos are helpful about the wing shape, two things are probably not clear. Firstly there is a tight line which runs along the face from wing tip to wing tip. Secondly this line and the sloping of the bamboo wing edges gives each wing at the tip both pronounced dihedral and a cup effect. Wings are said to be 'date stone' shaped. These two features mean such kites do not pack flat and are not usually broken down. So only small rigid wings seem to be here in the UK where we commonly get neat little kites printed in tyvek or silk. But 2m versions exist.

Do look at the Ha's book if you can – it includes notes on the aesthetics of rigid wing kites eg what are the preferred proportions. It also looks at the development of rigid wings to allow lucky or desirable symbols to be incorporated. Chinese kites often have decorations which are based on different words having the same sound. So lu means a deer and large salary – hence a reason for deer on a kite. More so for bats. However, I get lost when these creatures depicted on rigid wings (which anyway look very realistic to me) then change the profile of the kite (see smaller kite in P15).

### 4.5 Chinese Flexible Kites

Flexible wings are those where only the leading edge is supported. While there may be some sub-structure on eagle kites all the wings have loose trailing edges. They are seen as being more suitable for light winds. They produce a wide range of bird kites, many of which are extremely realistic.

The photos show:

P16 – a silk bluebird with a boat shaped body and papier mache head.

P17 – a heron with 3d body, neck and head. Realistic 2D legs. You may spot the sequins stuck on the wings by the seller to 'flash it up' for the Malaysian market!



Picture 17. Heron

P18 – an owl with a paper mache body

P19 – three sand swallows. For me this is the most graceful Chinese design. The one on the right has a hinged tail. The others have 3D bodies. All are designed to fly in pairs at each end of a flexible bamboo strip which is bridled in the



Picture 19. Sand Swallows

middle.

It would seem that some Beijing kite makers now make both rigid and flexible wing kites.

### 4.6 Japanese Wings

I have never seen a live Japanese BK but I have seen some similar insect designs. They do not seem to be a popular design, TAL STREET shows 1 in 50 illustrations in his 1974 book. WAYNE HOSKING illustrates 'over 340' kite types of which 7 are BKs. Many Japanese kites are very local, particularly by decoration. Apart from those heavily influenced by China, the BKs use a wing more familiar to us from the Yakko kite or a class variant. The hawk (X12) has a 3D body with a single bridle point. The bird (X13) has a flat body and wings which are 'pointed Yakkos'.

To describe a yakko wing, if you haven't held one is really beyond me but diagram 2 tries to do this. I have included a plan from the OHASHI book (X14) as this shows on the left the material for one wing and thus the depth of the pocket to 'spill' air at the wing tip.

Two points on Japanese wings. Firstly they are unlike any other wing forms known to me with the nearest the Chinese Rigid Wing. Secondly remember that Japanese kites are made from paper which means that the pockets are much stiffer than western ripstop yakko wings.

A final puzzle is that I have seen several 19<sup>th</sup> century Japanese prints which show a bird kite – but its wings are more like a high aspect ratio Sode flown with considerable dihedral.

### 5 Bodies, Heads, Tails and Feet

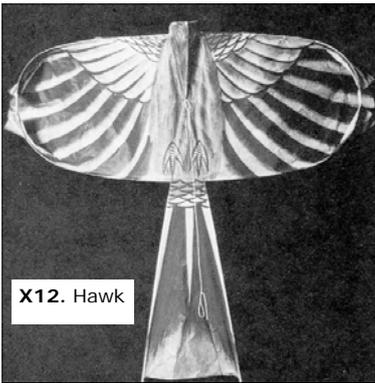
#### 5.1 Bodies.

Whereas papagaios usually has 2D bodies, deltas, coming from a design using a central keel, naturally have some 3D, or may use a tunnel keel.

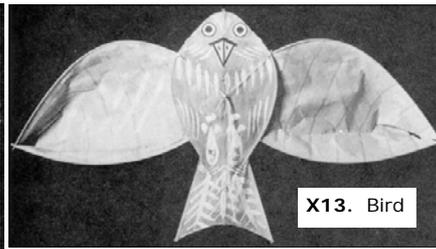
Without doubt the Chinese are the greatest exponents of realistic (and 3D) bird bodies. Traditionally many of the bodies covered with paper or silk. Some of the bigger 'craftsmen made' birds have bodies accurate in all dimensions but even the widely produced Tientsin bird kite, which folds into a box shows how bamboo can be split, shaped and formed to fit together into joints, holes and slits all without nails or adhesive. I have yet to see a western equivalent.

Javanese kites are well known for their furry bodies – even though birds have feathers.

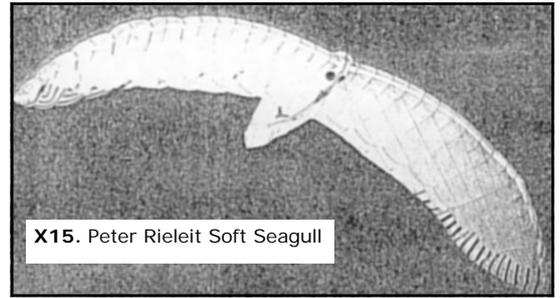
# Bird Kites by George Webster



X12. Hawk



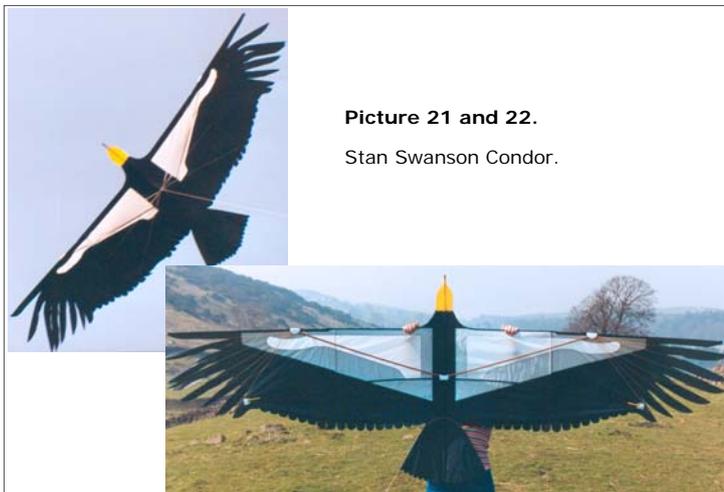
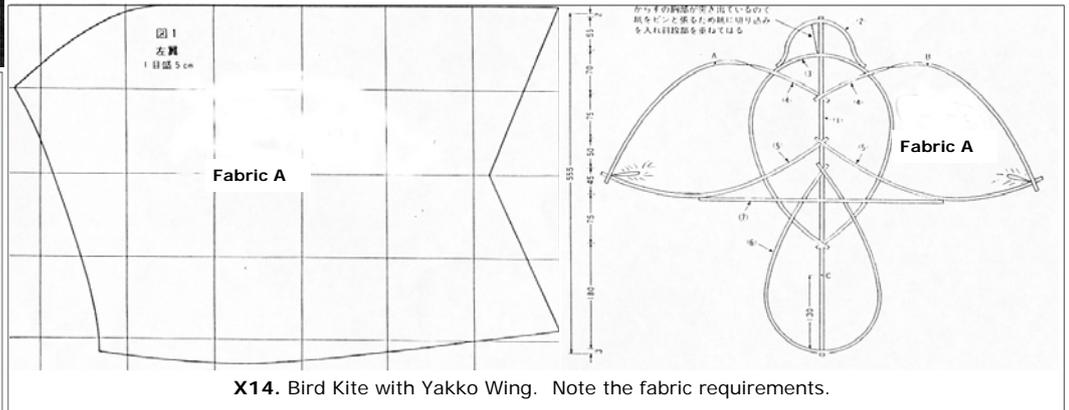
X13. Bird



X15. Peter Rieleit Soft Seagull



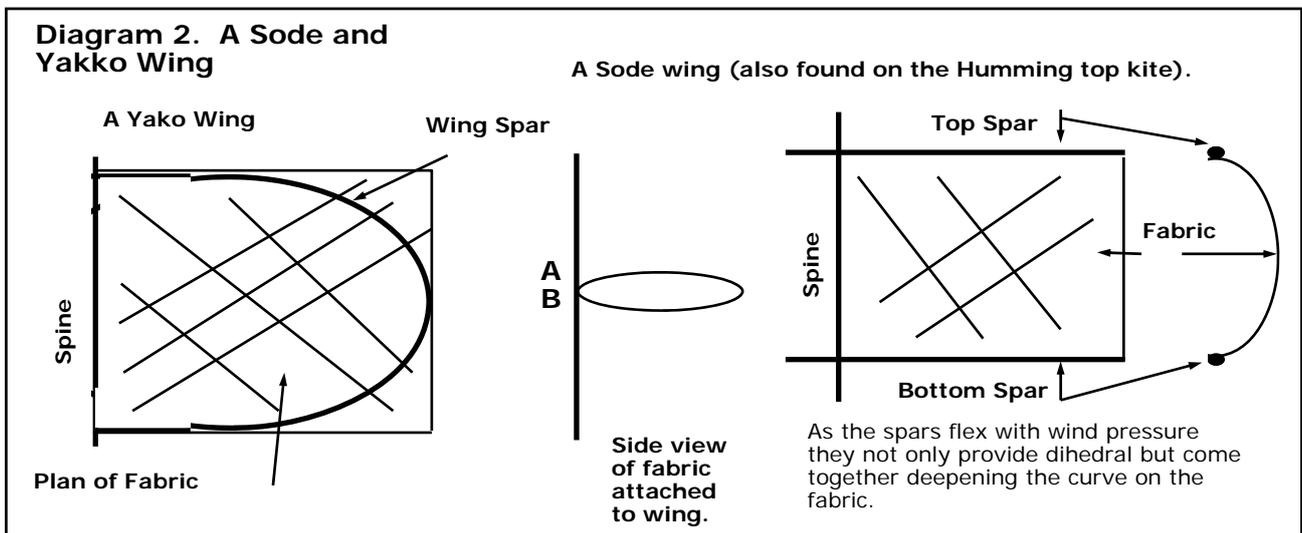
Picture 20. Canada Goose



Picture 21 and 22.  
Stan Swanson Condor.



X16. From Drachen Magazin



## Bird Kites by George Webster

### 5.2 Heads

Obviously the limitations here are the usual ones of (weight, lift and drag) vs realism. Some kites just use a point, some have a design to suggest a head (Dan Leigh), some illustrate a head in 2D (J Scholz. Heads may be 3D and stuffed (papagaio) or inflated (Martin Lester's designs).

Heads are sometimes designed to move – which when in the air affects the flight. I've never seen that but I do remember the big eagle (X17) had a snapping beak – a child scarer.

### 5.3 Tails

While papagaios may just have cords and flapping material, earlier BKs tended to use a light cross spar. Chinese flexible wings may have flowing tails, probably because local birds are so equipped. Several designs have hinged tails (I have seen one translation 'the tail rans down, which can help tremble the flying').

However, by far the most popular tail arrangement for current western BKs is the length of fibreglass or something fitted under tension in a curve between two pockets (see Buzzard, Condor, Ostend Bird, etc).

### 5.4 Feet

If feet are shown at all it is usually simply on the surface. But non-western hawks etc often have extremely realistic 3d talons. And cranes and flamingos have featured legs (eg Martin Lester's Flamingo).

### 6 Exceptions

I can think of three important exceptions to the wing classification scheme.

6.1 There is a large (4m) multi-bridled soft seagull made by Peter Rieleit in about 1995 (X15).

6.2 Martin Lester made a range of semi-inflatable bird kites following on from his 1993 shark. Of these the best all round flier was probably the Canada Goose. The photo (P20) is not a good one and the wing spars should be hidden in the kite. Martin's breakthrough was to realise that quite a small air intake aperture would inflate a relatively large and complex design. Life sized and naturally coloured the goose shows off the advantages of having 3D wings and looks good.

6.3 The third exception is Stan Swanson's Condor (P21, P22). He has designed other kites since but for me nothing compares to this massive full sized bird. Feathers give a final touch to its natural look in the sky. One photo shows it in flight, the other displays the unique construction method which relies on his ability to drill massive but light plastic fittings. I hadn't flown it for some time before the photo and had forgotten what an excellent flying machine it is,

### 7 Omissions

Here are brief notes on some kites which have been excluded on grounds of time/space and lack of details.

7.1 Small kites which are largely designed for children but which are interesting BKs. The little Windy Kite where a printed, detailed bird has its wings spread via fibreglass on a curve. The Jackite – brilliant little tyvek and fibreglass cardinals and blue birds. It was their dove which was used in the opening ceremony for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Various books (and the Kiteflier) have paper outlines to cut out and spar lightly with drinking straws.

7.2 Various American builders of eagles, particularly the Bald Eagle (lucky you! try the idea of flying a heraldic lion).

7.3 Finally the most complicated BK I've come across. Just the illustration in Drachen Magazin 1996 (X16). I suppose a Pearson wing with rigging.

### 8 Conclusions

Unlike many other kite types, BKs haven't got generally larger in recent years. Obviously kites designed to be realistic are restricted by the size of the real birds. Interestingly the largest – the albatross – hasn't been made to my knowledge (the albatross has a wingspan of up to 3.8m with a very high aspect ratio – could be a challenge for Martin Lester). The smallest BKs I know are Charlie Sotichs' plans in DAN KURAHASHI.

I couldn't have written a thing without once more looking up books but particularly looking through Kitelines, The Kiteflier, American Kite and Drachen Magazin. The loss of Kitelines looks more serious to me as time goes by as I am not yet convinced that web sites provide the same record of kite flying activity.

I hope that you have found something of interest – perhaps a new kite to look out for or a design to build. I have provided a few detailed plans but, as before, my focus has been on being informative and perhaps inspiring the experienced builder to try something new. (*The plans will be published in the next issue due to space constraints*).

Next up – perhaps the legacy of Bell, Conyne, Eddy and Hargreaves for kite flying today – or I might write up 'who invented the kite?'

As ever your comments and criticisms might be welcome,

TAL STREETER 'The Art of the Japanese Kite'. 1974. The classic book on the subject.

WILL YOLEN 'The Complete Book of Kites'. (?) 1975. Good also on compound birds.

DAVID PELHAM 'The Penguin Book of Kites'. 1976. Several BK plans.

TSUTOMI HIROI 'Kites, Sculpting the Sky'. 1978. By a great kite maker.

HA KUIMING and HA YIQI 'Chinese Artistic Kites'. 1990. The best book on Chinese kites – but really only the Ha family kites.

W J BRICK. 'On Bats, Birds and Planes'. 1997. A small book of interesting small kites.

RON MOULTON and PAT LLOYD. 'Kites'. 1997. Good plans for a wonderful seagull.

WAYNE HOSKINS. 'Kite of Japan'. 2000. Comprehensive range of types – 7 BKs.

DAN KURAHASHI. 'Japanese Kites – Concepts and Construction'. 2000. Interesting plans – including Charlie Sotichs' hummingbird with bamboo as thick as a hair.

## Bristol International Kite Festival—31st August & 1st September

**Introduction** After the problems of foot and mouth which resulted in last year's event being cancelled and despite a few anxious months on the sponsorship front we are delighted to confirm that the Bristol Festival is definitely going ahead. Thanks to some last minute sponsorship from house builder **Linden Homes** we are determined to put on a really good show this year to make up for last year and look forward to welcoming many of you to the event. Again the Bristol Evening Post and GWR fm are supporting us as media partners.

The Festival theme will be '**Animal Magic**'. So, if anyone out there has any kites, windsocks, inflatables or ground displays or sky junk which could add to this theme do bring them with you to fly in our special arena spots and add to the Festival atmosphere. If your kites are really spectacular or interesting do please let us know in advance and send in pictures so that we can build them into the publicity. Our previous sea theme worked really well and was extremely popular with flyers and the public alike.

We have also teamed up with the charity **Cancer Research UK** who will be using the Festival to help raise awareness as well as some vital funds for this extremely worthwhile cause. In the run up to the Festival we are proposing to build a mega serpent kite in the shape of a bright pink bow with two long tails. General public will be invited to make a donation and to write a message about a loved one touched by cancer on the tail of the kite. This will then be flown as the Charity's '*kite of hope*' at the Festival.

**Guests** Due to our sponsorship headaches we are a bit behind on invitations but we are awaiting replies from an excellent line up of overseas guests. We are liaising with both Dieppe and Portsmouth to see if some guests can cover more than one event. Confirmed overseas attendees are Peter Lynn with his big beasties hot foot from New Zealand, Bill Farber from Australia, Jan Houtermans from Austria, Robert & Heleen Valkenburgh with their wind orchestra from Holland. We are also in contact with and hopeful that Collectif Zoone and Team Generation from France and also Don Mock from USA will be coming as well not to mention our many own home grown stars!

Stalwarts from Avon Kite Flyers will again be host club and they are particularly helping to liaise with UK clubs, societies and flyers as we hope that many of you will come along too. The team from AKF work really hard not only helping with the organisation, running children's workshops and the Information marquee but also providing impressive arena displays.

The format for the weekend will be along similar lines with two arenas, one for single lines and the

other for a rolling programme of displays and demonstrations. There will be Rok battles both days with prizes from our sponsor Linden Homes so do bring along your individual and team kites ready to enter. Paul Chapman from AKF is also interested from anyone who would like to participate in some Indian fighting kite challenges.

Alongside the arenas there will be the usual line up of kite traders and Festival food and drink.

**Saturday night party** There will be an on site party with a large marquee where the usual excellent meal will be served followed by the Festival auction. By popular demand we are hoping to arrange again the on site full Bar. Tickets for the meal which will be a choice of hot dishes (vegetarians catered for) and a pudding will be pegged at 2000 price of £10 per adult and £5 for a child (under 14 please!!) which for those of you who have enjoyed the food before is good value.

Please apply for these in advance to be sure of a ticket as we have to confirm catering numbers beforehand. Those not eating are more than welcome to come along and generally join in the party especially for the Festival Auction.

Afterwards there will be fireworks and hopefully some night flying.

**Accommodation** Although we had negotiated a rate as usual at Redwood Lodge Hotel, which is the nearest hotel to the site, the Hotel have accepted a conference booking and there are very few rooms left. So we are in the process of negotiating rates at other nearby hotels and also the University of Bristol and UNITE have some very competitively priced rooms close by. Apologies that all this is not ready in time for this Flyer. Details will shortly be posted on the Festival website or contact the Festival office and we can give you the latest update. If you want to make your own arrangements try the Tourist Information Centre on 0117 926 0767.

**Camping** As many regulars will know this is always a real problem for us as the Council have a ban on all camping in Ashton Court which is so frustrating as there is so much space, it is a wonderful site. Also we appreciate that many of you want to stay close by and hotels aren't an option! Every year some people abuse the system and just camp anywhere on site which is unfair on those of you who have paid to book in elsewhere and jeopardises our future use of the site.

The Council do however let us have what they call a 'Crew Area' where we can have pre-booked flyers camping! If you would like to book in there and it will be pretty basic please write in with an

## Bristol International Kite Festival—31st August & 1st September

SAE and we will try to fit you in!

We are also talking again to the registered caravanning club at Failand (less than 2 miles away from Ashton Court) which some of you with caravans used in 2000. Again we will post details in due course in the website or contact the festival office for details.

**Parking** To help cover costs such as our site fee we are again asking flyers for a contribution to car parking. On arrival Flyers displaying a pass will be asked to pay £2 per day, ( instead of £5 for general public) .

To get your pass please apply in writing, with a SAE, **BUT SEND NO MONEY** to:

**Paul Clark, 2 Cotswold Villas, Cotswold Lane, Old Sodbury, Bristol BS37 6NF.** Passes will be issued by AKF on a first come first served basis up to a maximum of 500. We are also trying again to organise dropping off passes for those with particularly heavy loads of kites and kit so again mention this in your car parking request.

On behalf of the Festival team we are looking forward to seeing many of you again this year and hopefully some new faces too.

Any queries please contact us at:

Festival Office, 5 Lilymead Avenue, Bristol BS4 2BY.

Tel: 0117 977 2002 Fax: 0117 977 4255 .  
[www.kite-festival.org](http://www.kite-festival.org)

## Bournemouth Kite Festival—15th September

10:30am – 5:30pm, Hengistbury Head, Dorset. As in previous years it is expected to attract 4500 – 5000 visitors. The site will feature two sectioned off areas, strictly for the professional kite fliers – one for static and the other for aerial stunt displays. There will also be again Kids Kite making workshop, activities and family entertainment throughout the day. Local radio station Wave 105 will be providing family entertainment across the day. This year the

kite festival will take a 'Green' feel and feature elements from such groups as Friends of Hengistbury Head and the World Wildlife Foundation.

For further information contact Des Poeling-Oor, IMT Promotions, Suite 363, 89 Commercial Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH2 5RR. Email: [intpro-mo@hotmail.com](mailto:intpro-mo@hotmail.com).

## Oldown Kite Day—Sunday 18th August

Come along and join in the fun at Oldown Country Park, for a Kite Flying Day. There is an entrance fee to the Park, although this will be discounted on production of a Kite Society or Kite club Membership card.

The Park is scenic with flying spaces, picnic sites, a restaurant and facilities on site. Please note that dogs are not allowed due to the animals in the on site Farmyard.

It is situated near the M4 / M5 interchange north of Bristol. From the South/west, M5 Junction 16, follow A38 for Thornbury then follow the brown signs for Oldown Country Park. From the north, M5 Junction 14, follow A38 to Alveston, turn right and follow brown signs.

For any further details, please contact: Roy, at Kites Up, 01256 812487 [roy@kitesup.co.uk](mailto:roy@kitesup.co.uk)

available on the Friday and Saturday evenings for a small fee, in the area by the wind direction windsock, for those who want to stay on site.

There is a licensed Bar, with reasonable prices (including soft drinks and nibbles), as well as food traders, one of which stays open for as long as needed-for those of you who have been before, you know George well!

As I'm sure a lot of you already know, there are 800 acres of flying space--England's Largest Lawn! --, of which some will be allocated for buggying (please adhere to this !). Providing you have B.B.C. Insurance, there will be no charge-FREE-to buggy. We will have a Kite Workshop for the kids, parachuting teddy bears, we also have a round of the STACK League, tandem buggy rides, and a general fly for all, no arenas, just lots of space.

For all you single line fliers, bring your kites-large or small-and lets fill the sky with colours!

Please come along and give us your support again, and look forward to seeing you there!!!

Contact Roy Broadley (Kites Up) 01256 812487 or Mike Shaw (BBC) 07768 765887 for any further details.

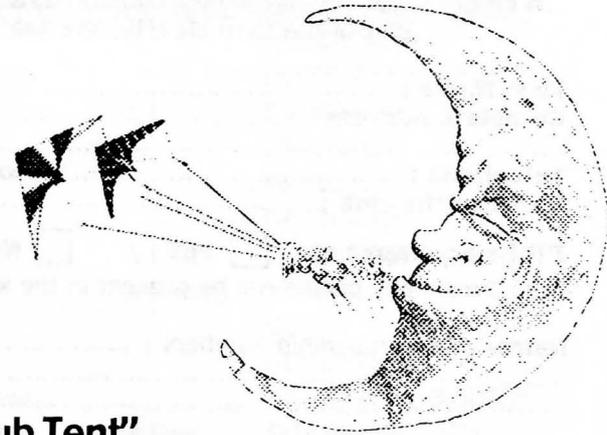
## Middle Wallop—August 10th & 11th

**On the A343 Andover to Salisbury Road (Hampshire). 10 am to 5 pm both days.** First of all, a BIG thankyou to all who helped in putting up the marquee in May, most appreciated!!

The entrance fee is £2 a person (children under 16 get in for free, and the money goes to the upkeep of the Flying Museum-the same as in previous years). Camping is

# 12<sup>th</sup> Dieppe International Kite Festival

7th to 15th September 2002



## Workshops

As previous festivals Dieppe Capital of Kite offers you the opportunity to meet kitemakers from more than 30 countries and to learn with them how to make many traditional kites.

Workshops for adults and children will be held all week long.

- I wish to participate to workshops the :  
(precise the date) .....

Number of participants : .....

## Creative Kite Competition

Theme : **"Myths and Legends"**

Category :

- First entries Your first and second entry to the competition  
 Experienced You attended at least 2 contests  
 Junior Under 16 years old

To assist the judges you must provide a photography of your kite and the corresponding legend before 7th September.

- I send a picture of my kite.  
 I send the picture of the legend, tale and corresponding myth.

You'll have the opportunity to display your entry to the public from Sunday 8th September.

- Yes I 'll show my kite sunday 8th.

The competition will begin the Saturday 14th at 15.00 with a mass launch of all kites.

There will be a contestants meeting in the Kite Village during the morning of Saturday 14th September.

Don't forget to mention your name and the name of the kite at the back of all documents !

We remind you that all presence of a trademark on the Festival site is submitted to authorization of the organizer. Trading from the delegation tents is not permitted.

## Night Flight

Saturday 14th at 22.00 : Open to all registered kitefliers. Kites with reflective/luminous materials and lighting systems will be especially welcome !

## "Club Tent"

In order to facilitate the reception of many kite clubs, a club tent will be available in the Kite Village. Clubs wishing to offer public displays can register to present their activities.

- We wish to receive the form for kite clubs.

## Pilot School

Introductory sessions of single line kites and stunt kites will be held each day by professional kitefliers.

- I wish to participate to introductory sessions the :  
(precise the date)

.....

## Aerial Photography Introduction

This activity is very successful. As in 2000, you'll be able to take outstanding clichés. Some of the most experienced aerial photographers will be present to teach you some of the techniques of taking photographs from kites. (In the "Cerf-Volant Club de France "stand).

- I wish to participate to aerial photography initiation sessions of the :  
(precise the date)

.....

## Fighter Kite Introduction

Talks or training all the week in the Manjha Club stand. Kites will include rokkaku, patang, layang layang, pang pae yon. Then you'll be able to enter friendly challenges organized during the week.

- I wish to participate to fighter kite introduction sessions  
(precise the date)

.....

## Rokkaku Fight

As usual, all kitefliers will have the opportunity to join in an organized battle with the delegations.

- I wish to receive the program when it's published.

## Registration Form

In order to host you in the best conditions, and to prepare your participation in the kite area, please complete each part of the form **clearly**. We ask you to send it back before the **15th of August 2002**.

First Name : ..... Surname : .....

Complete Address : .....

Telephone : ..... Fax : ..... E-mail : .....

Name of the club : ..... Membership number : .....

I'll be accompanied  YES  NO

If so, how many people will be present in the kite areas ? **Number of people** : ..... (see under for the insurance)

Names and membership numbers : .....

.....

**ATTENTION! Third party liability insurance is mandatory for people entering the flying arenas. If you are not insured with your club, we can take out an insurance for you (15,24 euros per person).**

I'm insured with my club (don't forget to mention the name of the club and your membership member).

I need to take out an insurance      number of persons : ..... X 15,24 euros =  €

### Accommodation

Please note that accommodation is not provided by organizers this year.  
For hotels, bed and breakfast and camping, please contact Tourist Information that will guide and help you with your search : telephone : 33 02 32 14 40 60.  
You can also find the accommodation list on the Dieppe Website : **http : // www.mairie-dieppe.fr**  
**If you have some problems to find accommodation**, contact us at this e-mail : **infos@dieppe-cerf-volant.org**

### Catering

This year, the restaurants managers of Dieppe will propose you every day a special "Kite menu" for 9 euros (per meal). The list of the participating restaurants will be available in the information stand.  
The special evening meal is scheduled as usual the second week-end.

I'll participate to the Friday meal (13/09)  YES  NO

Number of persons : ..... X 12,5 euros =  €

SUM: Insurance  + Friday evening meal  =  €

For countries that don't have euromoney, we'll accept cash payment on the site. Please, precise

I'll pay on the site

### Parking

**Information** : On 11th April 2002, a new by-law was introduced to prohibit the parking of camper vans and mobile home on the seafront. There is limited free provision for parking 60 vehicles at Quai de la Marne. Please contact Dieppe Tourist Information for further details. For this area, no special passes will be needed.  
This year the town centre will be open , so no car pass will be needed.  
For more information, please contact the Tourist Information.

### Observation

If you have any problem or question, please let us know :

.....

.....

**ATTENTION !** Please make cheques in euros payable to : **Dieppe Capitale du Cerf-Volant.**

#### Cancellation conditions :

Before 16th August: 100% refund, before 30th August : 50% refund. No refunds after 30th August 2002.

**Your registration form and your payment are to send before August 15th to :**

Dieppe Capitale du Cerf-Volant - BP 142 - 76204 DIEPPE Cedex

Tél : 33 (0)2 32 90 04 95 - Fax : 33 (0)2 32 90 07 72

E-mail : [infos@dieppe-cerf-volant.org](mailto:infos@dieppe-cerf-volant.org) - Web Site : <http://www.dieppe-cerf-volant.org>

## International Kite Festival, Portsmouth 2002

The Portsmouth International Kite Festival takes place on Southsea Common, Southsea, Hampshire on Saturday 24th, Sunday 25th and Monday 26th August and is jointly run by the Kite Society and Portsmouth City Council. The site is a large grassed area and there are many local facilities including a leisure centre - so plenty to keep the non-flier happy. The event is AA signposted from the major access routes

Saturday and Sunday will have a full programme of arena displays and demonstrations with Monday, once again being a relaxed informal day with no planned events. The event will run along the normal lines and if anyone wishes to put on a display for the public then please contact us before the event so that we can timetable your demonstration in.

This year we have a spectacular display of large inflatable kites with such notable kite fliers as Peter Lynn (New Zealand), Jos Valcke (Belgium), The Flying Aquarium (Luxembourg), Marco Cassadio (Italy) and the Avon Kite Fliers. We also have from overseas sport kite display teams Team Keops and Team Flic both from France and a large group of Italian kite fliers Gruppo Aquilonisti Vlandra who have an unusual collection of kites including a flying orchestra.

Other attendees include: from Holland, The Wind Gallery and Janneke Groen; from France, Generation Kites; from the U.S.A., Dodd Gross; from the U.K. Carl and James Robertshaw, The Flying Squad, the British Buggy Club and Nick James, plus George Webster and Andy King on commentary.

There will be a good selection of kite traders and caterers on site as well as a selection of non-kite stalls. The fun fair will be in attendance for all three days plus there will be a dog show on the Monday.

Free parking is available for KSGB members and the pass below should be displayed in your windscreen. Please photocopy the pass as required. You will be able to unload your vehicle on the site but PLEASE, once unloaded, move your car to the car park behind the craft marquee. There is NO parking around the arena.

Camping is not permitted on site other than for trader security. For details of local accommodation please contact the Portsmouth Tourist Centre on 023 9283 6722, [www.visitportsmouth.co.uk](http://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk).

Finally, kite traders are welcome to attend the event and the cost for 15ft frontage (and under) is £165 and over 15ft £240. This covers two or three days trading. Please note payment is required **before** the event. Pre-booking is essential. Send cheques, made payable to The Kite Society with your booking to the editorial address.

A full timetable and additional details will be available on the web site shortly—[www.thekitesociety.org.uk](http://www.thekitesociety.org.uk)

One of the events during the weekend is being presented by Sky Stage (Tony Cartwright). Details are:



# Kitefliers Car Pass

Portsmouth International Kite Festival  
24th, 25th and 26th August 2002  
Southsea Common, Portsmouth

This pass entitles you to park, free of charge, in the festival car park. Parking is NOT permitted anywhere else on the flying site without permission of the organiser

## International Kite Festival, Portsmouth 2002

**SKY STAGE PRESENTS AT PORTSMOUTH  
THE ANIMAL KINGDOM  
CREATURES REAL OR MYTHICAL OF  
THE SEA  
THE LAND  
And THE SKY**

Windsor SL4 5RF 01753-866642, Fax 01753-675469 e-mail tc@rokmaster.freemove.co.uk

The arena is open to all fliers.

Tony has also suggested a twist to the normal altitude sprint. A **Sled Altitude Sprint!!**

I have enjoyed in the recent issues of the Kiteflier, George Webster's articles on Delta and Sled kites.

At Portsmouth we have had various features on Delta Kites—Mega Delta formation flying and the Line Dancing, but nothing on the humble Sled!!

Please bring for this display:-  
Chinese insects/ birds, Peter Lynn Octopus's,  
Martin Lester Snow Goose, Stan Swanson  
Elephants, Sky Delight kites, Tim Benson's  
Bees, the list is endless.  
So bring your kites of creatures of the Land, the  
Sea and the Sky.  
Fantastic and Mythical creatures are fine as  
well

If you have more than you can fly at once, still  
bring them!! We will find volunteers to help  
you, lets fill the sky.

If you have flown a sled you will know **What a  
Challenge !!** you have been given.

Same rules as the usual sprint and don't worry  
you high fliers the normal competition will still  
go ahead, this will probably follow it.

Remember our motto "*Give your collection a  
chance to fly*"

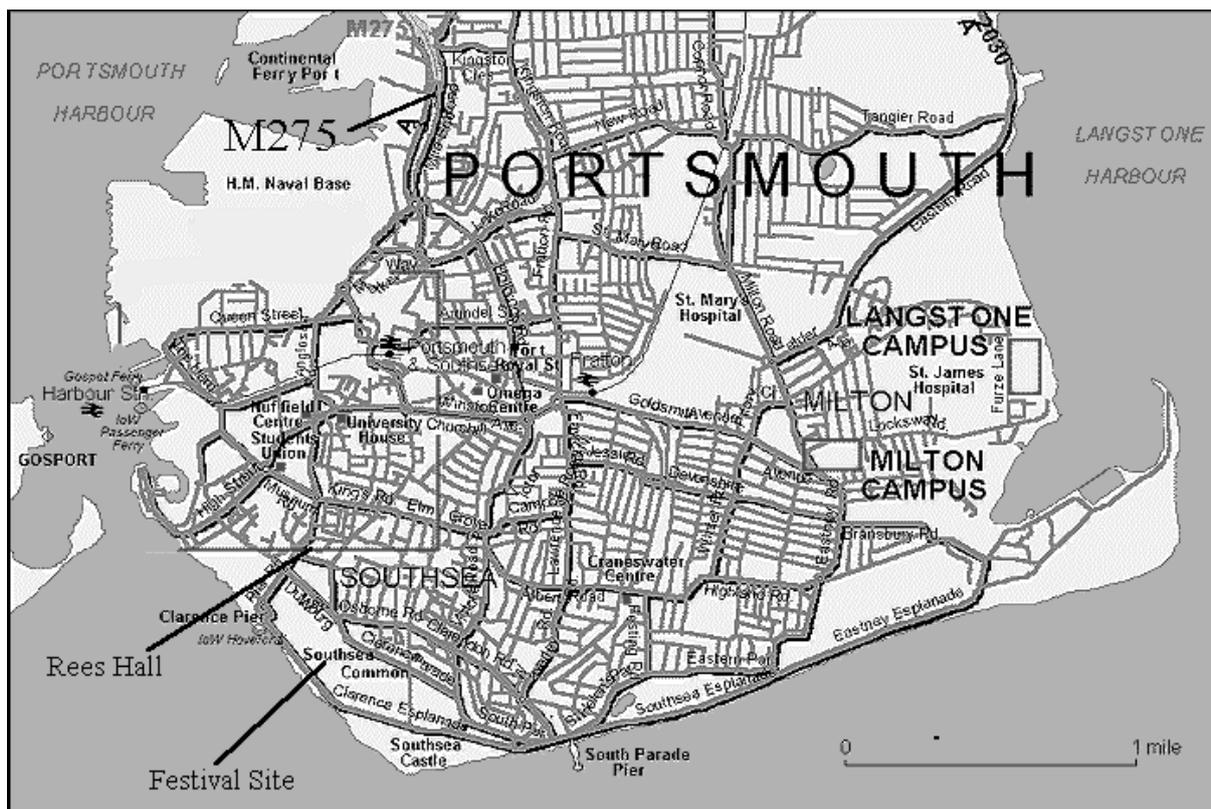
If you get a chance please drop a line, fax, e-  
mail or a telephone message, with details of  
your kites, it will help us prepare.

Lets get the Sled out of the workshop into our  
Sky.

Otherwise see you at Portsmouth.

**Tony Cartwright**

Thanks Tony "TC" Cartwright, 70 Pierson Rd



## Rougham 2002

### 5th Suffolk Kite Festival—11th and 12th May

What a change from last year...

The weather on Friday was quite good, and by 10 o'clock SKF members were busy setting up the site, and staking out the arenas—which was made a lot easier this year Martin having his laser gadget with him. He seemed to have lots of fun waving his arms about! There were also lots of notices to be put in place and the club tent to put up, saying hello to kite fliers as they arrived and making sure they settled in OK, and at the end of the day it all looked very good

As I left Ipswich on Saturday it was very misty and raining along the A14. By the time I reached Rougham the rain had stopped, or rather hadn't reached Rougham!, and there were already some kites aloft. By the time I had walked around and said hello to everybody it had started to rain and did not look very promising, but with a lot of hard work by Paul and Kay Readhead, who were running the PA, we managed to get the program going. With help from our friends from Norwich, alias John Arnot and the Thorpe flyers, Team Adrenalize, the power boys from Cambridge, some STACK teams and nine year old Axel from Mill Hill, we managed to keep the main arena in action for most of the day. There were also the STACK competitions going on in the arena. I must say I find it quite amazing what can be done with a kite and "two bits of string", or in some cases four bits. In view of the weather I was amazed that there was any flying at all and I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who flew a kite in the conditions we had on Saturday.

Sunday started out sunny and windy and did not change all day. As on Saturday the main arena was soon busy with all our stars of Saturday, ably supported by the Skydivers, Dark Star - alias Bryan Cattle, Eastern Rockets, some of the STACK teams, namely Bitter and Twisted, Echo, Flame. Flying Squad, Team Mobius and a wonderful solo display by Steve Matchett. All in all the public was

treated to some pretty fantastic displays of what you can do with a kite. In between all the big stuff we had the Manja club with their Indian fighters and if you've never flown one of them before, believe me it isn't easy. We also had quite a few sweet drops for kids courtesy of some of the Thorpe flyers and our own Norman Cotterell, the sweets being kindly donated by Force Nine, and a man lift by Pepsi of Team Adrenalize who must have been 50 feet up using a train of Flexifoils and a power kite.

We had two items of special interest to SKF members. David Pyecroft and Sue Fielding had tied the knot on Friday so in a break from kite flying a committee had organised an impromptu ceremony in the main arena complete with confetti, a top hat and bow tie for David and head dress and bouquet for Sue, with the wedding march and bells provided by Paul and Kay on the PA. Also Bryan Cattle kindly performed one of his routines that we dedicated to the memory of Brian Joslin, one of our long standing members, who sadly passed away in December.

We also had our own Philippa and Pat operating the workshop for children, and they were kept quite busy on Sunday. Who knows, they might have even set a new world champion on the road. I would like to thank them both very much for their hard work.

Finally I would like to express my sincerest thanks to everybody who helped in any way to make Rougham 2002 a really great festival.

The dates for next years festival have been put back a week to avoid clashing with local events, so we will be performing on the:-

17th and 18th May 2003. SO PUT IT IN YOUR DIARIES NOW

**Peter Phillips**

## National Finals—Winter League

To friends and followers of Close Encounters (sad people) here's what happened at the National finals of the Winter League on Sunday.

We got there on Saturday on a drizzling grey day that turned out quite nice by the end of the day but didn't do any flying because Marilyn has been off work with a seriously pulled muscle in her neck (but her legs are much better since the trips to the osteopath). Saturday night our sponsors Force Nine Kites [www.kiteworld.co.uk](http://www.kiteworld.co.uk) - always willing to get involved (they're not just in it for the money!) - put on a firework display which was enjoyed by everyone - must have cost them a bomb! - Boom boom! - OK I'll stop.

After an excellent breakfast from an otherwise fairly grotty B&B (The recommended ones were all booked) we turned up at the field just after eight to indoor conditions.

We got out the trusty black and yellow Skyburner super ultralight Skydancer kites which Marieanne and Jon had specially made for us and the Lithium Ultralights and Standards in the forlorn hope that we might get some sort of a breeze.

Over concentration in trying to practice meant we missed the beginning of the pilot's meeting and in a panic to get the kites and lines out of harm's way everything got a bit

tangled up (It took me four hours after to salvage both sets of lines)

Thanks to Force Nine we had another set though longer and heavier but it gave us more sky to work with and luckily we weren't first on.

Still no wind at all we had to make do with starting in the far corner and walking slowly backwards in what turned out to be a fly or die competition - good job we had the Skyburners - for us, they just have the edge over the Lithiums in those conditions. We managed what I thought was a pretty good job in the end but were deservedly beaten in to second place by a brilliant performance by Mobius - (experience showed) I don't know what the marks were yet but I can say we had a great time, oh yes, and of course the wind picked up nicely after that didn't it!

The festival itself was very good, well run and well attended and news is that it will be put back a week next year so as not to clash with other events.

STACK were militarily efficient as usual and, although I know everyone really appreciates the work that Kathy puts in, she never seems to get enough vocal praise. For someone to do the same job in the commercial world, they would be commanding a pretty good salary! **Allan & Marilyn**

## Swindon 2002

For those of you who managed to get to Swindon for this year's festival, I hope you had a good time! I have had some very good feedback; some people enjoyed Lydiard Park *more than* Wroughton. Financially, we broke even; so all in all it was a great success. I hope you feel the same? If not let us know your complaints so that we can endeavour to put it right next year. The date for next year is 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> May 2003, at Lydiard Park. Camping is available on site; there are also several Motels close to Lydiard.

David Robinson

## Private Ads

**For Sale:** Don Dunford Flying Machine. 2 line kite, navy blue. Made in the 70s. Model with white plastic spaces. £45. Jekyll – 2 panel black trick kite. 4mph+. New, never been flown. 2.08m wingspan. £45. Strat-o-scoop 3 airfoil. 6 cells with drogue. Rainbow coloured for serious lifting power. Excellent condition. To use on 250-300lb line. Wind range 8-25mph. £125.  
**S Hodges 01707 895159**

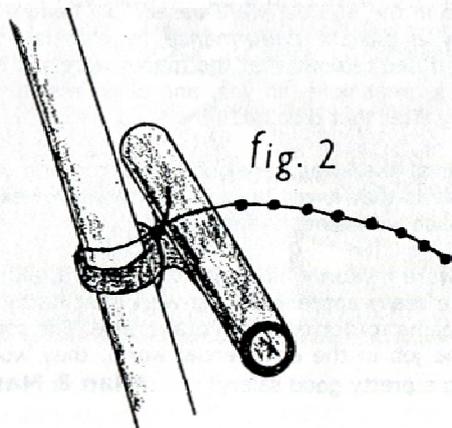
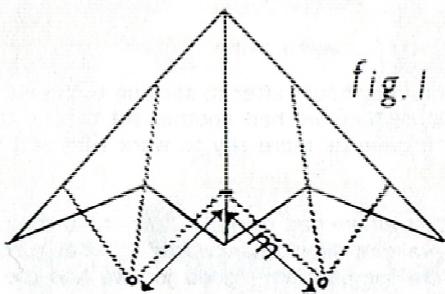
**For Sale:** large number of unused Weifang kites, including several dragons. For complete list phone me at 01968-661-448 or e-mail: paul.carline@ntlworld.com.

## Flying Sports Kites in High Winds

Have you ever taken a trip to the park to fly your kite only to find the wind has increased to a level where the kite travels to fast, pulls really hard and the sail is battered by the strong wind? The standard adjustment at the towing point makes little difference to the handling of these conditions.

What is needed is an additional adjustment at the cross strut position which will alter the angle of attack, bringing back control of the kite and reducing pull in the upper wind range. To fit an adjustment to the lower bridle lines, follow the fitting instructions as follows.

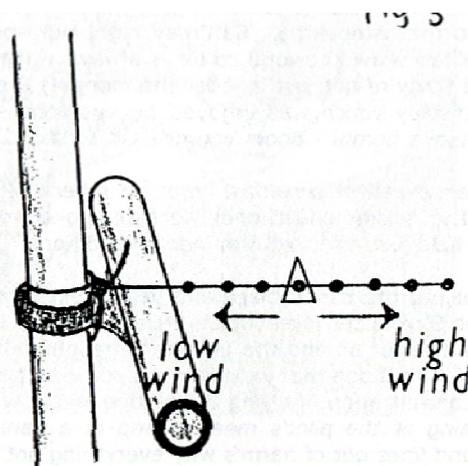
1. Measure bridle lines from centre boss to flying line connectors (fig 1)
2. Remove the two bridle lines (centre boss to connectors only)



3. Cut a piece of string chord about 15" long. Put about six knots in the chord a quarter of an inch apart, at one end, this will be the adjuster chord, Tie to centre boss (the last knot as close to the spine as possible) (fig 2)
4. Cut two pieces of bridle lines. Tie a loop two inches long at the bottom of each piece and connect them to the adjuster chord nearest the spine with a larks head knot.
5. Tie the two remaining ends to the bridle connectors at the towing point to the original measurement in Fig 1
6. To operate : loosen the larks head knot at the base, move up one knot at a time until the right adjustment has been reached for the wind speed (fig 3)

This simple modification allows you to adjust the bridle easily to change the angle of attack to allow more air to be dissipated below the kite, reducing pull and stress on the sail without any loss of control.

Brian Cattle



## A Large Empty Space in the Sky

I have just learnt of the sad loss of our good friend Carlos, who was found dead on the morning of 11<sup>th</sup> June.

He was the most well liked and generous person I know, and everyone seemed to know him. He would help anyone and was a great supporter of the Club. He was widely known for his great sense of fun and his distinctive laugh as well as for collecting more kites than he could fly. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Business people and residents of Portishead, where he lived and worked, have made tributes to him.

He was a character many knew and was the sort of person who would do anything for anyone. He supported every charity possible and was the main helper for the Portishead raft race, supporting Portishead Inshore Lifeboats

We know he will be sadly missed within the kite community too, whether Rok fighting, bidding at auctions or just generally having a good time.

Our thoughts are with his wife and family in this sad time.

**Martin Parsons**  
Chairman, Avon Kite Flyers

## New Zealand Kite Festival

The 19th Annual New Zealand Kitefliers Association National Festival.

To be held at Easter 2003 in Wanganui, New Zealand

If you haven't been thinking about visiting New Zealand in April 2003, now's the time to start.

The 19th annual festival of the New Zealand Kitefliers' Association will be held in the city of Wanganui over the four days of Easter, 2003.

This event will be a first for the city, with a small but enthusiastic group of local fliers organising the festival. Wanganui, which is on the west coast of the North Island, has a prevailing wind from the north-west, so there's a very good chance that we'll get good flying conditions. There are no hills close to the venue so it doesn't matter which way the wind blows.

A full programme of events is planned - including perfect flying weather! The weekend will kick off with casual flying on Friday, to be followed by the traditional fish and chips dinner. Saturday will see rounds of the rokkaku challenge, as well as flying for the Trans-Tasman Travel Award. The Saturday night dinner will be followed by the auction and a wearable kites fashion parade. It's hoped that festival attendees will apply their creative thinking to make this a fashion show to be remembered. (Naomi who?)

Sunday will be a public day, with a large area roped off for registered fliers. The rokkaku finals will be held, along with a session for registered fliers to bring out and fly a few of their earliest kites so the public can see that we didn't all start off with huge flowforms, Megarays etc.

Monday morning will be a relaxing, wind-down morning of casual flying for those with energy to spare, before departure for the out-of-towners.

The scenic attractions and friendliness of the welcome in New Zealand is well known, so give yourself a treat: come down Under. Maybe there will be some kite festivals in South-East Asia around that time, so you could get two or more practically for the price of one.

And now for the clincher: the exchange rate for your money will be so good you can't afford NOT to come!

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## Kiteability on the Move

Just a short note to tell you that we moved house on the 29th May. Our new address is 45 Windsor Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire, AL6 9JY

Phone:- 01438 712168

So we may be missing from a few events this year as we will be a little pre occupied.

ped.

We will catch up with you as soon as we get a little bit sorted out. Have a good season. Go punch the clouds for us.

**Pat and Ron Dell**

---

## Indonesian Kites

Would your society members be interested in flying traditional Indonesian kites if they have one in conjunction with our Indonesian gamelan music festival which would be held in The Conference Centre, London sometime in February 2003?

If so can they contact me:

lohkatherine@hotmail.com.

Thank you very much.

Katherine Loh  
(Festival manager)

---

## Monster Kite Show, Blackpool

3rd and 4th August in Blackpool between North and Central pier 11am-500pm tide permitting.

It is not a kite festival in the true sense of the word. More of a kite display event, large International invited inflatables only. Peter Lynn's Megabite and some of his other "big stuff", Wigsley Wings, our own 27m octopus / big tree frog etc and one or two other unconfirmed bookings!). There is no public flying or access to the beach other than the first 50m which we

anticipate being heaving with the public (sorry you frustrated flyers). But please come and support the event there's plenty of flying space on the beach other than between the aforementioned piers for obvious reasons there is no flying on or near the prom. (Overhead 500v tram circuit!!!). Any experienced flyers fancy marshalling ??? Please contact Phil Womack Phil@fizzgig.co.uk for more details.

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## Books and Magazines

Launched in May, Kiteworld appeared in most leading newsagents. Although called Kiteworld it is mainly related to kite surfing, kite boarding plus a little bit of buggying. There are also lots of glamour pictures! Price was over £3.

Rumour of a new book by the designer of UFO Sam Rotary Kite. Some local kite shops should be stocking it.

## Pegas Powerkiting

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## Kite Flying and Weather

The full article appeared on the BBC weather website and is written by Bill Giles. It is a good plug for kiteflying.

"There are many reasons why we should encourage people to take part in this sport. Firstly, it is out of doors in the fresh air and encourages exercise. Secondly, whilst out of doors, the participants are, consciously or unconsciously, observing the weather to decide whether or not to fly and, as far as I am concerned, anything that gets people to look up into the sky and see its awesome beauty is a good thing.

Recently I was at what I thought was a deserted flat sandy beach with no one else around. It was a windy day when, almost without warning, a set of wheels with a large kite attached came racing across the beach towards me. The driver, or pilot, was struggling to steer and control it, but I must admit it did look very exciting- and all for free with just a kite and the wind.

It is not only the wind that is critical but, as a teenage friend of mine, a kite fanatic, told me, her ideal conditions for flying is a cloudy day with no sun. The reason for this is if the sun was shining you could get blinded as you looked up to the kite. She likes dry firm ground to keep her footing because some of these larger kites do take some controlling in a strong and sometimes gusty wind. No rain and especially no thunder and a wind of 12 to 25 miles per hour. And would you believe she knows exactly what weather patterns give her these ideal conditions so perhaps, by flying her kite and so learning about the weather, we may have a future television weather presenter—who knows?"

## Drachen Foundation Miniature Kite Contest

This year the miniature kite competition will be judged at the Dieppe Kite Festival in September. For the first time the entries will be flown outdoors in 'normal' conditions. Kites must be no larger than 30cm by 30cm. Kites will be rewarded by their size, aesthetics and flight performance. Contestants will receive cash prizes for their winning kites. There is also a smallest kite award.

A total of \$1000 will be awarded in prize money.

Deadline for receipt of entries is August 1st. For more information contact the Drachen Foundation. + 1 206 282 4349. Email: [info@drachen.org](mailto:info@drachen.org).

## Royal Aero Club Trust Photographic Competition

In association with the Royal Photographic Society. The theme "Flight".

This national photographic competition runs for third year and has just started and all pictures with a "FLIGHT" theme will be welcome, especially those capturing the spirit or the "wow factor" of flight and flying.

There are TWO Sections:

1. Pictures can be as prints, transparencies, or CD-ROM; colour or black and white.
2. Digital photography

The Royal Aero Club Trust prizes are quite unique. They include flights in balloons, aeroplanes, microlights, gliders and tandem parachute jumps, etc.

At this stage distinguished judges already include: the President - The Royal Photographic Society Journal and the President - The Guild of Aviation Artists.

There is an Adult and a Junior (under 18) section. Winners will have first choice from the prize list. There are prizes for entries deserving recognition, rewarding ingenuity and imaginative interpretation on the theme of "Flight".

For an adult the entry fee, for three images, is £10. For juniors the fee is only £5.

For full details and entry forms see website: [www.royalaeroclubtrust.org](http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org). RAeC Trust Photographic Competition 2002, c/o The Royal Photographic Society, The Octagon, Milsom Street, Bath BA1 1DN. Preferably enclosing SAE. Tel: 01225-462841 Fax: 01225-448688 E-mail: [rps@rps.org](mailto:rps@rps.org).

In 2001 a photograph by a kite flier won an award.

## eXtremekiteshop.com

The kite shop at Hydro Extreme in Worcester has changed its name to eXtremekiteshop, and we have a new website address to match <http://www.extremekiteshop.com>. eXtremekiteshop remains a main dealer for Flexifoil and other brands. We are able to offer a range of product lines that non-main dealers simply can not.

We are not just an internet shop. eXtremekiteshop is part of the Hydro Extreme Action Sports Centre. We have a physical shop, with a wide range of products in stock to back up our internet sales. Most of our product lines are available for demonstration and trial at the Hydro Extreme centre. We also have the 50 acre purpose built lake and the power kiting and buggy park available throughout the year, and we are able to offer a wide range of training courses. Our team of dedicated instructors is currently six strong and is increasing. When not instructing courses the team is available to

offer sound advice on all our product lines. With 4 new qualified kite buggy instructors starting today, we are able to offer much increased availability on training courses

Details of special offers and other news about the site and kiting in general will be included in our regular newsletters.

This is a one-off newsletters to let all our customers know where to find us. We won't be sending our regular newsletter to everybody again. If you want to receive a copy of our regular newsletter to find out what offers we'll be doing next time, please send an email to [subscribe@extremekiteshop.com](mailto:subscribe@extremekiteshop.com).

**eXtremekiteshop**

## Clippy Kites

The Barber Kite Shop have changed their email to [barberkiteshop@aol.com](mailto:barberkiteshop@aol.com)

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### KITE & DRUM



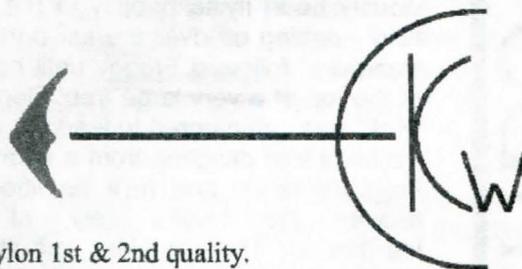
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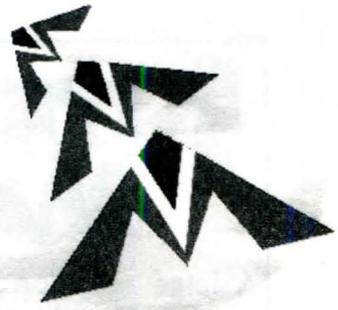
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# MKF News

www.mkf.org.uk



*MKF News Supplement for The Kite Society of Great Britain*

THE MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS

## **Froggy Goes AWOL At Calke Abbey**

or

### ***“The lesser spotted Giant Red Tree Frog Versus the Gang of Four”***

Weather-wise a fair day – plenty of wind (though a bit “up and down”). Very well attended by both public and kitefliers (thanks people) and the three traders present seemed busy most of the day. On the whole, excellent!

At around 2-30 Jim W looked into the air and remarked something to the effect of “We have a problem!” Following his eyes we saw the red MKF Frog (“Froggy” to his friends) which had previously been flying happily in the middle of the field - drifting off over the car park... A group of “rescuers” followed Froggy until he finally settled at the top of a very large tree. Oops! A 1½ metre “Rok” was volunteered to lead the rescue attempt - a karabiner dangling from a short line will hook Froggy’s bridle and he’ll be lifted up into the heavens, then landed safely – at least that was the theory! The karabiner was attached after a couple of attempts but the 1½ metre Rok didn’t have the lift to wrench Froggy from the grip of the dreaded “kite-eater” (all the bridle-lines being tangled in the tree didn’t help). Out came the MKF 2m Rok. Unfortunately this couldn’t do it either... Oh well, we tried. Just to add insult to injury, the wind then decided that another tree needed feeding! So then we have the Rok in one tree, and Froggy in another!

After several ideas had been tried (including asking the fire brigade how much it would cost...HOW MUCH?) it was decided that Froggy was destined to remain a very expensive tree ornament.

Thanks to the efforts of one remarkably patient individual, the Rok was slowly coaxed, then violently dragged, then coaxed some more – until it finally fell to the ground. But Froggy had flown his last....

Then later, when everyone had left, four shadowy figures huddled together in the murky car park chanting:  
“We gonna get dat frog!” “We gonna get dat frog!”

Vehicles were scanned for anything that might be of use in the coming battle (it never ceases to amaze me what comes out of some kite-fliers cars). I won’t bore you with the details, but were it not for the determination and perseverance (not to mention incredible accuracy with a “rock on a line”) of three people - we would probably still be “frogless”. The fourth conspirator set up a powerful spotlight to keep Froggy illuminated so that the others could take good aim. He also performed frequent feats of “finger knitting” with the many tangled lines being trampled underfoot in the gloom.

At one point, a dark figure (which turned out to be the head park ranger) emerged out of the gloom to ask what the hell was going on? Apparently, he’d seen the “red glow in the sky” and had come to investigate. He seemed happy once it was explained that the “red glow” was actually a large illuminated tree frog - and stuck around to watch the lunacy.

Froggy, by this time, had lost his bridle completely and was hanging head down, legs apart, feet wrapped around a branch. They joked darkly that all that was needed was “one good rock between Froggy’s legs” at which point one of the four (who I’ll call “Mr P” to protect the innocent) stepped forward and did just that. The rock went straight through Froggy’s legs and then to the ground, taking the line with it. With great ceremony (and a little encouragement on the line) Froggy nose-dived slowly to the ground to rapturous applause - well it would have been rapturous, except the crowd had all gone home, it being 10 p.m....

“The Friends of the Frog”

*P.S. The Rok suffered some damage but has now been repaired - Doug Richardson took the time and trouble to repair the frog and reconstruct his bridle.*

Jim Cronin



## ***A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS***

Once again it is my privilege to introduce the members who have joined our club since the list was sent in for the last newsletter. I am sure that as you have all been "new to the club" at some point in time, you will be only too happy to make them feel welcome. To the those tabulated; - I would say " Push in; - make yourself at home in the club; we are all children at heart. Some have just grown older less gracefully than others, that is all." [ Perhaps I should say that like me, some have grown old Disgracefully]

Perhaps at this point I should remind all members that this is **your** club, and that the more **you** contribute to it, the better it will be to your liking. Comments, letters, photos, taking part in the club events, flying the club kites (as well as your own) all help to make an event more attractive to others. Last but not least " you don't as yet have to pay VAT on the air you breath, or fly your kite on ; so go and enjoy it.

John Larson - Membership sec.

TITLE	NAME_1	SURNAME	FAMILY	TOWN	CITY
Mr.	Harry	ALLICK		ROSSENDALE	
Mr.	Stewart	BANNISTER		BURTON-ON-TRENT	
Mr.	Ray	BARR	& Fam	BIRM'HAM	
Mrs.	Carol	BEASLEY		HINCKLEY	
Mr	William G.	ELDER		WISBECH	
Mr.	Harry	GAMBLE		BARNSELY	
Mr.	Graham	JONES	& Fam	WREXHAM	
Mr	David	LAKE	& Family	YORK	
Mr.	Ray	LANDERS		SELBY	
Mr	Mick	LINFORD		PERSHORE	
Mr	Mike	MC.FARLANE		CROPWELL BISHOP	
Mr.	Denis	PONSFORD	& Fam	SCARBOROUGH	
Mr	Keith	PROCTOR		MEXBOROUGH	
Mr.	Michael	RADFORD	& Fam	OXON	
Mr	Colin	REED	&Fam	MARPLE	
Mr	Martin	ROE		BRADFORD	
Mr.	David	SENIOR	& Family	DERBY	
Mrs.	Helen	SIMPSON	&Family	DEREHAM	
Mrs.	Marilyn	SNODIN		SELSTON	
Mrs.	Susan	STOREY		HULL	
Mr.	Ken	UPTON'		ALICANTE	
Mr.	Kieron	VAN DER SCHANS	& Fam	ROSSENDALE	
Mr.	Craig	WALMSLEY		HALIFAX	

### **A BIG THANK YOU TO THE FROGGY RESCUE QUARTET**

Members who were at Calke Abbey on 21st April had the dubious pleasure of seeing the large red MKF Frog flying free over the flying site and landing in a very tall tree. (He was cut down by the thin flying line from a child's kite).

Several members toiled through the afternoon and early evening to lift Froggy out of the tree, and at one stage an MKF 2m Rokkaku joined him. The fire brigade was contacted, but the call out fee, with a high level appliance would have cost more than buying a replacement frog, with no guarantee of rescue.

At 7.30pm most folk had decided that he was well and truly stuck. But four determined souls continued the rescue - and at 10pm, when everywhere was very dark and very quiet, except for the sound of the sheep, Froggy was rescued.

Okay, he is minus his bridle, and needs a little repair, but he is soon to be seen gracing the skies at MKF events again.

Many, many thanks to -

Alan Poxon  
Jim Cronin  
Bryn Stuart  
Mark Holt



#### **AND ANOTHER THANK YOU**

..... to Doug Richardson who has since taken the time and trouble to repair the frog and reconstruct his bridle.

#### **AND ANOTHER THANK YOU**

..... to everyone who came to Calke Abbey who made the day a great success yet again. Sunshine and plenty of wind helped to fill the flying area with kites of all sizes and shapes, from club fliers to happy members of the public.

The height limit was adhered to with no exception (maybe Froggy tried to rebel on this rule).

Thank you and well done.

Julie White



**Charity Farm Fly-in**  
near Baxterley, near Atherstone, Leicestershire  
Sunday 7 July

Charity Farm is a new fly-in site for MKF and is brilliant for flying kites - flat, mown grass with wonderful open country views. Part of the flying site is an airstrip that could be in use whilst we are flying, but don't let that put you off. Onsite parking is £1 per car for everyone as this is a private airstrip. Toilet onsite

**HOW TO FIND CHARITY FARM**

Baxterley is south of Atherstone, and Charity Farm is between Baxterley village and Baxterley church on the way to Wood End.

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**2nd Biddulph Kite Day**

**The Playing Fields, Church Road. Biddulph, near Stoke on Trent, Staffs**  
Sunday 14 July 2002 10.30am-5pm

An informal kite day for everyone to enjoy - both fliers and local public.

MKF have been asked to help arrange and put on a display at this first event which could grow into something bigger next year depending on its success. There is plenty of space to fly a kite and taped off arenas for the club kites to be flown and anyone else who would like to demonstrate their flying skills. Kite Trader Free Spirit Kites will be trading. A kite workshop for the children. Food vendor. Nearside parking. Height limit from CAA applied for.

**HOW TO GET THERE**

Biddulph is north of Stoke on Trent. From SOT take the A527 towards Congleton. In Biddulph turn right onto St Johns Road to roundabout and turn right into Church Road.

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**Calke Abbey Kite & Balloon Fun Day**  
Calke Abbey House and Grounds, Ticknall, near Melbourne, Derbyshire  
Saturday 27 July

A popular event with both public and fliers in the past, this is a nice opportunity to fly a kite in the grounds of 'the house that time forgot' which now belongs to the National Trust. Kite club members are excused from paying the £2.50 car park charge on production of their membership card. Parking for kitefliers is in the car park next to the large grassy flying site. Come along with a kite, fly it and have fun. If you have a kite that will not fly bring that too - we (virtually) guarantee that it will be flying by the time we have finished! We usually have children's kite making workshop (make a kite for £1.50), and a kite retailer too.

**IMPORTANT:**

The 200 feet height limit must be strictly adhered to

**HOW TO GET THERE**

10 miles South of Derby, on A514 at Ticknall between Swadlincote and Melbourne. Access from M42/A42 Jnc 13

**Flight School UK with Dodd Gross**  
Shiple Country Park, Slack Lane, Heanor, Derby  
Saturday 27 July

See Dodd Gross In action at Flight School UK 2002

**3rd Shiple Country Park Kite Festival**  
Slack Lane, Heanor, Derbyshire  
Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 July

The Midlands Kite Fliers use the site as a regular venue for their fly-ins and their annual Shiple Country Park Kite Festival. The two main kite flying sites are flat, quite large and open on all sides. The grass is mown short in summer, after heavy rain, the ground can become a little soggy. Sturdy, waterproof footwear is advised during these times. Car parking is alongside the flying sites, in two large car parks. There is a parking charge of 50p day, payable in a honesty box. Toilets, gift shop and coffee shop a very short walk away. There are pleasant walks through farmland, woodland and alongside lakes

**HOW TO FIND THE PARK**

Situated on the outskirts of Heanor, near Ilkeston, Derbyshire, on the A608 Derby to Heanor road. The park can be reached from either the A38 or the M1 motorway, by initially following the signs for the 'American Adventure' theme park. When nearing the park, signs for Shiple Park can then be followed. (Although Shiple Country Park and the American Adventure are next door to each other, their entrances are not.)

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**Sutton Park Fly-in**  
Thornhill Road, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, West Midlands  
Sunday 4 August

The area the Midlands Kite Fliers uses for their fly-ins is a very large open area on the western side of the park.

Entrance to the flying site is on the north-western corner of the park, through the Streetley Gate Entrance, on Thornhill Road, the B4138. (Vehicles cannot get to the site through any other entrance gate.) This is also the route of the Lichfield Loop Cycleway.

The grass is kept naturally short by grazing animals, and the site drains very well although a wide ditch runs along one side which can fill with water in wet weather. Cars can be parked along two sides of the flying site, either on short grass, or on solid ash roads.

**HOW TO FIND THE SITE**

It is located in the Sutton Coldfield district of north Birmingham, centred roughly at National Grid Reference SP 100 970. You can find a map here and here - they can be slow, or offline, but the results are good. Travelling through the Streetley Entrance gate, follow the road through the trees where the site will open up in front of you. The toilets are at entrance gate (if they have not been vandalised). No other facilities at this site. A cafe, toilets and visitor centre on the other side of the park about 25 minute walk, or a ten minute car journey around the extreme perimeter of the park.



## 9th Coventry Kite Festival

War Memorial Park, Kenilworth Road, Coventry  
Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 August 10.00am - 5pm  
(main day - Sunday)

Wind or no wind the park is a very pleasant place to be on a summers day. The park is popular with the local public with a very nice atmosphere, and previous festivals have been very well attended.

There will be Kite Traders and food vendors on site all weekend. Sky Symphony sport kite display team will be there to entertain us too. A professional public address system on both days so there will be music to fly to. Saturday will be a free flying day to enhance the relaxed atmosphere.

Sunday will have a planned entertainment schedule. The park is large enough to accommodate single, dual and quad-line fliers, as well as an area especially set aside to occupy children, including the kite workshop, teddy bear dropping, rides, skittles and face painting. There are no car park charges, and no admission fee. Car park passes are not required. There are no cars allowed on the site but there is a very large car park right next door to the main arena.

Strict height limit of 250 feet will be in force

### ON-SITE CAMPING

On-site camping is available for kite fliers from 2pm on the Friday until 10am Monday. Toilet/Shower block nearby. Camping is free, but must be booked prior to arrival. **No access for campers until 2pm Friday**

## 7th Ruddington Kite Day

Rushcliffe Country Park, Ruddington, near Nottingham  
Sunday 1 September 10am– 5pm

Rushcliffe Country Park, originally MOD land, was reclaimed about eight or so years ago into a landscaped area with trees, grassed open areas and country walks.

Until the trees grow to maturity the open areas are great for flying kites, and MKF use the site as a fly-in site and take part in the popular Annual Rushcliffe kite day held in September. The car park, with toilets, is a short walk away, but if the weather has not been too wet the wardens might allow cars to be parked alongside the flying site (not on the festival day). There is an excellent children's playground and the park is alongside the Nottinghamshire Heritage Centre, with its collection of steam trains and classic buses, some of which can be on show outside the museum. (For a better look at the museum, exhibits and tea room an admission fee is payable.)

### HOW TO FIND THE PARK

Ruddington is to the south of Nottingham. The park is on the outskirts of Ruddington, on the A60 Loughborough Road and is signposted. The main entrance to the park is off the A60. Look for a roundabout into an industrial estate: the park is at the back of the estate. Alternatively, at the traffic lights at the junction of the A60 with the B680, turn into Ruddington village along Kirk Lane. At the junction with the High Street turn left. The road then swings to the right, onto The Green, and then to the left, into Asher Lane. Go over the speed ramps, past the level crossings, and the gate which leads to the park is on the left. Park on Asher Lane.

## Apedale Kite Day

Apedale Country park, Newcastle Under Lyme  
Sunday 6 October 10am - 5pm

Situated on the top of a hill overlooking Newcastle under Lyme, 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 on one large field. The toilets and burger van at the top of the hill. A warm welcome at the visitor centre at the bottom of the hill.

There is a car park next to the flying field at the top of the hill, but kite fliers can gain access onto the field by showing their MKF or KSGB membership cards to the steward on the gate.

### HOW TO GET THERE

Grid ref: Map 118 SJ 815 480

The flying site is alongside the car park on the B5367.

## Birmingham Botanical Gardens Fun Day

Botanical Gardens and Glasshouses,  
Edgbaston, Birmingham  
Sunday 20 October 10am - 5pm

MKF have been taking part in the Botanical Gardens annual family fun day since 1990. We try to fly as many kites as possible. These are mainly single line kites as the display area is not very big and is surrounded by trees and buildings but, depending on the wind and weather conditions, we are a part of the fun day's activities. If we cannot fly kites because of the weather we retreat indoors and put on a static display, giving us plenty of time to talk to everyone interested in kite flying. The Botanical Gardens are truly splendid, especially in the autumn and well worth a visit.

Local artists display their work, both painting and crafts - all available to purchase.

And when you are ready for refreshment the cafe provides very nice, reasonably priced meals in a nice setting. The large gift shop supplies a huge variety of gifts and presents. The staff are very friendly, and always eager to help.

### THE FAMILY FUN DAY

A children's kite making workshop, and usually by the end of the day the children fill the area with their kites. Other attractions include bouncy castle, magician, juggling, games, balloon man, etc etc. MKF members who are going to fly a kite get in free on production of their membership cards. Otherwise the admission fee applies

**Diary dates of organized MKF events for the four months ahead**

**Please support the above events and help to fill the sky with kites. For full details/directions on any of the above**

**please Contact -**

**Alan Bill, MKF Events Co-ordinator  
Tel: 0121 360 1955 alan@mkf.org.uk**



## Tip stands, Coin Toss, Flick Flacks and Lazy Susan's by Terry Roe

### Tip stand

Wing tip stands and the coin toss are fairly easy to do.

Start to learn the wing tip stand first; this is where you bring your kite up onto one wing tip on the ground.

This is a balancing act; you balance your kite on one wing tip.

Put or land your kite towards the edge of the wind window. (left or right side)

Now pull on the outside line to bring the kite up onto the outside wing tip, you know inside and outside from the last article. (*MKF News March 2002*)

Now you have the kite coming up onto the outside wing tip, start to pull on the top line, this is where you adjust tension from one line to the other to keep the outside tip on the ground.

You will have keep adjusting line tension to keep the kite on the ground, you'll feel the pull on one line or the other.

Practice doing this till you have it, then practice wing tip stands on the inside or outside tip. (left or right tips)

The first few attempts at doing this your kite will probably take off or do a cartwheel.

Don't give up

### Coin Toss

Now you have the wing tip stand done and are OK with it, we will now take a look at the Coin Toss.

To fly the coin toss, bring your kite up on to a wing tip stand either on the inside or outside tip, at the vertical position this is where you pull the topline and give slack with the bottom line.

Give plenty of slack with the bottom line, the kite will do a half axle and take off.

When you are good at it, and you know how it works, you will soon learn to land the kite onto the other wing tip.

#### Quick Tip -

*When pulling on the top line you will probably pull or yank to hard.*

*Try a firm but gentle pull, a flick of the wrist is all that is needed.*

*Don't forget to give plenty of slack with the bottom line.*

You will soon get the hang of it, then you will be doing a Coin Toss anywhere in the wind window from left or right tip. Now try the lesson again but this time try landing on the other tip !

### Flick Flack

This trick is easy to do.

There are different ways of flying this trick, but the one I like and looks nice is this –

Fly your kite nose down, (nose pointing towards the ground) now push both hands forward. The kite will go away from you with its nose pointing away from you and the kites belly will be facing down. Pull back with both hands and the kite will come towards you. (nose pointing towards you in a fade position)

Pull again and the kite will go away from you, belly facing down. Keep repeating push and pull.

What you are doing is rocking the kite back and forth.

#### Quick Tip -

*Make sure your lines are the **SAME LENGTH**.*

*Pull both lines **AT THE SAME TIME***

*In windy conditions **WALK TOWARDS THE KITE***

*You can learn the Flick Flack more at the edge of the wind window, then with practice you can move more to the centre.*

### Lazy Susan

The Lazy Susan is a trick/move where the kite flips onto its back and rotates through 360°

To start with, fly your kite to the top of the wind window, pull both arms back and push both forward quickly. The kite should go onto its back. (This move is called a Turtle)

With the kite in this position, slowly walk forward steering the kite, left and right remain the same. Repeat this to get used to flying this move. To bring the kite out of the Turtle, push both hands forward to let the nose drop down, then pull both hands back again. The kite should pop out of the Turtle.

Practice this till you have it.

Now to go from the Turtle to the Lazy Susan, pull with one hand whilst giving plenty of slack with the other just like you do to fly an Axle. Walking towards the kite helps also. The kite will rotate 360°.

#### Quick Tip -

*Giving a lot of slack allows the kite to fully rotate.*

*Learn this trick in moderate winds*

*It's possible to do more than one rotation by holding hand/arm out fully and pulling at the right time and slowly walking forward.*

*Again this trick is best learnt at the edge of the wind window.*

All the above tricks can be performed with practice, be patient you'll get it and its **FUN**

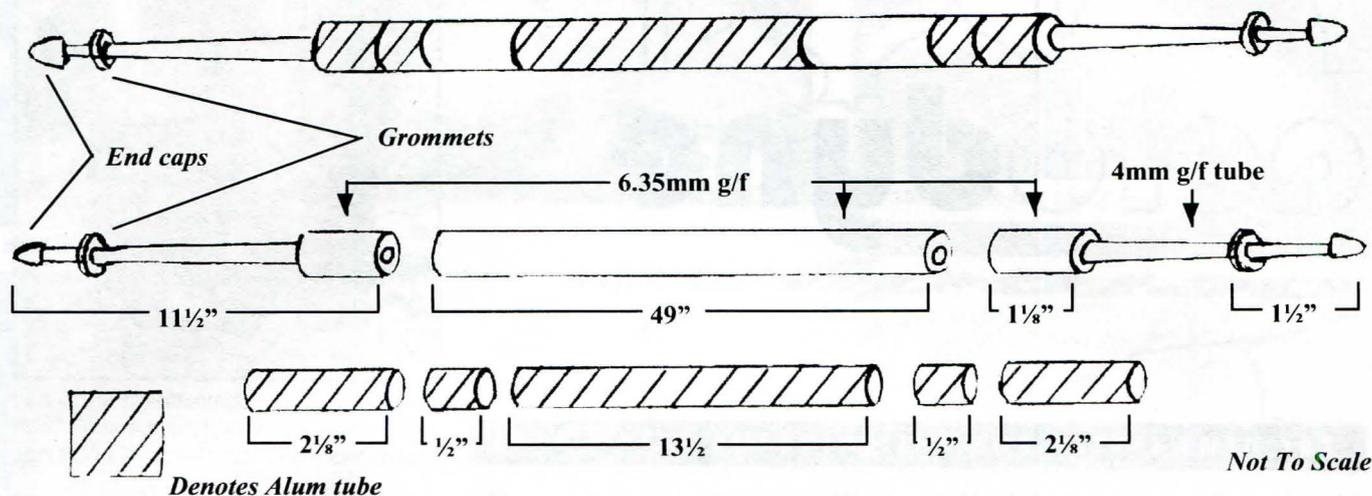
Yours  
Terry Roe



## Mi Spar – by Fred Broadhead

Hello Folks, Its me again, don't all cheer at once.

This is a spar I knocked up years ago to use in 6' speedfoils and Flexifoils and after years of being thrashed still works as well as ever. If the version in Ron Moultons great book 'Kites' is to be believed it should be ok for the smaller Revs and as a hummer bow. The nice thing is it only cost me a couple of quid to make at the time, saving around a tenner on the Flexi's spar. So if you are into flying stacks tot it up for yourself.



### Construction

Its all aluminium tubing, glass fibre tube and rod.

1. Take two 11½" lengths of g/f rod and glue into the full length of the 1⅞" lengths of g/f tube. You may have to use a needle file to enlarge the hole in the tube first.
2. Taper the 4mm rods down to 3.5mm. I do this under running tap water using about 400 grade wet and dry abrasive paper. It saves those carcinogenic dust particles ending up where you don't want them. Finish off using 800 grade paper for a super smooth finish if you're that fussy.
3. Glue the 1⅞" g/f to its own length into the 2⅞" lengths of alum tube.
4. Add end caps and grommets as shown and that's the end spars done
5. Chop off your 49" length of g/f tube for centre section and make the ends solid by gluing in about 2" of 3mm g/f rod at each end. Centralize the 13½" alum tube on the spar and hold it in place with a turn or two of masking tape or dabs of glue.
6. Lastly slip both ½" lengths of alum tube onto the centre spar ends, position 1" from each end (check by sliding the end spars on) and glue in place, they serve as an extra aid to prevent end splits and that's it done, easy isn't it.

To those who are wondering why, for me, I am being so generous with construction details when its all pretty obvious from the plans how it goes together, my defence is the editor asked me to pad things out (*cheers Fred. Ed.*)

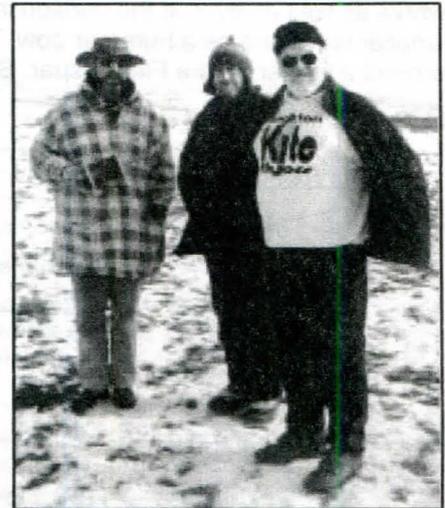
### Tips

1. Don't bet, it's a mugs game
2. Ever found yourself doing a lot of walking back and forth with flexifoil type kites when your trying to straighten the stupid thing up for a ground launch and the spar keeps coming apart. Try wrapping about a 4mm strip of ripstop a couple of inches back from the spar end, run it along and over the spar end and then push the ferrule bit on, it all holds together much better.
3. Metal tubing, where do you get it, if you're like me D.I.Y centres, model shops, brake centres, car boot, skips, old pens, in short anywhere. The size can be a problem as the engineering world seem more interested in the external diameters, whereas we are more interested in shoving things in the hole up the middle, add to this their sizes can be in metric, imperial and some I have not a clue about. Forget about those sizes. In my car glove box compartment I have a little plastic bag with about 1" offcuts of all the spar sizes I use or stock. As a result of a lot of slipping my offcuts into bits of tubing for a good fit, I have over time built up a healthy range of tubing and only rarely now find myself hunting for a specific size of tubing to complete a kite.
4. If you fancy experimenting with your own sizes to make a similar spar, be warned, my spar was not a one shot hit but evolved over more trial and error than I wish to remember. To those thinking about asking me about a ten or twelve foot version don't bother, I wouldn't know where to start, but good luck.

Good Night

Fred Broadhead





Get to know your committee. From left to right: Peter Linnell (chairperson), with Danny Steer and Alan Outram (Capt Bung).

**THE NEWS LETTER FOR THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS**

## Brighton Kite Flyers create a Sandstorm

It was early on Saturday morning as we set off with high hopes and a boot full of buckets, spades and of course kites towards Weymouth for our annual bank holiday pilgrimage. The traffic was not too bad and the journey only took 3 ½ hours, including the final crawl into Weymouth itself. For those of you who have not been to this Festival it takes place at the end off miles of sandy beach close to Weymouth town Centre. There are many hotels, guesthouses and holiday flats. situated next to the beach very close to the flying site. There is also an area for camper vans and an out of town campsite. Therefore, after booking in to our flat it was off to find Ray Oakhill. Although Saturday was not a festival day, but just a free flying day, they decided to give the Teddy Bear an airing. So Ray and Simon set about the task. It was not long until some other members who had made it down for the weekend joined them. Yet again, it was a big hit with the public as people flocked to see it. The rest of the afternoon was spent having fun digging holes, making sandcastles and catching up with old friends. As the day drew to a close the Teddy Bear was put away for the night (along with half the sand from the beach) and thoughts turned to food and the end of our first day.

Sunday dawned bright but no wind, slowly the wind picked up so there were many people on the sands trying to get their kites in the air. Easier said than done. As soon as we managed to get the lifter kite up in the air, we hit a hole in the wind and came back down to earth like one of Captain Bung's parachutes. Try as we might (and we did try) it would not go up. We were not the only ones. Of course, Jo Public wanted to know why there were not many kites flying seeing, as it was windy. You try telling them that the wind has holes in it; no, it was not worth the effort. Later on, the wind did pick up and the air was filled with kites. Ray Oakhill came 3rd in the rokkaku fight but he lost his kite somewhere over the rooftops of Weymouth this he claimed was a good excuse to make a new one, he'd been trying to lose it for years! (Good Bye Slack Alice we knew you well). Later in the day, we decided to put up our 9-metre spinning doughnut. The wind was stronger by now, it took off rather well, only to pick up sand from the beach and throw it out like a cement mixer from the hole in the middle. The next thing we knew was that the food stall, on the other side of the road by the funfair, had closed its shutters as there was too much sand being

blown about. Therefore, after a short but memorable flight. down it came. It did look good though. Hope we see it flying again soon, as it caused quite a stir.

Fish and chips for tea, and then of to the Mayors reception. OK so where was everybody. Free glass of wine/orange juice, kite flyers turning down a free drink!

That was of course followed by the annual fireworks display and night flying, which was as spectacular as ever.

Monday dawned cold, wet and horrible. As Paul Chapman dropped in for eggs and bacon, we sat and looked at the empty sky and talked kites and kite flying. Definitely a day for catching up with old friends in the Tearooms.

Simon & Corinne Hennessey





# NAME THE BEAR

We have had the new club Teddy Bear up at several festivals and other events, and it has always caused quite a stir. One question, that is always asked is what's it called? To date we have not yet officially named it. As it is the Club's Teddy bear it should be up to the members to name it and a competition to name the bear is

being held. There will be a prize for the final name and he/she will be officially christened at Brighton Kite Festival this year. Please send your ideas to The Teddy Bear Competition, c/o, 11 The Sheepfold, Peacehaven, East Sussex, BN10 8EG or e-mail teddybear@hennesseys.co.uk by 30th June 2002.

# KITES OVER CRAWLEY

What more could a kite flyer ask for? It was a lovely Saturday morning as we turned up at a school in Crawley. The children had been doing projects on kites and the headmaster had asked that we give a display, free barbeque tickets for all who attended. One slight problem! Glorious sunshine but no wind. Keith Boxall started the day off running around the field determined to get his two-line stunter to fly. It did but he exhausted himself in the process. Peter set up an area at the school gates to show some of his kites. He found some good wind flying at altitude, but not as high as normal, seeing as Crawley is very close to Gatwick one of the biggest airports in the country. We managed at various stages to get single line kites in the air but it was hard work. Oh well, time

for a Burger, and of course as soon as your back is turned the wind picks up!

Next challenge! We were asked, if it was possible, to see this big Teddy Bear, we showed them the bag, but this was not good enough. They had heard so much about it and wanted to see it fly. "Of course, lets go for it" said Simon Hennessey (where does all that enthusiasm come from). "No it will never fly" was the cry! "There's not enough wind!" "You must be mad!" But with the normal BKF attitude these were but small problems. So off we go much to the children's delight. This should be good, half a dozen grown men running around a school playing field trying to fly a 40 foot Teddy Bear. After much

running around a loud cheer was heard as up it went for a short but wonderful flight. It was great to see the children's faces and to think that maybe, just maybe, some of them may have found the fun that can be had while holding a piece of string.

Corinne Hennessey

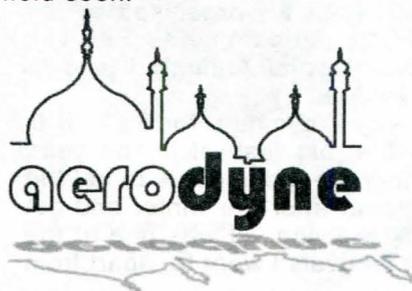
**MISSING IN ACTION:**

- Sex: Female
- Made: 1980's
- Height: One metre
- Colour: White
- Alias: Slack Alice
- Last seen: Over Weymouth
- Reward offered

# WORD SEARCH

## Thank you

A big thank you must go to Toody, and not forgetting Mick, for all their hard work in the past on Aerodyne. Hope that you enjoy your retirement and look forward to seeing you on the kite field soon.



S	W	I	N	D	S	O	C	K	S	V	N
L	L	T	Z	P	D	R	O	G	U	E	S
B	K	E	A	D	A	T	L	E	D	C	P
E	S	I	D	A	S	R	Y	D	I	S	A
A	P	A	T	O	K	D	A	M	H	P	A
U	O	W	A	M	O	U	A	P	E	A	S
F	R	I	A	A	X	N	O	R	D	R	P
O	H	A	E	I	Y	L	L	O	R	O	U
R	H	D	E	D	Y	O	L	A	K	A	N
T	H	E	O	K	I	T	X	L	L	K	S
P	A	R	A	F	O	I	L	E	F	A	C
A	E	T	B	E	T	H	S	R	U	K	A
A	P	P	L	I	O	U	E	C	A	U	A

- Dihedral
- Span
- Winder
- Eddy
- Parafoil
- Sled
- Delta
- Aerodynamics
- Beaufort
- Spar
- Appliqué
- Drogues
- Diamond
- Roller
- Rokkaku
- Windsock

# Beccles Bunch

## Battles with Beast at Berck.

A very pleasant crossing on the Superseacat instead of the slow Transmanche ferry to Dieppe was an unexpected bonus, which made the trip to Berck-sur-Mer so much quicker. We got to Berck on Thursday, which gave us a day to spare and a choice of parking places with all the other motorhomes on the seafront for the whole week for free.

Just by chance, we were eating outside a seafront restaurant and were accosted by Lynn and Hugh from the Beccles Bunch and got the lowdown on who was going to be flying (I did not know that the World Cup was taking place, woe is me!) and what they had been up to for the previous two weeks. It seems the weather had been glorious and there had been hardly any wind for all that time - but things were about to change! The first weekend, as always at Berck, was packed with spectators and it was difficult moving along the seafront at all. The sun still shone, but the wind was offshore and blowing force 5/6, making single line kites very unpredictable in the turbulence and conditions for sport kite flyers was much the same. Not the best of conditions for the World Cup.

On Monday I was pleased to see Simon Hennessey, Alan Outram and Pete Linnell and of course Teddy, our new Peter Lynn Teddy Bear kite, which I was hoping to fly every day for the rest of the week. It was too windy and turbulent to fly that day and even for the rest of the week until Saturday, when the early morning breeze was along the beach from the north and blowing 8/10 mph. So I made the decision to anchor the line to the concrete blocks provided. I should explain that these blocks are in two parts joined by a large piece of angle iron. Each block is 2 cubic feet, which would normally be adequate to anchor the bear at a wind speed of up to 10 mph. Anything above that and we would not normally fly. Another technicality to bear in mind is that

the lifter kite is not 4 sq. metres as ordered, but 8 sq. metres!

Things were looking good until the wind increased gradually to 18/20 mph and I looked at the anchor to see two guys sitting on it and another trying to hold it back with a rope as they were all being dragged along the sand. I managed to rope up another block to the original anchor, but it was getting serious and time to get the beast out of the sky. Jacky Penney called for help and ten, yes ten men came to her aid immediately! Meanwhile George, Hugh and I were using the pull-down to get the beast nearer to the ground, while seven hefty blokes were using another pull-down to ground the lifter. Hugh and I had a very intimate moment on the sand when the lifter line was practically cutting through his thigh and my hand was somewhere very close to his wedding tackle, but neither of us was in a position to let go of anything at the time!

When we were at Lunen, we purchased some Kevlar on which to fly the lifter kite, as the existing line was too heavy in the lighter winds. I had been told that Kevlar has the ability to cut itself at a knot, unless it is sleeved. Well, I can assure you that it is quite true, because I had to chase the lifter kite for a quarter mile along the beach! Now it is sleeved at the knots.

Sunday was the best day by far of the whole festival. Not only did the sun shine and warm us all up, but the wind was now on-shore at below 10 mph, so Teddy was given another airing and he flew just like a soft old Teddy Bear should, for the whole day - at last!

On the social front, it was good to see all those wonderful kiteflyers coming out of hibernation, not only the Beccles Bunch, but Ray Bethell, Uncle David Gomberg, Pete Dolphin and others too numerous to mention. Oh yes, I nearly forgot to mention that my crown has been taken over by Rolf Zimmerman as "Lawn Mower Man" with one of his big stars. In fact it was "Star Wars" between him and Gomberg and the German won to loud cheers from the English contingent.

I have not mentioned much about the World Cup, which I watched some of the time and supported "Matrix Management", Pete Dawson, Doug Irvine and Pete Willis, who did extremely well considering the very short notice to enter the competition. The event was won by "Overdrive" from France as all will know by now, and I must say that they gave a very spectacular performance at every opportunity. I understand from the UK team that the atmosphere exuded by all teams was very friendly and always encouraging to one another, and that is what kiting should be all about.

Ray Oakhill

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## A Personal View of Weymouth

Having just got back from the Weymouth Festival, and cleared out the sand from my kite bag, shoes, cabana, the car, and several orifices, I got to wondering why it is that I try to get to Weymouth every year. Unlike some kite flyers, I do not have the opportunity or the time (when do these people cut the lawn, decorate, or do anything

other than fly kites???) to go to many festivals - or even fly-ins - during the year, but I do try to make a special effort to get along to the festivals organised by the BKF, the Brighton Kite Festival, Petworth, and Ardingly - and to Weymouth.

So why Weymouth for me? It is the first big festival of the year, so there is the impetus to get the kites out after the winter and get back to flying. It was one of the first festivals I went to, apart from

Cont.

our own Brighton Kite Festival, so there is also an emotional attraction of sorts, I suppose. It is certainly a great place to fly. The beach is an excellent flying area, with plenty of space - most of the time - usually a consistent wind just right for kites, and excellent organisation by the Kite Society and Weymouth Council, who seem to go to great lengths to welcome kite flyers and to provide all the facilities we need, including barriers to separate the big kites in particular from the general public. With the promenade running all along the beach, most of the public are happy to stay off the beach anyway and watch the kites from a sort of grandstand. I seem to be particularly lucky in that the years I have managed to get to Weymouth the weather has been excellent, with good wind and lots of sunshine, and only the occasional shower. Weymouth was also the festival that I successfully flew one of the first kites that I made myself, so to celebrate, I try to make a new kite every time I go to Weymouth. I don't always succeed, and one year I built a kite and then slipped a disc, so it had to wait a year before it flew!

So what it is like to fly at a festival like Weymouth? Well, as a novice, it is a bit nerve wracking to fly a kite in public. If it is a dual or four line, there is always the thought that you will do something stupid and make yourself look like a nobby; if a single line, will it take out half the other kites flying, or the public (or like my roller at Ardingly, suddenly decide that there must be something jolly interesting on the other side of the grandstand, and do a lovely swallow dive and leave my line either side of a 3 story building!)? Once you've done it once or twice, though, you

realise that this is all part of kite flying and other flyers are only too willing to help sort out problems, or to help with your technique or how best to trim your kite - only last year at Brighton, Nicholas came to the rescue of my Jewel with some judiciously placed clothes pegs. There is also the opportunity to join in with Club activities and fly kites that an individual could only dream of. To be part of a team successfully launching a big kite, and then to hear how much the public enjoy watching it is quite a buzz.

Weymouth has become "my"

festival, and I am sure most other flyers have "their" festival as well. It might be a big festival like Weymouth, or it might be a small school fete where kite flyers have been invited. The important thing as a Club member is to get along to any sort of gathering and fly your kites with others. It doesn't matter what sort of kite, or what sort of event, just give it a go. You'll soon find your own favourite. The only problem then is that you have to go every year - or is it that really a problem at all?

Peter Jackson

## Rough @ Rougham (but not all the time)

I left Brighton at 4.00am for the drive up to Rougham. The wind was good and the weather dry when I left, the trip was smooth and uneventful, but as I neared Bury-St-Edmonds and then Rougham airfield the wind dropped and the mist and rain came down. The gates were locked on arrival although I managed to get through to Martin on his mobile (thank god for those things) and was let in. As you can imagine on a wet 7.00am morning not much was going on, but the site looked great, large and flat. Slowly people appeared and the wind came and the rain went by lunchtime. What more could you ask. A good turn out by the Brighton Kite Flyers, Peter Linnell, Dave McArthur, Ray Oakhill, Danny & Pad Rice were already there from Friday night, Mike & Norma House, Steve & Angie Ranson and Mike Stuart turned up later.

The Teddy was put up along with lots of other kites as the rain stopped and it looked like it was going to be a good afternoon. But again the rain came down, We all carried on flying as long as we could. Most of the kites that were up came down eventually very wet. Including the teddy, Ray's flowform and my Serpent Delta. These were rolled up and put under Ray's awning for the night rather than packed away damp with the hope that we could fly them dry tomorrow. Off we went

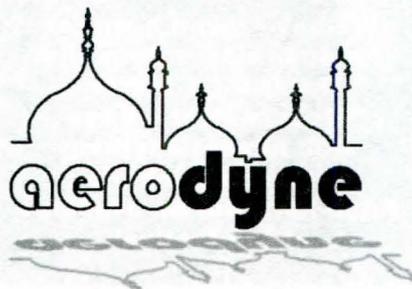
to the beer tent (nice one). The rain stopped and the wind dropped for the evening band, BBQ and fireworks.

Sunday, I woke up at about 5.00am and looked out of the Espace to see mist and no wind, so rolled over and went back to sleep till 7.00 when I was woken by the Brighton Banner blowing in the wind. Up, dressed out in seconds and dragged the sodden Teddy and Delta Serpent out across the field ready to fly. All laid out and the wind dropped. No problem, at least it would be dryer and the kites would not getting any wetter.

As the morning wore on the wind gods had fun changing direction, coming up as you sat down and just as you got to the kites, dropping again. Dave and myself were up and down like a jack in the Boxes and also had to move the ground anchors on the teddy about 4 times and almost 270 degrees. Eventually the wind picked up at about 12.00 and loads of kites flew. No more rain, just fun and flying, and the Teddy dried.

Would I go again? You bet I would great site, great atmosphere and the weather can't be helped. (just a little more praying to the gods next year lads) Thank you for a great festival and a fun time.

Simon Hennessey



# K I T E S   O N   I C E

Adventure 2002. Madison Wisconsin. USA

I had a much better flight to Madison this time around, going via Vancouver and Denver. Other years it has been Vancouver, Chicago and then on to Madison. A lot of the International kite flyers that flew via Chicago were stranded for a few hours at O'Hare Airport because bad weather grounded the planes until the blizzard had subsided. I remember my first trip to "Kites On Ice" because many of the other International flyers and I were stranded at O'Hare for 18 hours. A flight from O'Hare to Madison is only 35 minutes, so if you are looking for fun and games, this is not the airport to be stranded in, we now refer to it as "O'Horror" Airport. This year, due to the spring like weather, that Madison had been enjoying a few days before the festival, the ice was a lot thinner than at their previous festivals. This did not however, stop the festival starting on schedule. The only disappointment was, we could not fly at our usual place on the Lake, in front of Monona Terrace, because of the open water that was showing along the edge of the lake in front of the Terrace, and also beyond that the ice was dangerously thin. "No worry" said the lovely Linda Underwood, the organizer; we will go to plan B!! Which was on the same lake but at the other side at Olin-Turville Park where the ice was solid. Thousands of visitors strolled on the snow covered lake to admire and check first hand all the great creations that flyers from around the world had designed and built, many especially made for this festival. On this cold, clear, crispy weekend the sky was alive with kites of every color, shape, size and description above Lake Monona. There were Peter Lynn's penguins, cats and manta ray, Sven Weidhase and Andy Schmeelke new creation of a huge yellow bird, plus Aladdin and many of their other spectacular Creations. Gerard Clement's very impressive cathedral window, Rolf and

Claudia Zimmerman's flying their collection of huge kites, lobsters, seahorses, stars etc. Jos and Kaatje Valcke's very impressive collection of giant kites, Scott Hampton with his super displays of banners and ground displays, and what a beautiful back drop Masaaki Modegi and Mrs Sato's trains of diamonds were there. There were so many others, too



Ray Bethell @ Berck  
(or should that be work) 2002

many to mention in this article, The only roped off area was the Sport Kite Demonstration arena with great all day demonstrations which the spectators lapped up. Featuring the famous Decorators from the UK, Team Chicago Fire, Team Windjammers, and yours truly. The winds just about flyable. On Saturday everyone worked hard to complete their routines. Sunday was a different matter, it was a great day for those that love strong wind, and by late afternoon it was blowing 15-18mph. I loved it, this is really my bag. Judy McCann the Sport Kite show Co-coordinator for the fourth year in a row did another great job in organizing the sport kite demonstrations. There is no doubt in my mind that this is one of the best kite festivals in North America, it is so well supported by the local people. Throughout

the day thousands of people swarmed throughout the Monona Terrace Community and Convention center, where workshops were held on both days plus kite displays and exhibitions. On top of all this the fantastic Guildworks indoor flying team once again did an awesome job of entertaining the masses with their hypnotic kite routines. These 3 days go so fast and everyone is so busy doing their thing there is not much time to socialize, but it was all gung ho at the last nights fare well party held again at Essen Haus restaurant. Good food, good company and the traditional boot drinking are always a blast. I would say this year was easily won by Sven and Andy from "Team No Limit"; this is a perfect name for them. This was an evening of laughter and tears, with everyone vowing to keep in touch with each other, and to return next year. The only sad thing about the evening was the news that Linda Underwood would not be organizing the Kites On Ice Festival in 2003, as she is getting married and moving to San Jose California. She will be sorely missed, as she is loved by everyone that has been lucky enough to have been invited to Kites On Ice. Linda and her wonderful team of volunteers have done a tremendous job, and in just a few short years, have made this a World Class Kite Festival. On behalf of all the kite flyers we wish Linda and Mr Lucky everything they wish for themselves plus so much more, "Thank you Linda for just being you."

Thank you for listening  
Ray Bethell

**We have found a source  
for embroidery onto club  
Patches, T Shirts,  
Fleeces, Hats, Bags  
well almost anything  
you can think off.  
Price lists will be available  
at the festival.**

## Useful Contacts:

### Coordinator/Chairperson:

Peter Linell

T 01273 683082

E brightonkiteflyers@bigfoot.com

### Membership Secretary:

Corinne Hennessey

T 01273 582309

E corinne@hennesseys.co.uk

### Events coordinators:

Ray Oakhill

T 01273 306842

E Ray.Oakhill@virgin.net

Simon Hennessey

T 01273 582309

E simon@hennesseys.co.uk

### Aerodyne:

Simon & Corinne Hennessey

T 01273 582309

E Aerodyne@hennesseys.co.uk

### Club library:

(BKF members only):

Peter Linell

T 01273 683082

E brightonkiteflyers@bigfoot.com

### Club Kites:

(BKF members only):

Simon Hennessey

T 01273 582309

E kites@hennesseys.co.uk

## Merchandise

### T-Shirts/Sweatshirts:

Alan Outram

T 01737 771196

E alan.outram@connectfree.co.uk

### Pins/Badges/Pens:

Simon Hennessey

T 01273 582309

E simon@hennesseys.co.uk

## The new Brighton kite flyers committee

### Officers

**Chairperson, Peter Linnell**  
**Secretary, Simon Hennessey**  
**Treasurer, David McArthur**

### Committee Members

**Alan Crag**  
**Alan Outram**  
**Danny Steer**  
**Paul Hill**  
**Peter Jackson**

**Non Committee post**  
**Membership Secretary,**  
**Corinne Hennessey**

# fly - in reminders

Our Monthly fly-in is where we try and get as many of the club members to fly together. This is held on the 1st Sunday of the month on Telscombe Tye, East Sussex from 11.00am. Next to the A259 coast road between Saltdean and Peacehaven.

We also have a mid-year social fly-in (April- Sept) on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 6.00pm in Stanmer Park, next to Sussex University

See you there

## FESTIVAL

Don't forget that Brighton Kite Flyers will be holding the 24th Annual Kite Festival on July 20th & 21st 2002. Please can we request that as many members as possible come along to help and make this event one of the best ever. For more information you can contact Simon Hennessey or Alan Outram, or visit our website [www.brightonkitefestival.co.uk](http://www.brightonkitefestival.co.uk)

## The Autumn Show

The Autumn Show at Ardingly Showground takes place on 5th & 6th October 2002. If you wish to take part and fly your kites please let Ray Oakhill know ASAP or at the latest by 1st September to obtain a free pass to the showground. There is no charge for camping overnight from Friday pm to Monday am. Contact Ray on: 01273 306842 or [ray.oakhill@virgin.net](mailto:ray.oakhill@virgin.net)

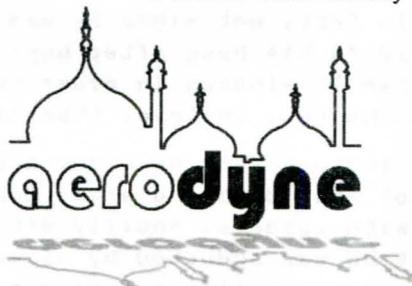
Whilst every care is taken to get the details correct in 'Aerodyne' the Brighton Kite Flyers cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions that may occur. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editors or of the Brighton Kite Flyers.



## Thank you

I would like to say thank you to all those who made my first issue of Aerodyne possible, Ray Oakhill, Ray Bethall and Peter Jackson for articles, Paul & Beth Hill for the wordsearch, Harry and Mable Kitability for the ditty and Simon Hennessey for articles and design.

Corinne Hennessey



Please contribute to your club newsletter - even the smallest of items is welcome. Anything sent to the 'Editor' will be considered for print unless marked otherwise.

Contributions should be sent to:

Aerodyne  
c/o Corinne Hennessey  
11 The Sheepfold  
Peacehaven  
East Sussex. BN10 8EG  
[aerodyne@hennesseys.co.uk](mailto:aerodyne@hennesseys.co.uk)

### Deadlines dates;

January issue - 1 December

April issue - 1 March

July issue - 1 June

October issue - 1 September

# 42 ROMAN CANDLE 65.



The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad. The International Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils. Mindless Drivel content exceeds 100%, politically incorrect, but do we give a toss? For those kilters, happiest bombing fauna from Kites.

Para

## Polar Bear Attacks on Merseyside.... NIL, so far

but then, you never know.

WHEN YOU READ HEADLINES SUCH AS THIS ITS GREAT TO REALISE THAT EVERYTHING IS SO TICKETYBOO. BUT WAIT, WHAT IF THIS IS YET ANOTHER COVERUP WITH LOTS OF ADDED SPIN BY THE POWERS THAT BE?

'OO,ER MISSUS, SHADES OF THE TWILIGHT ZONE OR WHAT?

WHAT IF ATTACKS BY BOOZY PARA POLARBears ARE REALLY GETTING OUT OF HAND, SO MUCH SO THAT A LOCAL BREWERY ON MERSEYSIDE IS PUBLISHING METHODS OF DEFENCE AGAINST THESE NON EXISTANT ATTACKS.....

Lots of people are getting just a teensy bit nervous about Parapolarbears on the lash in thier neck of the woods, so much so, that Vic @www.bear.drop.splatt.soddit.com who sent us this info, says that these pesky ratfaced parapolarfauna are getting too damned close for comfort. Vic also reckons that some of these smartarse wotsits have taken to masquerading as sheep and the only way to spot them is 'cos they pong of penguins, whereas the sheep smell of, well.....

Before any of you cleverclogs out there start going on about parapolarbears and penguins being incompatable, 'cos them furrys come from 'oop there and the flightless ones only lurk about down there, think about it. What a perfect cover, if there ever was one, whiffy woolies, ponging of penguins, whilst poncing pints from postal service users, who are only trying to drink the pubs dry, which is what we are reliably informed is a well known occurance in that neck of the woods.

So, if you are on a visit to Merseyside, ostensibly to post a letter, but in reality hoping to sample a few jars of the local brew, keep a good look out for freeloading parapolarbears toggged up as penguins and ponging of sheep, 'cor they dont arf 'ave a nasty peck.

Funny enough, we had not heard from good old Vic for some time. In fact, not since he was beseiged in his home after buying those 95 windows in order to get on the net, whatever that is

Vic reckons that he never did find out what double glazing had to do with spiders. Shortly after that he was abducted by alien forces(aint we all?) but he got fed up with all those medical experiments which consisted of



But you just never know...

### HOW TO HANDLE A POLAR BEAR ATTACK ON THE WAY TO THE POST BOX

- 1 **Keep your head** - don't run (well, it never helps penguins, does it?).
- 2 **Stand on top of the post box** and make yourself look as big as possible (polar bears are notorious bottlers).
- 3 **The polar bear will now accept you** as the leader of the pack.
- 4 **Lead him to your local** and tell him it's his round.
- 5 **Make yours a pint of Cains** - you deserve it.



Upon sighting a polar bear, do not run. Do not crouch down. Try to make yourself appear larger by opening your coat.



Tell him it's his round.

Tell us about your narrow escapes and win an 'I KEPT MY HEAD' T-shirt! Send your true stories to: I Kept My Head, Robert Cain Brewery, Stanhope Street, Liverpool L8 5XJ or e-mail: ikeptmyhead@cainsbeers.com All respondents qualify to join the "Cains Survivors' Club" and receive certificates for themselves and their local pub.

# Snap, Crackle and Geronimo



SO THERE YOU WAS, JUST GETTING USED TO THE DROP ZONE BEING AWASH WITH FUNGOIDAL NUTTERS OF A PARACHUTING PERSUASION, WHEN WHAMMO, SUDDENLY, YOU'RE UP TO YOUR ARSE IN BATTALIONS OF PARACHUTING WHEATYBANGS.....

It was only a matter of time, seeing as how them loony mushrooms were carrying on, before something else decided to get in on the act.

Mind you how many out there would have put a bet on a load of assorted breakfast cereals trying to gatecrash the party. Yes, the more you think about it, the weirder it gets.

Why do these cereals need chutes? Surely breakfast cereals by their very nature are normally very light, except those that resemble Hamster Nosh. You know the sort, cor, you'd have an easier time trying to eat a plateful of rusty nuts and bolts, than eating that other stuff.

Skydiving Mushrooms, Parachuting Wheaty Wotsits, Gordon Bennett where it all gonna end? Whats the next in line for parachuting stardom.....

Thanks are due to Electric Arfa for

tipping us off about the Wheaty Wotsits donning the Jolly Old Rags and going for broke. However, before anyone gets the 'ump as to why we are giving this particular brand of Wheaty Wotsits a puff in RC, and not wishing to be sued for a million squids which we aint got as we're boracic, we'd like to state that other brands are available, though the boring old fart wont be buying any as his breakfast usually consists of three cup of tea and a couple of ciggies. In the mean time whats next to get on the chutes?.

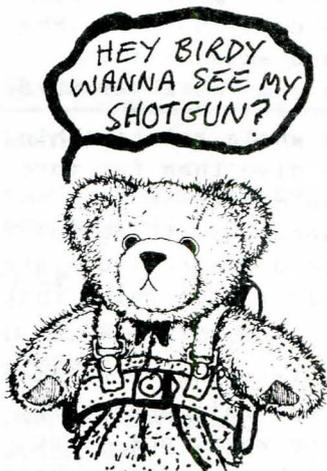
## AND WHILST WE'RE ON ABOUT WEIRD, WHAT ABOUT THEM THAR CHILTERN HILLS..YEE HARRRRR!

The BMISS is such a broad church, that we can even number some Grauniad readers amongst the faithful (sorry Dave H.) and if that aint a contradiction in terms then we dont know diddley squat. however, be that as it may, we were sent the following piece straight from the pages of the Guardian.....

Dangerous wildlife alert.. After virtual extinction, the Red Kite has been successfully reintroduced to the Chiltern Hills. But conservationists are worried about the effect this bird of prey is having on another vulnerable species (Yoo Wot???) namely, Teddy Bears...The Red Kites swoop on peoples gardens and make off with cuddly toys. Teddy Bears are their favourite quarry, but they have been known to take a toy giraffe.

Gordon Bennett, them Chiltern Hills Bears must be a right Wuss lot, cos its a sure bet them Red Kites aint ever tangled with a pissy arsed barsteward BMISS member, thats for sure. Consevation? yeah right, they'd be stuffed and preserved for posterity, and if by any chance them Red Kite Birdys were a little unbalanced, why, the average BMISS member could straighten them up no sweat with an ounce of lead in one lughole, injected via a Twelvebore.

Still. all politically incorrect inkes aside. as Dave H. says.



# HANGING AROUND.

WAITING FOR PAYBACK TIME.....

Oh, its lonesome up high  
 On your dropper so tall  
 What puts the wind up yer  
 Is that sodding great fall  
 But what gets to a fauna  
 Is when he starts to hear  
 Some rat faced daft dropniks  
 All starting to jeer,

So we'll get our own back  
 And just hang around  
 Whilst watching said dropniks  
 Just stamping the ground  
 But we can smell totals  
 Yes, true it is said  
 That total could be great  
 Straight onto a head

So dont jeer at fauna  
 You dropniks take note  
 For fauna can deal you  
 A sodding hard smote  
 A successful deployment  
 Is your state of grace  
 Less jeering, less boozing  
 Less egg on your face.

Oh, its lonesome up high  
 On your dropper so tall  
 We hold all the aces  
 And will just play it cool  
 So stop all your jeering  
 And boozing apace  
 Without us you're nothing  
 A waste of space. (sung to a pub with no beer) i.e. kilters hell.



**ITS TRUE, WITHOUT US THOSE DROPNIKS WOULD BE ZILCH, SWEET FA, TRULY A WASTE OF SPACE BIGTIME. EXCELLENT, WE HAVE THE POWER.....**

IT FAIRLY WARMS THE COCKLES OF YOUR KAPOK OR WHATEVER YOU HAVE STUFFED UP YOUR FUNDAMENTAL. YES, WITHOUT THE LEGIONS OF THE SOFT CUDDLEY TOY PERSUASION, THOSE PATHETIC HUMES WOULD TRULY UP THE CREEK, WITHOUT A PADDLE BE.

But there you go, so be it, as a persuasion we soft cuddles are not of a vindicive nature. Far from it we really do hold all the Aces, we do have the power, they are completely in thrall to us furry wotsits. Do we ever let them down? no never. Whtever they throw at us we take. They bash us and smash us, they even trash us, but what do we care , we always come back for mor

And thats the really funny thing about this whole relationshi we have with these crazy Hume so and so's. We give them far mor than they ever give us, and the truth of the matter is that they know this , yet they are rather coy about admitting to such a thing. This though, is where we are definitely one s ahead of them, even if the poor beknighted idiots think th it is the other way around.

We do have the power, and we get it from when the Hum are at a very young age. So how do we use this power? It can be used in many varied and intresting ways, not least all when you are up on a dropper under a Kite and down be are some charming examples of Humes giving it large. So pi your spot and **STICK IT TO THE BARSTEWARDS.....**



# Some Fauna go Buggy on a Day off.

WHICH MAKES A CHANGE FROM BEING BOMBED FROM A VERY GREAT HEIGHT, AS THE DELAY IN FACEPLANTING THE DROP ZONE CAN BE MEASURED IN MILLISECONDS INSTEAD OF THE USUAL.

WORD HAS IT THOUGH THAT POOR OLD DROPNIK 'Ernie' OF THOSE AMAZING BEAR DEVILS, IS EVERLASTING HAVING TO REPAIR THE BEAR DEVILS RADIO CONTROLLED BUGGY, WHICH IS PULLED ALONG BY A SMALL FLOW FORM KITE.

Why?, you may ask does this Bear Buggy always need repairs. psst, yes the little sods always are and as most of thier buggy trips seem to end up in going straight for the nearest Hume ankles and giving them a good nip, poor old ernie is for ever having to do repairs, whilst hoping against hpoe, that nobody sues them.

Mind you, if it ever did come to court, what Judge in his or her right mind would wish to make a judgement against a drunken mob of parachuting and faceplanting Teddy Bears, pissed out of thier heads whilst driving a kite buggy on a drunken day off.

Talk about a Jolly Boys Outing, correction, Jolly Bears Outing, something tells us it would all end up on Ripleys believe or not.



WITH THE WAY THING ARE GOING AT THE MOMENT, PERHAPS WE SHOULD ALL ADJOURN TO THE ABOVE EMPORIUM DISCOVERD BY ELECTRIC ARTHUR IN THAT SOUTHERN BASTION OF GOOD BEHAVIOUR , WAREHAM IN DORSET.

Its highly unlikely that an establishment like this would even contemplate putting up with what normally passes for parafauna behaviour, i.e feeding time at the Zoo. Far be it from us to denigrate our members demeanour, but you must admit that it is at times somewhat rough around the edges. After second thoughts though, with what we have to put up with as a species, its not surprising.

Could be a laugh though if we had a tea party there. Imagine a round.....Ten pints of Earl Grey, Two pints of Lapsang Souchong and Four pints of Orange Pekoe and a great big plate of sticky buns.

**SO WHATEVER HAPPENS REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR WHATEVERS NEXT TO TRY AND GET ON THE PARACHUTING BAND WAGDN...YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.....**

FROM ROMAN CANDLE, EIGHTYSEVEN YEARS AGO....

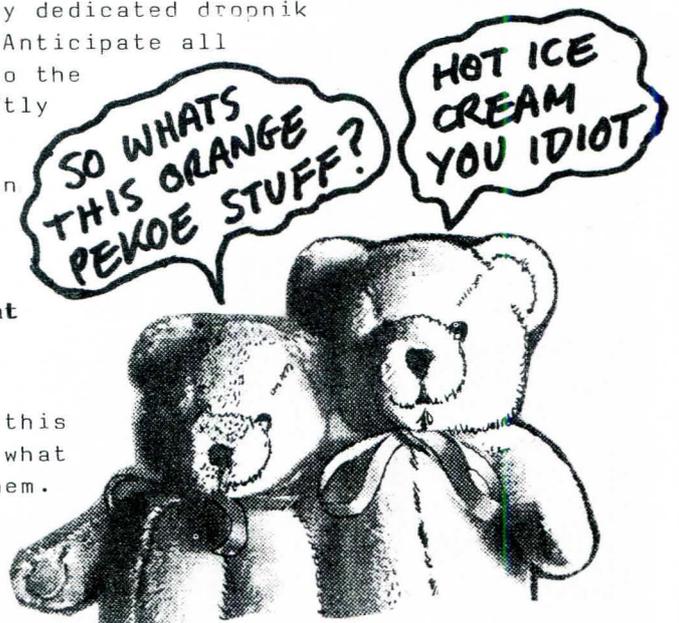
NOTICE TO ALL DROPNIKS. The objective of every dedicated dropnik should be to thoroughly analyse all situations. Anticipate all problems prior to thier occurance. Have answers to the said problems, and all dropniks should move swiftly to solve the problems when called upon to do so

However, when dropniks are up to thier arse in alligators, it is difficult to remind them that thier first objective was to drain the swamp.

**SO, AS EVER ITS THE USUAL TO THE WHATEVER, at THE TEDDYTORIAL, TAH DAHHHHH.....**

C/O THE BORING OLD FART, 48. LAUREL LANE, WEST DRAYTON MIDDx, UB7.7TY UNITED KINGDOM. And this particular bit will forever be Enland no matter what the TRAITORS have planned, a plague on all of them.

**Fact...** Recently published EU Maps of our land have no mention of ENGLAND. SCOTLAND YES, WALES YES, BUT NO ENGLAND, funny or suspicious



## Kite Event Calendar

July		
20-21	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton	Simon Hennesey
21	Darlington Rotary Kite Festival.	Malcolm Goodman
27—28	Tewkesbury International Kite Festival	Peter Whitaker
28	Dunstable Downs Kite Festival, Dunstable, Bedfordshire	Dunstable Kites
August		
3-4	Blackpool Monster Kite Show, Blackpool Beach.	Phil Womack Phil@fizzgig.co.uk
4	Royston Kite Festival, Therfield Heath, Beds	Ken Charles 01223 207213
10-11	Whitmore Bay Kite Festival, Whitmore Bay, Barry Island, Wales	www.thekiteman.com
10-11	Middle Wallop Kite Festival, Hampshire	Kites Up
10-11	Teston Bridge Kite Weekend, Maidston, Kent	Kiteability
17-18	Coventry Kite Festival, Memorial Park, Coventry	M.K.F.
17-18	Ormesby Hall Kite Festival.	Malcolm Goodman
24-26	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hampshire	The Kite Society
31	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court	Avril Baker
September		
1	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court	Avril Baker
1	6th Hunstanton Kite and Car Event, Norfolk	Bryan Cattle
1	Hartlepool Headlands Kite Festival.	Malcolm Goodman
7—15	Dieppe International Kite Festival, France	infos@dieppe-cerf-volant.org
15	Bournemouth Kite Festival, Hengistbury Head.	lmtpromotion@hotmail.com
May 2003		
10-11	Swindon Kite Festival, Lydiard Park, Swindon.	White Horse Kite Fliers
17-18	Suffolk Kite Festival, Rougham Airfield, Bury St Edmunds	Martin Corrie
June 2003		
28-29	Bedford International Kite Festival, Bedford.	

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
Scruffs	77 Oxford Street, Pontycymer, Bridgend CF32 8DD	01656 0871871	margam@kiteshops.com
Martin Corrie		01206 299560	
Neil Harvey		01285 740295	
Simon Hennesey		01273 582309	Simon@hennesseys.co.uk
Joanna Mersey	Bignor Park, Pulborough, Sussex RH20 1HG	01798 869214	
Richard Nourse	85 Bells Orchard Lane, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4HP	01929 554690	richard.nourse@virgin.net
Frédéric Pouillau	2 Place de la Mairie, 62170 Saint Aubin, France.	03 21 89 55 98	cerf.volant@wanadoo.fr
Peter Whitaker	12 Littlefield, Quedgeley, Glos GL2 6GZ	01452 728521	Paul@gvkf.org.uk
Great Ouse Kite Fliers	Peter West	01733 269687	Gokf@btinternet.com
Michael Lowe	44 Bellemoor Road, Shirley, Southampton, Hants SO15 7QU	023 8077 0788	
Bryan Cattle	21 Shepherds Close, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge CB1 4HP.		
Kiteability	45 Windsor Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire AL6 9JY	01438 712168	Patnron@kiteability.co.uk
Joanna Mersey	Bignor Park, Pulborough, Sussex RH20 1HG	01798 869214	
M.K.F.	Alan Bill, 90 Weybourne Road, Great Barr, Birmingham B44 9DE	0121 360 1955	
Dunstable Kites		01582 662779	sales@dunstable-kites.co.uk
White Horse Kite Fliers	P O Box 585, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 4YR	01793 824208	Cowpat.ed@whkf.org.uk
Al Cosgrove			Alan.cosgrove@ntlworld.com
Phil Womack		07957 308734	Fylde@fly.to
Kreative Kites		01635 528400	kreativ.kites@argonet.co.uk
Avril Baker	5 Lilymead Avenue, Wells Road, Totterdown, Bristol BS4 2BY	0117 977 2002	
Colin Jepson	Fairbourne and Barmouth Steam Railway, Beach Road, Fairbourne, Dolgellau, Gwynedd, LL38 2Z		
Richard Nourse	85 Bells Orchard Lane, Wareham, Dorset BH20 4HP	01929 554690	Richard.nourse@virgin.net
Malcolm Goodman	134 Thames Road, Billingham, TS22 5EX	01642 550827	Thekiteman@ntlworld.com