

THE KITEFLIER

Issue 96

July 2003

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NEWSLETTER
OF
THE KITE SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN

The Kiteflier, Issue 96

July 2003

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Editorial

Dear Reader

We are now half way through the festival season and most of the events seemed to have had at least some decent weather—let us hope the rest of this years events do as well.

Don't forget the Portsmouth International Kite Festival which has its' largest overseas contingent ever. The sky should be filled with big ones!

Also at Portsmouth there is an auction to raise funds for the Todd Ward—Pat

Dell fund, please come along and give your support. Details are on page 10.

There is no M.K.F. Extra this time around as Lloyd had other commitments and was unable to meet our deadline. Talking of which there seems to be a lot of confusion when these deadlines are. For the next issue (October 2003) the deadline is September 15th.

Look forward to seeing you.

Gill and Jon

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.

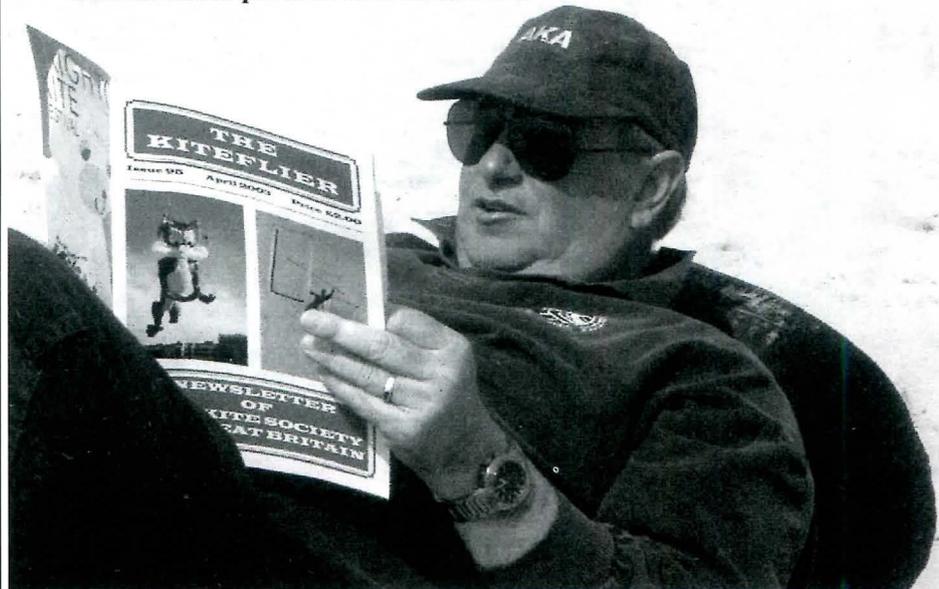
Other benefits of membership include free, or reduced, entry into selected kite festivals in the U.K., special parking arrangements where possible, discount - from 5% to 15% - on all kite purchases from the majority of kite retailers in the U.K.

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
O.A.P.	£8.00
O.A.P. - Family (Husband & Wife)	£9.00
Overseas - Europe and Surface Mail	£12.00
Overseas - Airmail	£16.00

Even the A.K.A. president reads the Kiteflier!



The front cover photo shows a multi Facet kite seen at the Ferrara Kite Festival. Maker unknown.
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.

From Maurice Sawyer

How lucky you all are to have JOHN BARKER'S version of the Helen Bushel sled presented to you for the second time round. If you haven't made yours yet then get cracking on it. It's a HUM-DINGER.

I made mine a few years back and still it is my favourite. Steady, nailed in place, lifts teds and cameras. I made a three-panel (like wot is shown) and two single panels, each with one fin. They are all equipped with plastic zips (by the metre from the larger sewing machine shops--centres) so that the kite can be a three, four or five panel size. (the 4 panel needs a 300 mm bridle adjuster made to be fitted at the fly-line end).

My desire is to make a two-panel piece as well but time seems to be less available now .

Thank you John for sharing this (and many other good things and deeds) with us.

From Karl Greatrex

Thanks for another great Weymouth kite festival, I really couldn't believe the weather we had for the weekend considering the terrible rain we had to endure on Friday during our journey down from Staffordshire. I can only imagine that the powers that be, in a world much higher than ours, and even higher than the height limit set at Weymouth, must also fly a kite or two.

The combination of sun and a good breeze really kick started my summer tan, yes my face is red from looking skyward for hours. The chance to rest in my chair and marvel at some of the designs, such as the Coyote and Humpty Dumpty, was very relaxing. One day I will fly one of my own kites in the festival but for now I prefer to watch other peoples kites and listen to the great commentary provided by George and Andy.

Here's to many more Weymouths, it's the best weekend in the year!!!!

From Alan Walker

I heartily agree with Jim C's comments on unattended kites, and would like to add a couple of recollections and comments.

1. The kite tethered after breakfast, then the owner went into town for the day. Tempers flared when he returned in the afternoon - and he couldn't think why!
2. The huge club kite brought out at a small informal gathering. Those flying objected. "There isn't room to put it up here." "Don't worry. R makes his own space." And it did. Tethered in the middle of the field it swept from side to side and had the sky virtually to itself in a couple of minutes.

Now when you are six and a great bully pushes your pride and joy out of the sky it puts you off flying kites. And kite clubs should not harbour bullies.

3. Stakes, corkscrews or whatever should be clearly marked.

4. Tethered lines should have a pennant or small drogue at eye level.

5. Somebody should be keeping an eye on your line at all times.

From George R Daniels

Last night I read George Webster's article on your website. His information differed from the information I had read many years ago.

In Wyatt Brummitt's book, A Golden Guide on Kites, Golden Press, New York, USA, Western Publishing Company, Inc., Racine, Wisconsin, USA, there is a reference to Scott Sleds that differs from George Webster's article.

Page 78, "One of the most successful of these new kites is the Scott sled. It was evolved by Frank Scott, son of "Sir Walter" Scott, one of kiting's several unique characters. Frank's kite is called a sled for the simple reason that, in the air, it resembles a snow sled. It has no lateral stiffening, so it can be rolled up and carried easily in a tube. Unroll it, shake it out, attach the flying line -- and you're ready for flying."

I bring this to your attention, because I had also read elsewhere that Sir Walter Scott himself flew kites, and experimented with different designs. That interest apparently was transferred to his son, Frank. If like father like son, it would not be out of the realm of possibility that Frank Scott created that sled and not William M. Allison, as George Webster believes. I am simply not as certain as George Webster is that Frank Scott did not "evolve" the sled either independently or that William M. Allison did not copy Frank Scott's ideas. What does George Webster have as research that precludes such thoughts?

Private Ads

For Sale: A number of single line kites collected over the last 25 years. Interesting ones like a Greens Biplane, Avenger from The Kite Store (this one is new) and lots of others from Monday Lunch, Paul Morgan, etc. P Catlin, 01536 424998.

Wanted:

Second Hand Flexifoil Stacker
Double Ram Delta (Ted Fleming)
Hawaiian 100" or 78"

Phone Keith Walker 01543 579914

Private ads are free. All we require is that the copy for the advert be with us by the 15th of the month prior to publication. So for the next issue - October, we require the copy by the 15th September. Send the copy by mail or email to the editorial address.

World Kite Project

To My fellow kite Society/Association Member.

I have embarked on an ambitious project to introduce young children to kites all over the world. The purpose is to give young children an exciting introduction to kites that will instil a lifelong interest for kites in them. It calls upon individual members such as yourself everywhere, to give a little bit of your enthusiasm and time to duplicate the project I undertook here in Sydney (17-20th February, 2003) in your local area with your local pre-school.

The Project – General Overview.

To identify your local pre-school, make contact with the senior teacher there and make him/her an offer of an exciting project for the children to undertake involving kites (encompassing a lecture, decorating, making and flying a kite). You may feel uncomfortable making the initial request but you will be impressed by the speed of the positive response. *Note:- some of your fellow members may derive income by giving kite making instruction to school children (mainly primary and secondary). If this occurs in your area, please be considerate in your actions.*

The Project – Step by Step.

1. The Initial School Visit.

After approval is given, visit the school to tell the staff about the project and what the children can look forward to. Leave a copy of the plan of the 'A4 Diamond Kite' with them to prepare and photocopy it for the children's use. They will probably want to construct it to familiarise themselves with it.

Note 1:- When the full size plan (A4) is ready for photocopying, tell the teachers to make sure it is placed in the centre of the image area as the photocopier will not print to the edges of the page. This is critical for the symmetry of the kite when folded.

Note 2:- If weekday time is inconvenient for you, follow-up contact after the initial phone call with the teacher involved can be by phone, fax or mail. He/she can supervise the selected stages within class time. The 'fly-in' can then be conducted by parents and teachers at an appointed location on a weekend day with you in attendance for technical assistance.

2. The Kite Lecture (Optional).

Attend the school armed with your favourite kites, books, and photographs to dazzle the children. You should manage to keep their attention for about 20-30 minutes maximum at this age group. They will ask some interesting questions...so be prepared!

3. The Kite Decoration.

Please refer to the base of this article for the plan of the A4 Diamond Kite. As the name suggests it is constructed from an A4 sheet of paper which the children will enjoy decorating. This segment is done by the teaching staff within the context of an art activity where the children can learn about symmetry. Your attendance is not required. You will be amazed at the artistic creations they come up with.

4. The Kite Construction.

On a pre-arranged morning, with the assistance of the teaching staff and parent helpers, the children are moved in small groups (pulled out from other activities) to a table set up with all the materials required to build the kites. The school will happily provide all the materials. It will take about 2

World Kite Project

hours to build all the kites with the children (based on about 25 students).

Note:- I suggest you bring the barbeque skewers (as thicker ones can be quite heavy). If you opt for drinking straws, ask a local fast food store to donate you some (as their straws are a bit thicker, stronger and don't have a pre-bend position in them). Also, with regard to reels, each child can be requested to bring a cotton reel from home or alternatively, small pieces of cardboard can be cut with 5-6 metres of cotton wound on one end.

5. The Kite Fly.

You in consultation with the head teacher will have selected a suitable park/open space for the children to fly their kites in.

Note:- In extreme cases, local Council permission may be required but the school will probably have an existing relationship with the selected area, so this will not be an issue.

The big day has arrived and the children are very excited. You and the head teacher need to make a final decision based on the weather.

Note:-If the ground is very wet after recent rains, consider that the crepe paper tails may disintegrate and the colour may get onto the children's clothing.

Wind is not essential as the children launch and keep their kites airborne by running around. Before flying, it is wise to lay a few ground rules to avoid confusion and collisions, such as identifying the wind direction and telling the children to run into it. Designating an area to stay in (and not to venture onto roads etc.) is very important. Nominating a repair area such as a particular park bench is a good idea. The children should be warned to keep their kites away from trees, shrubs and electrical wiring. The children will last about an hour or so and will probably require a drink break at some stage which the teachers will have planned for. I assure you that a great time will be had by all and the children will have a re-usable kite and the start of a life long interest in this activity.

Note:- Students leaving the school premises may count as an excursion and parental consent may be required, if so, the school will be aware of it and automatically organise for forms to be signed by a parent. Also, if you organise for any local press to cover the event, some schools require parental consent for their children to be photographed and/or named. If this is an issue, the school will organise for it as well on the excursion form.

Your Participation.

I invite YOU to accept the offer and take on this project (or modified to suit your particular requirements) with your local pre-school. The benefits for you will be many including introducing young children to the hobby/sport that you are passionate about.

My entire involvement with this project is on a voluntary basis with my personal reward being that I have left children with a great experience and a new and lifelong interest in kites.

If you do accept, please let me know how you are going and the results you are achieving by emailing me at rharvey1@bigpond.net.au (please write 'world kite project' in the subject box). The kite plan below is made freely available for any educational purpose.

By the way, this project was inspired by a course I recently undertook with Landmark Education (www.landmarkeducation.com) called the 'Self Expression and Leadership Programme'.

Yours sincerely,
Robert Harvey,
Australian Kiteflyers Society Member,
Sydney,
Australia.

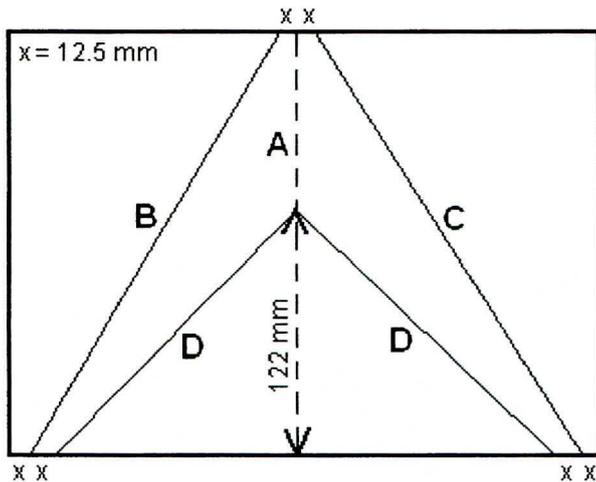
A4 DIAMOND KITE

(Design By R. Harvey)

Requirements: Materials: 1 A4 sheet of paper, barbecue skewer/straw, crepe paper and cotton reel.
Tools: ruler, glue, tape, scissors and pin.

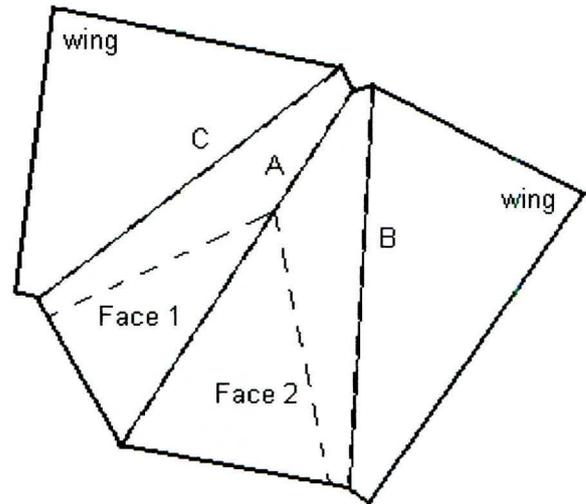
Step 1.

Draw lines on A4 sheet as shown below.



Step 2.

Turn sheet face down and fold at line A (centre of sheet). Then fold at lines B and C to form the wings. (Tip: go over the lines with a pen and ruler for an accurate fold.)



Step 3.

Fully glue face 1 to face 2.

(Tip: Fold wings over so they don't stick together). When dry, cut along line D to remove excess keel.

Make a small hole at point E (5mm in from edge) for the kite line (Adult).

(Tip: the hole can be reinforced with tape on both side for extra strength).

Decorate front face of the kite if needed.

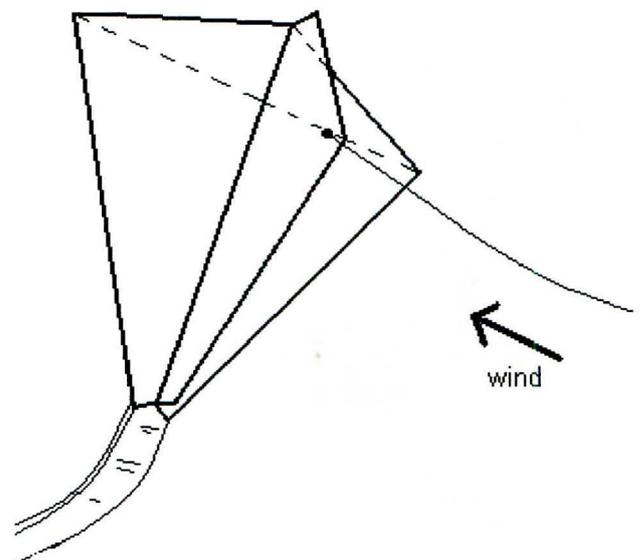
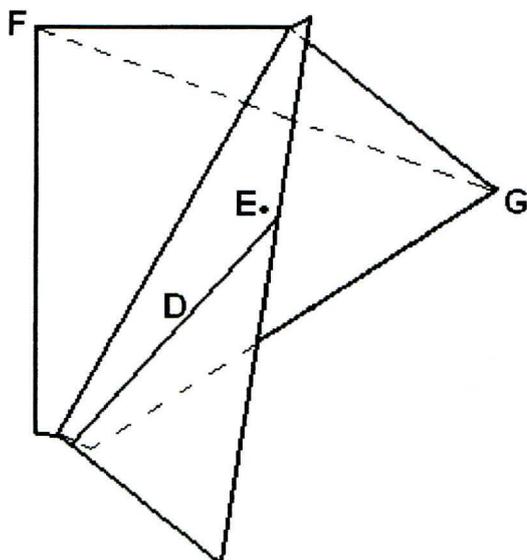
Tape barbecue skewer/straw from points F to G with tape on back of kite.

Step 4.

Prepare two 2.4m lengths of 40mm wide crepe paper, looped with all 4 ends joined and taped together. Neatly tape this tail end to the rear bottom of the kite.

(Tip: more tail may be required in stronger conditions).

Tie cotton flying line securely to the hole, extend some line and launch into the wind. Fly safely, stay away from power lines, trees and have a great flight.



New Book

Spotted in the Sunday Telegraph. **Benjamin Franklin 'faked kite experiment'** By Robert Matthews, Science Correspondent (Filed: 01/06/2003)

It is one of the most famous experiments in scientific history: generations of schoolchildren have been taught how Benjamin Franklin, the 18th-century American inventor and statesman, risked his life flying a kite directly under a thundercloud to prove that lightning was a form of electricity. Franklin's success brought worldwide fame and membership of the prestigious Royal Society. But a new study of his work suggests that the inventor actually invented the whole story.

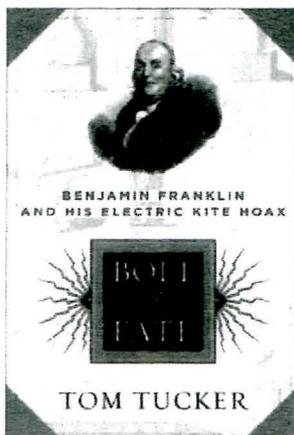
According to the official version of events, in the summer of 1752 Franklin devised a simple way of testing his theory that lightning was caused by an electrical build-up. He constructed a kite fitted with a metal spike and flew it during a thunderstorm. Textbook accounts say that electricity ran down the kite's cord to a key tied near the end, creating a spark when Franklin brought his knuckle close to it. He is also said to have collected some of the electricity in a specially lined jar and carried out experiments on it. His work led to the invention of the lightning conductor, which has since saved countless lives. He was made a member of the Royal Society in London, the world's most prestigious scientific academy, and received the society's premier award, the Copley Medal, in 1753 "on account of his curious experiments and observations on electricity".

According to a new study of the historical evidence, however, the experiment that proved the theory took place only in Franklin's imagination. Tom Tucker, a lecturer and historian at the Isothermal Technical College in North Carolina, first began to suspect the story while working for the US space agency Nasa. He examined the original documents describing the experiment, and found differing accounts of it by Franklin that were vague about when or where it was performed. "There was no witness identified in the announcement, no location named—and nowhere does Franklin say he actually

performed the experiment," said Dr Tucker. Franklin also dropped from his reports his initial claim that the experiment could be performed "by anyone", and claimed that the kite and the twine connecting it to the ground had to be wet to conduct electricity. In practice, however, this would have led to all the electricity leaking away into the ground. Dr Tucker's suspicions were finally confirmed when he tried to recreate Franklin's experiment exactly - using materials available in the mid-18th century. He told The Telegraph: "I followed the design of the kite and tried it several times - and it just wouldn't fly."

According to Dr Tucker, even if it had got off the ground, there was no way it could have reached the heights needed to draw electricity from thunderclouds. He then tried the experiment using a "highly efficient modern kite", but that did not work, either. Dr Tucker sets out his evidence in *Bolt of Fate*, the first detailed analysis of Franklin's kite-flying claims, to be published on June 24. While the book debunks the experiment, Dr Tucker stressed that Franklin's theory was entirely correct. "I think he invented the story to claim some active involvement in the science - to show that he was not just making a suggestion," he said.

"I suspect that traditional Franklin biographers are going to hate this, as the kite experiment has such an iconic status." A spokesman for the Royal Society said it was unlikely that the revelations would lead to Franklin being stripped of his membership. "It's doubtful that anyone would be expelled posthumously, as the scientist would not have the opportunity to state his case," she said.



Bolt of Fate is available via www.amazon.co.uk for £14.99. Note it is imported from America. ISBN 1891620703.

Fashion's High Fliers

By Brady Haran BBC News Online

A "kiteboarding" competition is perhaps the last place you would expect to see a group of aspiring fashion designers. But on a cold day on the Isle of Wight, a group of students from Nottingham Trent University's fashion course are huddled on the sand.

These dedicated students have travelled hundreds of miles to complete an assignment with a difference. Their mission is to create a range of menswear catering to extreme sportsmen, such as these daredevils who surf through the air while clinging to kites.

Senior lecturer in fashion, Maria Stafford, explained that her second-year honours students were set a menswear design task every year. But rather than simply creating a fictitious design brief, the university teams up with real companies to set the challenge.

This year the partner was Flexifoil, a Cambridgeshire-based kiting company which recently branched into fashion. Fifty students were divided into six teams and required to create a range of clothes, including shirts, trousers and jackets. They were also told to conduct extensive market research and plans for merchandising, packaging and manufacturing.

Ms Stafford said: "Working with a sports-oriented company was something different and the students really enjoyed it. I think in some ways they got more into the sports side of things than the fashion."

The winning team was awarded £1,000, and all the students were given a kite by Flexifoil. But the most exciting prospect for the students may be seeing their work on the racks.

Flexifoil marketing executive Jane Rankin said: "Elements of the Nottingham designs and the students' coursework are currently being used as inspiration for the next stage in our clothing range which we hope to release to market next summer.

"The project work that all the students completed throughout the challenge was outstanding. The designs were not only perfectly in line with the brief that the students had been given, but surpassed it."

A winning student, Clare-Louise Burke, said: "It will be very exciting seeing our ideas now developed further and sold on the high street."

New Magazine

Seen in W H Smiths a brand new one called Powerkite. It claims to be "the magazine for all kites of all ages". Whereas the other two on the shelves are 99% kite surfing, this one appears to cover more than just the power side of kiting. Whilst predominately power kites - that is the name of the magazine. However there is mention and photos of deltas and single liners.

Sad News

Gerri and Fred Adler wrote: Sonia Hall, Ray and Leslie Bethell's daughter past away this morning (24th April), she has had a courageous battle with Cancer, she turned 52 on Easter! Ray found out just after 8:00 this morning. He left for Italy shortly after he found out. He told me it was going to be a very hard travel day!

This has been Ray's hardest year in life, his wife has Alzheimer's and is caring for her all himself. In order to be able to go to any of his sponsored festivals Ray has to leave Leslie in a wonderful Respect Home in Vancouver, this is hard because he lives on a limited income and it is expensive.

If all of you that know Ray would send him a card, he would really love that!

His address is;

Ray Bethell
2843 5th Ave E.
Vancouver
B.C.
Canada, Y5M1N4

Thank you.

The Times, June 12, 2003. Kite flyers face death penalty By Zahid Hussain

Kite flyers in the Punjab province of Pakistan have been threatened with capital punishment after deaths and injuries that have been caused by sharpened kite strings.

A man and a child had their throats cut by glass-coated strings in Lahore as thousands of people took part in the annual kite flying festival known as Basant, that marks the beginning of spring. Many others, including several young children, have been killed by kite strings in the city and in other parts of the province this year. Thousands of multi-coloured kites fill the skies in the evenings, and the flyers often use metallic

twines or coat their strings with glass shards to try to cut their opponents' strings in aerial battle.

The practice also has caused an alarming rise in casualties among pedestrians and motorcyclists, who get entangled with the strings in crowded neighbourhoods. Most of the victims are young children who try to catch falling kites. Metallic twines also cause power cuts when they come in contact with electricity lines.

Rana Ejaz Ahmad Khan, Punjab's Law Minister, said that police had been instructed to treat such deaths as murders, which carry the death sentence under Pakistani laws. Coated or metallic strings will be deemed offensive weapons.

Karl Longbottom starts full time kite making

Following several years of part time manufacture and multiple redundancies Karl has decided to give full time kite manufacture a go.

Working from home in the wilds of the welsh borders he is producing a range of traditional and new designs. These include the old favourites, Rokkakus, Rollers, Tangrams, Hexagons, Yakko Bees and Edos. New designs include The Mad Hata, Toody and Blockheads.

The Kites are all made by Karl himself to the high standard you have come to expect, using the best available materials.

In addition to Kites, Karl is also manufacturing Banners. Both the standard feather type and a new inflatable design which gives the benefits of wording that reads correctly on both sides and no "show through" of the design.

Karl is also available to run workshops for adults and children alike, ranging from simple sleds to complex ripstop kites.

All Kites and banners can be tailored to your own requirements in terms of colour, size and most importantly graphics. So contact Karl and discuss your requirements for that special Kite you know you have always wanted or the Christmas present for someone special.

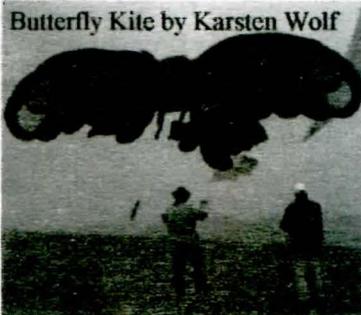
Karl Longbottom,
School House
Dorstone
Herefordshire
HR3 6AN

Tel. 01981 550326

Email Karl@Longbottom.org.uk

Website opening soon at www.longbottom.org.uk

International Kite Festival, Portsmouth 2003



Butterfly Kite by Karsten Wolf

The renowned Portsmouth International Kite Festival takes place once again for the 12th time on Southsea Common, Southsea, Hampshire on Saturday 23rd, Sunday 24th and Monday 25th August

and is jointly run by the Kite Society and Portsmouth City Council. The site is a large grassed area with easy access to the town, there are also many local facilities including a leisure centre - so there is plenty to keep the non-flier happy! The event is AA signposted from the major access routes. Access to the **free** onsite car park is available via the sea front road near the funfair.

Saturday and Sunday will have a full programme of exciting arena displays and demonstrations from old favourites and new faces. Monday, once again being a relaxed informal day with no planned events although you are all welcome to fly! 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.

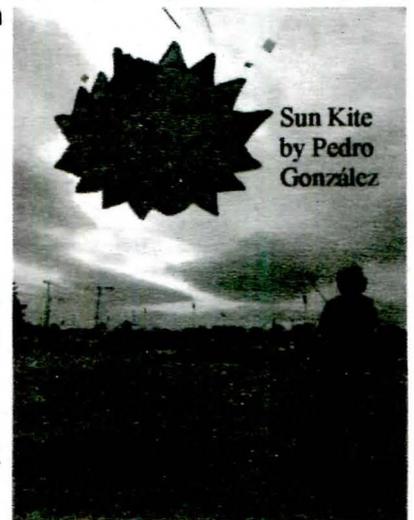
This year we have a spectacular display of large inflatable kites as well as many beautiful single line kites. With such notable kite fliers as Peter Lynn (**New Zealand**) with his huge range of inflatables ranging from cats to trilobites filling our skies, Jos Valcke (**Belgium**), with his many humanoid soft kites. Also Marco Casadio (**Italy**), with his world famous mermaids and

other amazing kites and the Avon Kite Fliers with their wide array of kites included the recovered Roly (the whale).

This year we only have one stunt team from abroad but Team Flic from **France** are sure to provide a good show! We once again have the company of Gruppo Aquilonisti Vulandra, a large group of Italian kitefliers who have an unusual collection of kites including a flying orchestra and a lifelike UFO! (complete with aliens)

Other attendees include: from **Holland**, The Wind Gallery, Janneke Groen and Jan and Jolanda Van Leeuwen; from **France**, Generation Kites; from the **U.K.**, The Flying Squad, the British Buggy Club and The Brighton Kitefliers; from **Germany** Bernard Dingwerth and Karsten Wolf; From **Belgium** the Didak family and from **Spain**, Pedro and Esteban González. Plus George Webster and Andy King providing insights and anecdotes as our regular commentators.

This group of kitefliers provides you with some exotic and definitely unusual kites. As well as old favourites such as Janneke's Sodes, the complex kites from the Generation club, the topless mermaids and the skill of both our stunt teams we also have some new sights and kites



Sun Kite by Pedro González



Kitefliers Car Pass

**Portsmouth International Kite Festival
23th, 24th and 25th August 2003
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 2003

that are sure to become firm favourites. Come along and take a look!

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. There will be a dog show on the Monday.

Free parking is available for KSGB members and the pass in this section 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 or on the designated parking area behind the fun fair. There is **NO** parking around the arena.



Devil by Bernard Dingwerth

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.

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

We look forward to seeing you all there, no matter how many invited guests we have we still need you to fill the little holes in the sky, so bring along any interesting kites, windsocks, inflatables, ground displays or line junk that you want to show off! We look forward to welcoming familiar friends and hopefully lots of new faces, lets make this festival the best one yet!

Other Information

Tony Cartwright is once again organising the animal kingdom kite display:

The Animal Kingdom

The Display has now been running for a few years at Portsmouth. I thought it is time to re-issue the Invitation to ALL new and regular fliers to join us in the arena. **It is open to everyone!!!** There are only two requirements

- 1) The kite must have an animal theme, anything from a toy shop kite with a Tiger's head print to a Peter Lynn Octopus, we have had the odd Alien and Dragon as well!
- 2) The kite must be flown safely and courteously, you will probably get tangled up with someone, good way to make new friends.

It will happen on both days so check the programme, but listen out to the commentators, weather and wind conditions can change timings. If you have a kite that is special that you want mentioned over the PA then please e-mail me at tc@rokmaster.freeserve.co.uk with details before the festival so we can brief George and Andy.

Sled Altitude Sprint!! -

Last year there was a special altitude sprint for sleds, it was such a success that we are doing it again! 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. Lets get the Sled out of the workshop into our Sky.

PAT DELL - TODD WARD FUND (Please come along and support this worthy cause.)

As you may be aware following the death earlier this year of Pat Dell of Kiteability, Ron and his family are attempting to donate a piece of equipment in Pat's name to The Todd Ward at Kings Collage Hospital, London where Pat spent her last days. In order to help Ron in this cause the kite flyers will be holding an Auction at Portsmouth Kite Festival on the Saturday evening following the invited guests BBQ.

If you would like to help Ron and his family in their task you can do this in to ways

1. Send any donations large or small can be kite related or not to:

Todd Ward Fund, C/O 11 The Sheepfold, Peacehaven, East Sussex, BN10 8EG or see Simon Hennessey (Brighton Kite Flyers) or Dicky Nourse (Poole kite Flyers) on a flying field.

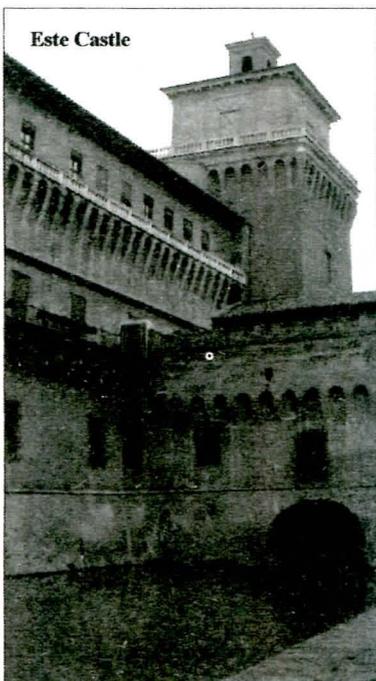
2. Come along on the day and support the auction. Thank you to the KSGB for allowing us to use there festival for this event.

Simon Hennessey

Sun and Pasta by Gill Bloom

Ferrara Kite Festival 25th—27th April

Some of you would have met the group of Italian kitefliers from Ferrara - Grappa Vulandra at Portsmouth last year, they were the ones with the spectacular UFO kite. The Club holds its own festival in April in an Urban Park in Ferrara, So taking advantage of the cheap air fares to Venice we decided to attend the Festival (taking in the Amusement Park- Gardaland (for the daughter-Roller coaster fanatic) and Venice on the way.



Este Castle

Ferrara is situated in the low lying area around the river Po in Northern Italy and has a long history going back to 757 AD. The town itself has a superb set of walls and a almost Disney Like Castle with moat set in the middle of the City, and the patron saint of the City is Saint George – so there are lots of depictions of George killing the Dragon, and, of course most importantly lots of Italian Ice Cream Shops!

The Festival was held over three days, and had a extremely diverse group of kite fliers from around Europe attending. The Festival site reminded us of the good old days before safety issues came to the fore. So there were no arenas or marked out areas for sports kites or large kites, in fact just a free for all with members of the public joining in



Kitefliers Encampment

with their workshop kites. It was lovely to see so many families had come out for the day with grandparents and grand children enjoying just flying a kite, which after all is what it is all about! Of course all the kite fliers set themselves up en masse so there was about a 50 feet swathe of cabanas, banners and erected kites to negotiate before you could reach clear space, but what would be chaos in the UK seemed in that unique Italian way to work out, everyone seemed to cope and have a good time, perhaps the warm sunshine had something to do with it, it really does seem to make everyone that more relaxed (except maybe the drivers!).

The hospitality was superb with all the invited kite fliers put up in a very good hotel and lunch and evening meals supplied on the Festival site. The local OAP Club had been drafted in to provide the catering which they did with great style and this being Italy there was Pasta with every meal. And a unique type of twisted hard bread that could double up as devil's Horns, which we later found out, was a local speciality. But the experience of sitting with perhaps 200 Italian kite fliers in a marquee was quite unique especially where the noise level was concerned, but what a friendly group they all were with extra delicacies appearing at each meal and generously handed round, and there was certainly quite some wine flowing. It was just like one big happy family.



Lucy—one of the organisers.



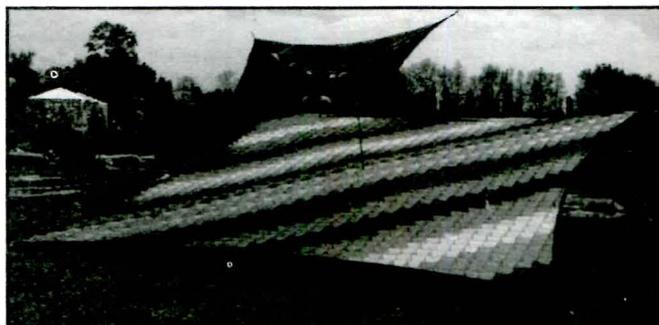
Group photo—complete with kite baskets

Unfortunately along with the warm sunshine the wind was erratic and tended towards the light

Sun and Pasta by Gill Bloom

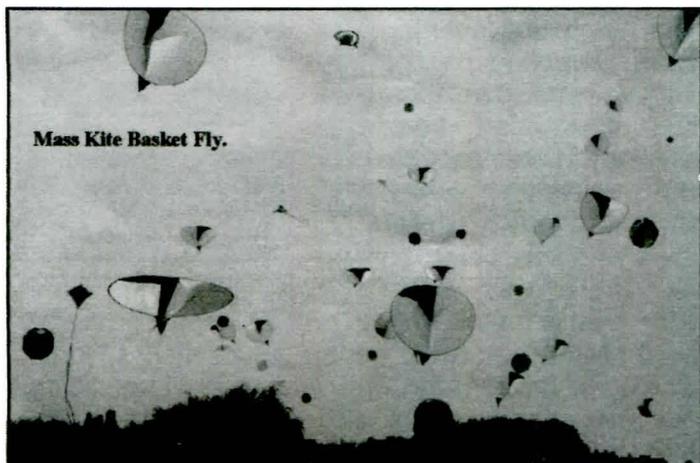
thermally kind which resulted in some frustrating flying at times but the sky was usually full of some unique kites. Each year the Vulandra Group have a festival kite and send out the plans to Kitefliers attending the festival and ask them to make one. Then during the festival there are allocated times when these kites (and only these) are flown. This year the chosen design was the Kite Basket, which we think was originally a German design of the fifties, it is bowl shaped with a ball drogue attached and we were told the idea was to catch other peoples' drogue in your bowl. We have reproduced the plans here.

It is a very stable design and coped well with the very light winds, and at the allotted time it was a fantastic sight to see so many take to the skies, the official count was 110! Certainly, this would



course that Italian ice cream(s)...

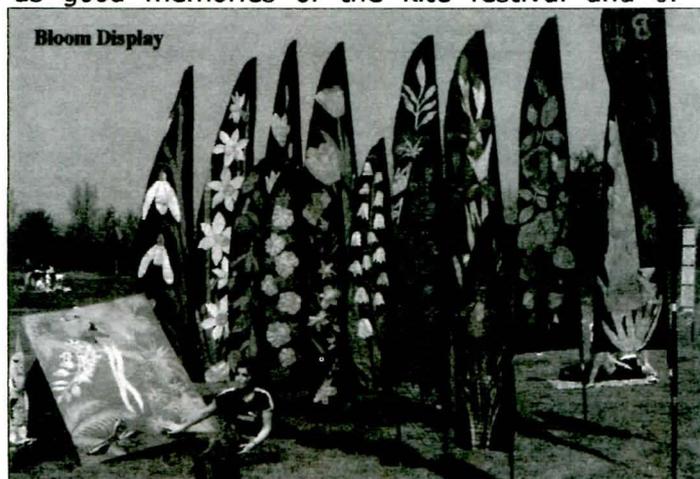
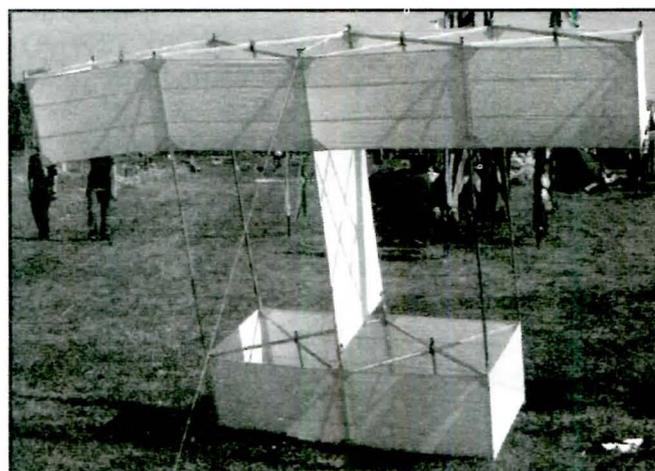
The Gruppe Vulandra are again attending the Portsmouth Kite Festival so look out for them there.



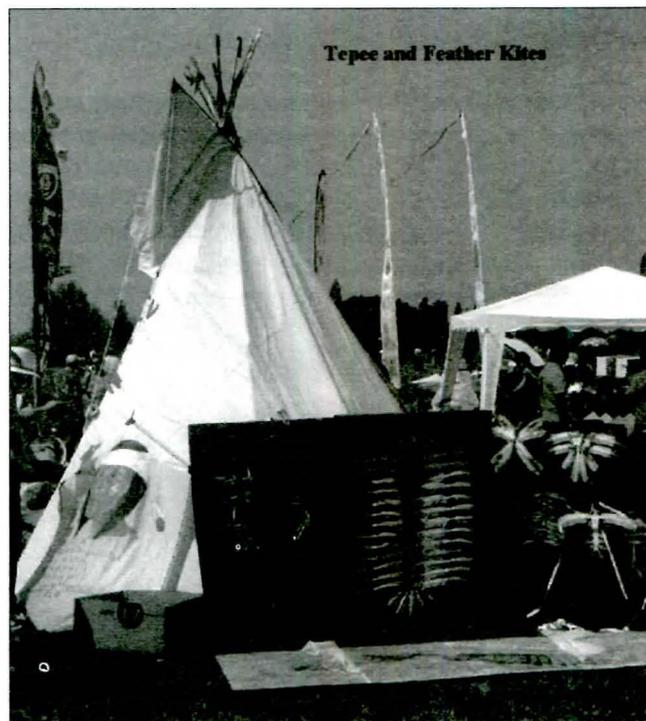
Mass Kite Basket Fly.

be a great idea to copy for a festival in the UK.

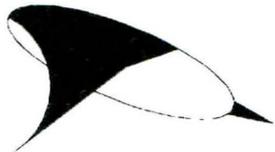
All good things must come to an end and as we left Ferrara, tired and sunburnt we carried with us good memories of the kite festival and of



Bloom Display

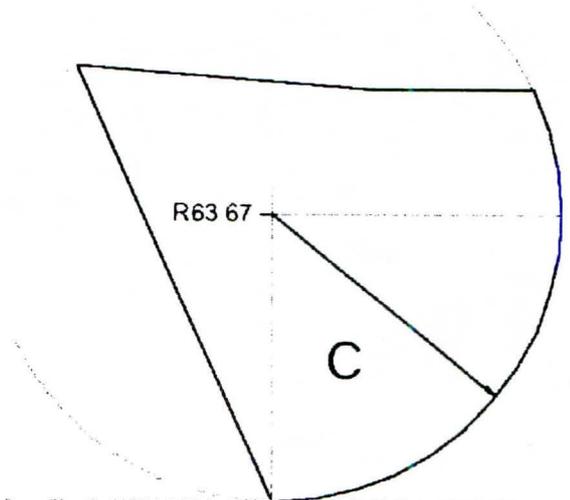
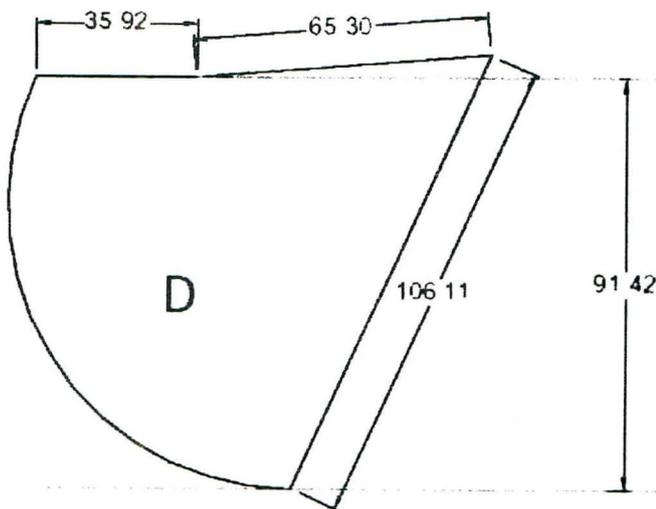
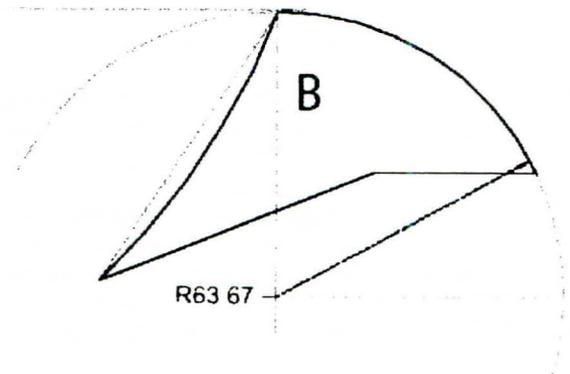
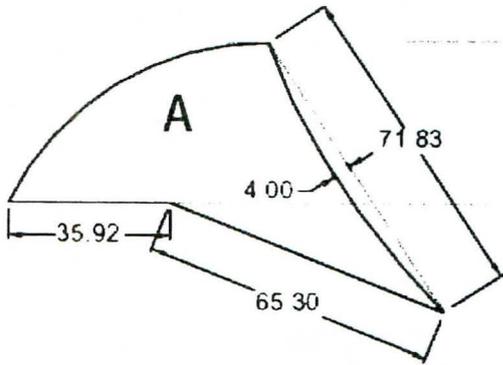
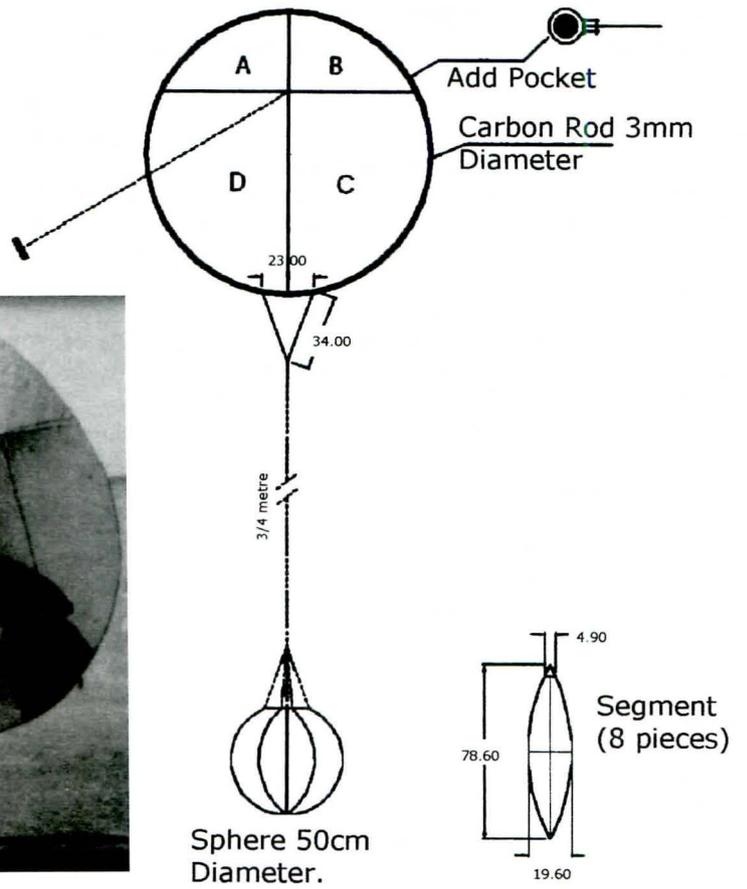
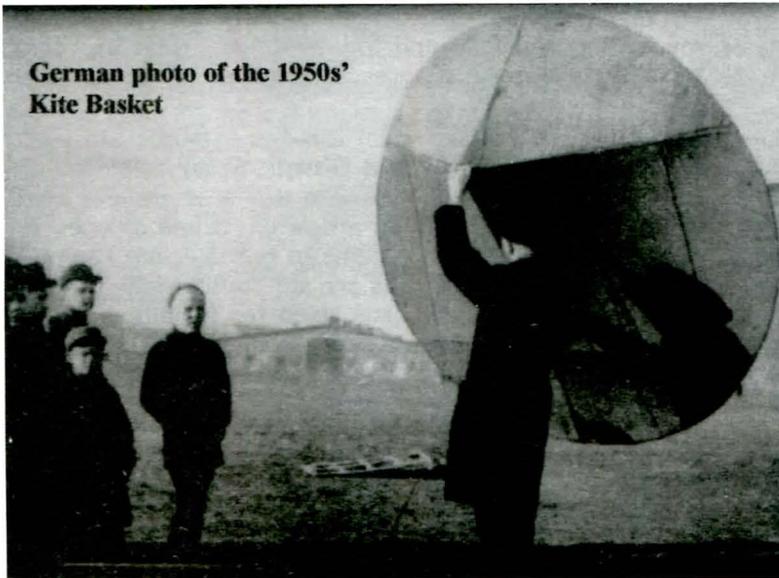


Tepee and Feather Kites



Kite Basket

4 metre circumference



Flat Kites by George Webster

1 Introduction

Definition: 'A single plane surface which may have built-in dihedral, may deflect to give dihedral in flight or may be bowed by means of a line. It may, or may not, have a keel. Keels are usually at right angles from the face of the kite and form a bridle attachment point, but may protrude from the back.'

This definition includes, I would estimate, over 95% of the world's kites. Trying to give reasonable treatment to flat kites in one article is possible because:

- Kites will be dealt with in less detail than some other articles e.g. sled kites.
- Some flat kites have been dealt with in other articles.
- Some types will have a sketchy treatment (e.g. Indonesian kites), as much as a result of limitations in my knowledge rather than lack of space.

But the aims of the article remain the same, i.e. to inform about the types of kite that might be seen in the air and to explain their background.

Picking up point B above we have:

<u>BEGIN</u>	All Flat Kites
<u>LESS</u>	Deltas – covered previously
	Sleds – covered previously
	Eddys – in the Golden Age of Kites
	Some kites in a history article to come.
<u>RESULT</u>	Flat kites dealt with in this article.

Picking up point C, since all the world's indigenous kites are flat and written knowledge in English of some countries is sparse, I feel I have to single out for special mention as absentees:

- Indonesia. An enormous country with several major cultures. There is a brief mention of the fighter kite but the magnificent Janggan is missing.
- Cambodia. Nothing on the wonderful Kleng Ek Kite.
- Sri Lanka. Only the Bird or Crow kite (in the bird kite article).
- Vietnam. A western version of the 'children's kite' as shown in photo 11. Photo 1 shows a (low flying) fish kite.



1. Fish Kite from Vietnam.

I have divided Flat Kites into three main types:

- Flat Kites with a single spine (e.g. Indian Fighter) in section 2
- Flat Kites with multiple centre crossing spars (e.g. Hexagon) in section 3
- Flat Kites with a grid of spars (e.g. Edo) in section 3.

This classification will not work perfectly, so we have to have:

- Snake Kites in section 5
- Oriental Winged Creature in section 6
- Play Sails in section 7

Notes: As usual capital letters mean that the book is in the bibliography. There are 24 diagrams – the 'specials' are mine. The photo credits are; David of Holwick 1-4, 7, 9, 10, 12, 25, 26, 28, 40, 41, 47, 48, 49, 52; Malcolm Goodman 4, 31 – 36, 45, 46, 50, 51, 53, 54; Unknown 44; Websters the rest.

My thanks to Jon and Gill particularly Jon for reading my writing and following my drawings. Next up could be a brief history of kites in England or Exceptional Kites.

2 Flat Kites with a Single Spar

In my view the world's first kite was a single leaf used to lift a fishing line (see an article on 'Origin of Kites' to come and several recent items in the Drachen Foundation Magazine). Leaf kites are still found today in various parts of Indonesia, still used for fishing, but leaf kites are found elsewhere, e.g. Martinique. Japan has an interesting two leaf design (HOSKING p60) made from Japanese white bark magnolia.

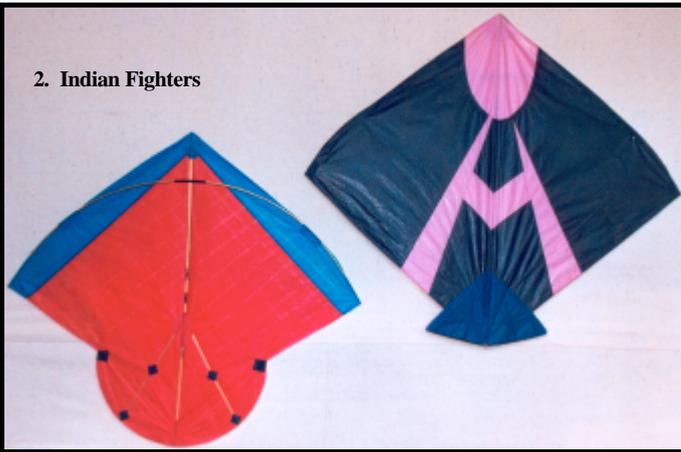
This section is divided into; Indian Fighters, Japanese, Malaysian, Others with a bamboo bow, European descendants of the Malay, Diamond, Eddy.

2.1 Indian Fighters

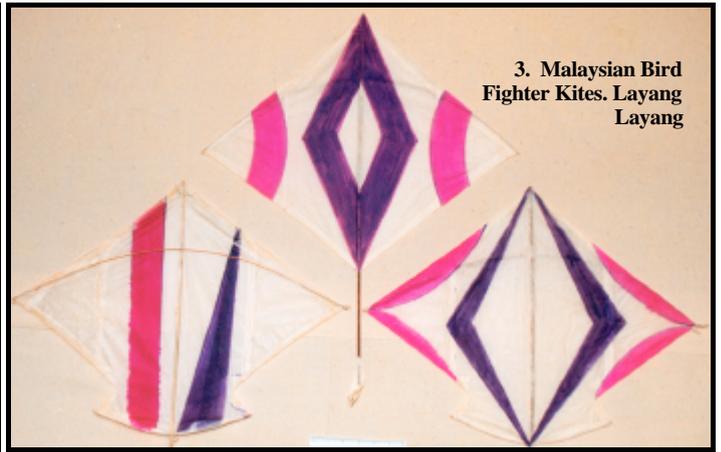
Perhaps the nearest kite to a single leaf in structure and, apparently, a very simple kite is the Indian Fighter. A 'classic' Indian Fighter is shown on the right of Photo 2 – see also Diagrams 1 & 2. It has a bamboo spine, a tapered bamboo bow as a cross spar and a paper cover. The term Indian Fighter is often used to describe kites which differ slightly in shape and may come from – the Indian Subcontinent (including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Afghanistan); Malaysia (Photo 3 shows the Layang-Layang [birds] flown by children); China—The book by HA & HA calls it the Rhombus Kite; In Hong Kong kite fighting is popular; Singapore (Both adults and children fly the Indian Fighters); Indonesia (Probably the worlds third largest producer of Indian Fighter kites – where 5 million a year are made by one manufacturer).

Diagram 1 mentions some of the variations; what all these kites have in common is the use of bamboo and either paper or plastic sheet. The widespread nature of the design suggests that it is an old one. The use of paper shows that the age is limited to about 500 AD. There is no natural substitute for bamboo, which has limited the copying of the design in the West until thin fibreglass and carbon fibre became available in the last 20 years.

The essential feature of the Indian Fighter design is that it is steerable. How is the kite controlled. Under line pressure the wings of the kite flex upwards and backwards; the resultant shape is stable flying in a straight line in any direction. If the line pressure is reduced there comes a point when the kite, being flat, spins in the wind with no directional stability. So all (!!) you have to do is wait until in one of the spins the kite



2. Indian Fighters



3. Malaysian Bird Fighter Kites. Layang Layang

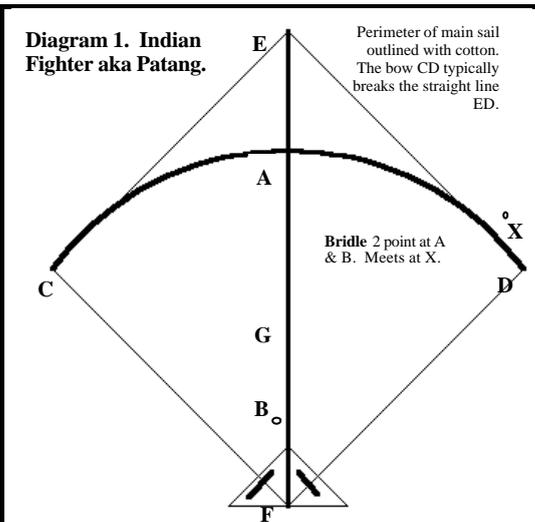


Diagram 1. Indian Fighter aka Patang.

Perimeter of main sail outlined with cotton. The bow CD typically breaks the straight line ED.

Bridle 2 point at A & B. Meets at X.

Bow arrangements. Kites with fibre glass bows don't break the line ED. Kites with fibre glass bows and ripstop covers often have a straight pocket for 50% of ED.

Tail Arrangements. No tail, i.e. CFD unadorned. Paper tassel at F (sometimes also at C & D). Larger unreinforced tail - a triangle apex G found on small Pakistani versions. Semi-circular—see Photo 2.

Bamboo sometimes has dark marks where it has been straightened.

Paper sometimes has shiny parallel lines where it has been rubbed to increase strength.

Ripstop pockets allow the kite to be rolled up.

Afghan Kites—often larger with elliptical flaps attached to CD and DF.

Japanese Hata—larger, double paper, no tail and tassels at wing tips.

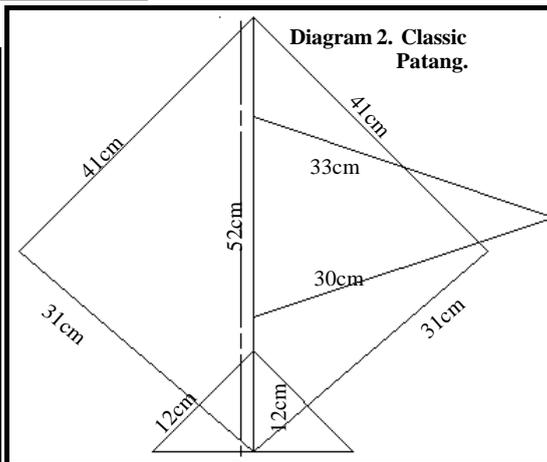


Diagram 2. Classic Patang.



6. Janneke Groen Sode.

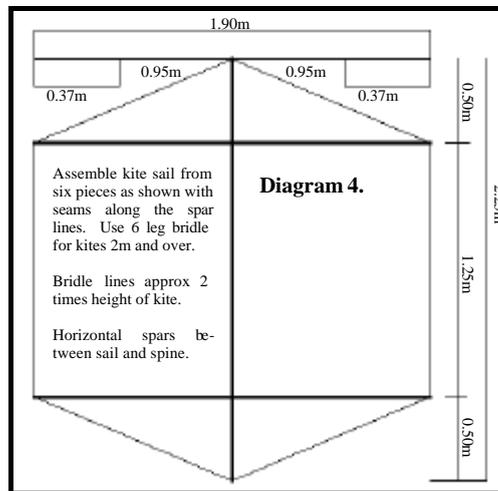


Diagram 4.

Assemble kite sail from six pieces as shown with seams along the spar lines. Use 6 leg bridle for kites 2m and over.

Bridle lines approx 2 times height of kite.

Horizontal spars between sail and spine.

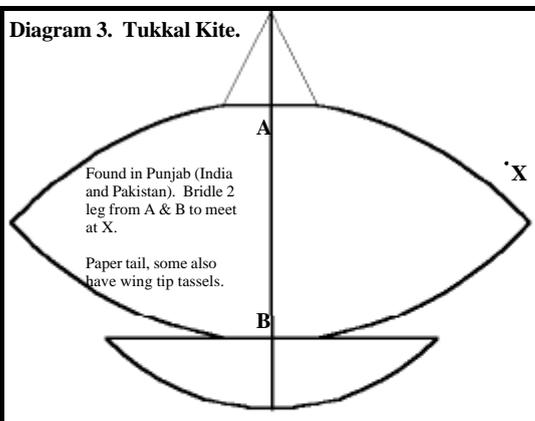


Diagram 3. Tukkal Kite.

Found in Punjab (India and Pakistan). Bridle 2 leg from A & B to meet at X.

Paper tail, some also have wing tip tassels.

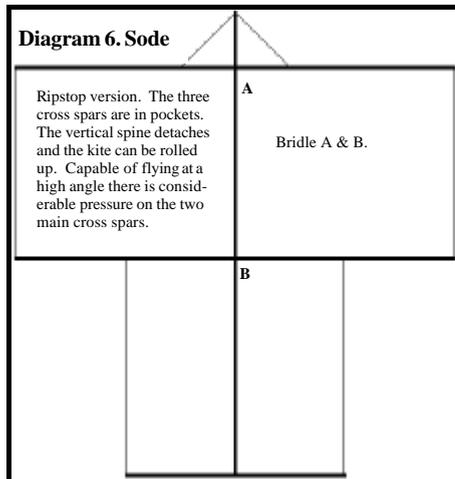


Diagram 6. Sode

Ripstop version. The three cross spars are in pockets. The vertical spine detaches and the kite can be rolled up. Capable of flying at a high angle there is considerable pressure on the two main cross spars.

Bridle A & B.

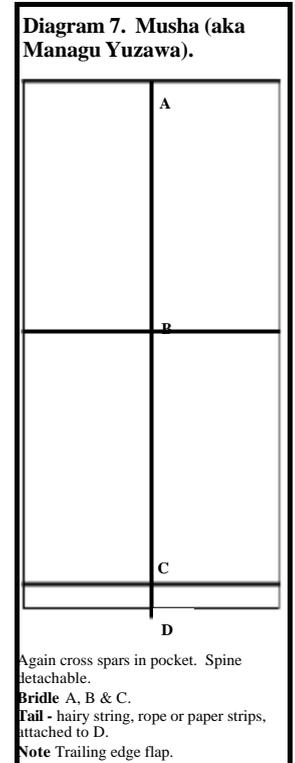


Diagram 7. Musha (aka Managu Yuzawa).

Again cross spars in pocket. Spine detachable.

Bridle A, B & C.

Tail - hairy string, rope or paper strips, attached to D.

Note Trailing edge flap.

Flat Kites by George Webster



4. Japanese Hata

is facing the direction you want it to go, pull on the line, the wings go back and the kite tracks following its nose. It is a real skill which almost anyone can master – if they start off with enough kites.

shape; some western fighters use a second short piece of material to reinforce the centre of the bow. The Petang is not the only type of kite fought in India; in the Punjab (which straddle India and Pakistan) they also use the Tukkal (Diagram 3).

Indian Fighters have been well written up in general books and in BOITRELLE & PETIT, CRUMPLIN and GALLOT. While several books give detailed instructions for making one, imported kites can be found. If it is your first time try to get one with the gold paper reinforcements at nose and wing tip and get the seller to bridle it for you. You might even get a lesson. Or you might look out for one of the complex patterned, multi-coloured kites – all done with pieced together tissue paper – which are best left on the wall.

As their name implies these kites are widely used for fighting. - I am told that in some Indian languages the word for flying a kite is the same as fighting a kite – either at one of the great festivals where perhaps a million city fliers go onto flat roofs and engage in a general melee or in some cities where there are club contests between expert fliers at above 1500ft. Kite lines are cut by the use of 'sharp' line (called 'manja') where the standard cotton line has a coating of ground glass.

In all the countries mentioned children re-cycle vanquished kites and fly simplified versions of the fighter.

Indian fighters were slow to appear in the sky in England. I don't remember one until early 1980s although there are legendary stories of early Blackheath festivals in London where Asian fliers appeared, cut every fighter out of the sky and withdrew – playing no further part in the meeting.

In the USA western versions of the kite came on the market in the late 1970s – the Vic Fighter Kite and the later, larger and more elaborate Grandmaster. Those kites used Mylar as the cover, man made material bows and spines of spruce or cedar. More recently kites with thin carbon fibre spars and with lightweight ripstop covers have appeared. Such kites have a price much higher than the 5p, which would get you a serviceable kite in Asia.

As a child we used to play the game 'conkers' in the autumn where we threaded a horse chestnut on some string and used it to hit another similar conker until one smashed. You would go to school with a dozen and not expect to come home with more than one. While Western versions of Indian Fighters may be much better at dealing with wet conditions, and are easier to transport, their cost means that inevitably the 'freedom to play' in the Asian festival sense is lost. Skilled contests at 1500ft – 5000ft are seldom seen due to height restrictions and failing eyesight!

The bow of the Indian Fighter, or Patang in India, is usually of square section tapered to each end to ensure balance, even flexing and the precise curve required.

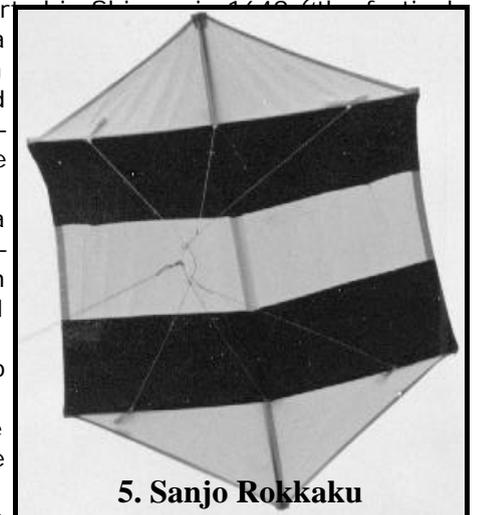
Of those adapting the original idea to Western needs, Tony Slater has for many years been a source of great designs. His butterfly is a classic.

2.2 Japanese Kites

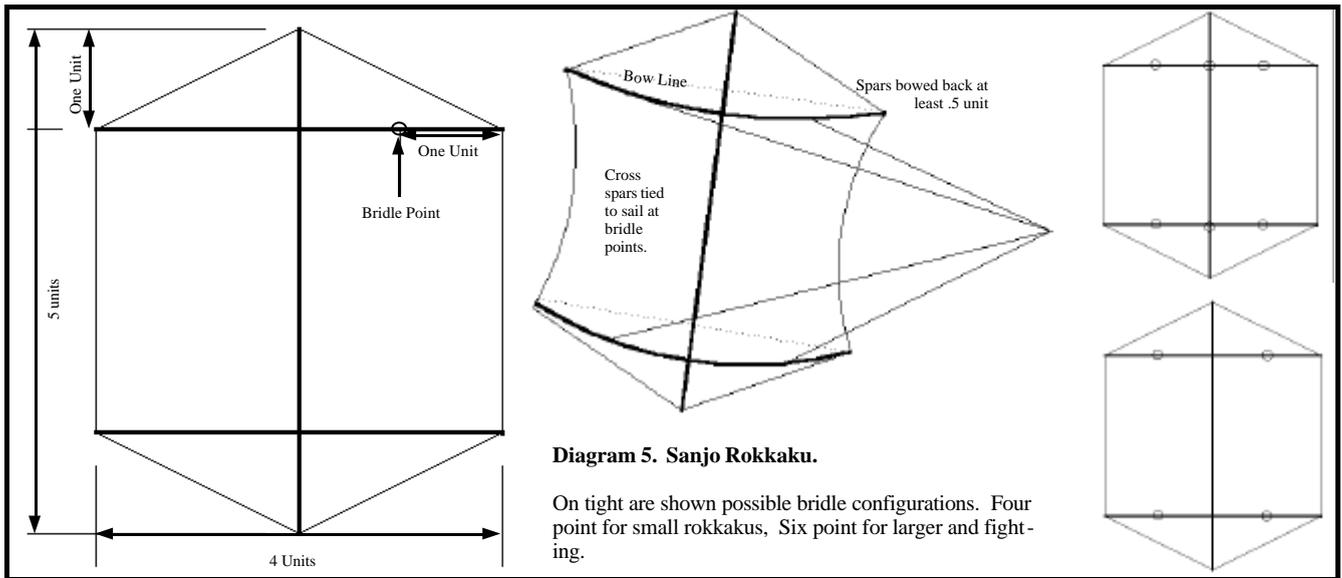
Compared to the Indian sub-continent Japan has a very wide range of single spine kite types – we will concentrate on those seen in the U.K.

Japan has several fighting kites, one of which is the Nagasaki Hata (Photo 4) resembles a heavily built Indian Fighter. It uses two thickness' of paper, has no tail but has tassels at each wingtip. The kite is unlike any other Japanese design and is made using different coloured paper joined together (as if the Indian Fighter – while Japanese kites are usually painted). These colours are red, white and blue – the colours of the Dutch flag. Nagasaki was the only permitted access point for Western ships in the mid 16th century. Dutch ships would have had Indian and Malay crew members.

There are other designs of fighter kite in Japan, some of them use sharp blades on the kite or on the line rather than manja. However, the most famous Japanese fighting kite (and I suspect the most common Japanese design in Europe) is the Sanjo Rokakku of Shirone – colloquially called a 'Rok' in England (Photo 5). Rok fights start was originally a kite fight between local children and children of government officers. The festival has evolved into a friendly kite fighting competition between local towns' HOSKING). Nowadays up to 1000 kites can be involved. The use of western made roks to fight came from the American



5. Sanjo Rokakku



7. Malaysian Wau Bulan



8. Malaysian Wau Barat (Western Kite).



9. Malaysian Wau Ikan



12. Kiskeedee Kite



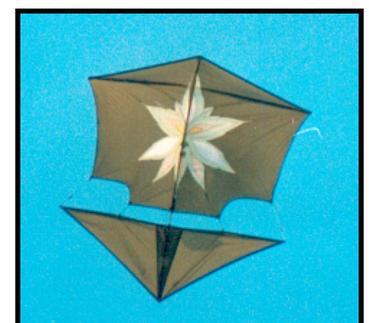
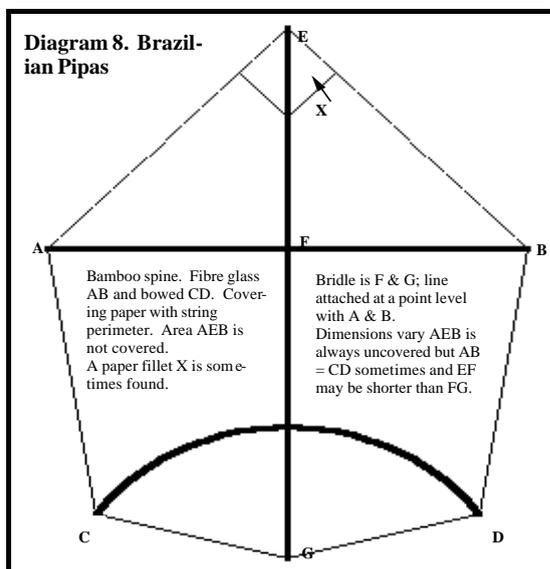
10. Malaysian Layang Layang from Melaka



Photo 11. Vietnam Children's Kite



13. Split Malay.



14. Split Malay by Earnest Barton with Tunnel Rear Keel.

Flat Kites by George Webster

tion who made the kites from dowels and ripstop and started team fighting in 1983. This attracted considerable interest. The UK rules were drawn up and popularised here by Martin Lester and Gill and Jon Bloom, resulting in a team and an individual competition running through the season from 1987. Contemporary plans are given in Diagrams 4 and 5.

Unlike Indian Fighters ordinary line is used as the greater line tension from the larger kite (most are now 2metres) allows the line or bridle to be cut by friction. All the entrants fight at the same time; a kite has lost once it has been cut free or touched the ground. Spectators like the contests, which usually have a clear winner – although this can take some time. But for fliers the interest has waned – festivals such as Bristol and Sunderland could have over 40 kites in 1993 – now 10 kites is a large field. Perhaps 'large field' is part of the problem in another sense. Kites cut can be lost, especially from a small flying field and fliers (who almost always have made their kite) do not want to lose it.

But, independently of fighting, Roks live on as serviceable fliers, which can be trimmed to make stable lifting platforms, and which provide a good surface for imaginative decoration.

Another Japanese single spare kite, which however is not dirigible and not used for fighting – is the Sode (Diagram 6). Photo 6 shows a western version made by Janneke Groen. The Sode has the shape of a Japanese Happi or jacket and is said to have originated from a successful fisherman flying his Happi from his boat. It uses the curvature caused by wind pressure between the front and rear cross spars to give lift and stability (see Bird Kite Article).

There is a single spine kite rarely seen – my son made one 20 years ago in ripstop – called the Musha (Diagram 7). It needed a long ribbon tail but was a good flier.

For other Japanese single spine kites see:

- PELHAM; good for plans
- SKINNER & FUJINO; good recent survey
- HOSKING; comprehensive list and illustrations
- STREETER; the classic book for culture and the designs.

2.3 Malaysian Kites

Wau. While Malaysia has a wide range of kite designs, we will concentrate on Wau of which the Wau Bulan (or moon kite) is the best known. The new moon has a religious significance in Islam. Photo 7 is a fairly simple example.

Malays have a long history of kite making, they claim that they invented the kite, certainly they were fighting kites in the 15th century. Perhaps the long history accounts for there being at least four explanations for the word Wau:

- It is the noise made by the hummer fitted to most

- It comes from the Dutch word 'wouw' which means a large bird of prey and a crow.
- The wings are a similar shape to the Arabic letter, which is pronounced wau.
- According to Pierre Fabre (Kitelines Winter 1997) it goes back to the 17th century Thai word for a kite. Surely this settles it?

There are various types of Wau distinguished by different tail shapes. One of the commonest is the Wau Kuching or 'cat wau'. The tail is shaped like a D on its back and looks like a cat's head upside down – I am not convinced but Malays do love cats and even have a town named after them.

The distinctive curved wing is found in several Indonesian kites, the Tikkal Kite (see 2.2 above) is similar, as are some Chinese designs. But for performance the high point is, I think, the Wau wing.

Waus are not fought but the highly decorated ones, which are those usually seen, are made for competitions. These competitions, which have become more widespread in recent years, judge the kites on, in decreasing order of importance:

- Angle of flight.
- Beauty of decoration.
- Ability to stay flying and not crash.
- Noise made by the hummer.

The kites are made from a special bamboo and the curved shapes are achieved without using heat to bend the bamboo (as in China) and using bracing lines and tying (no glue). For the thickness of the bamboo they can be quite large structures. The basic cover is a glazed tissue paper which is glued behind the frame: at this point the kite is test flown for symmetry, balance, etc. The best fliers will have the distinctive cut paper patterns in 2 or 3 colours glued to the front covering the frame – producing one of the very few kites where the frame is covered front and back.

Other frames are made up into 'Wau Cantik' (beautiful Kite) with very elaborate paper decoration – up to seven layers – which are entered into a 'beauty' competition. These, not intended to fly, take longest to make and attract the highest price. They are quite different from the cloth-covered kites sold to tourists. The cut paper patterns are traditionally always symmetrical on each wing and front and back symmetrical on the front wings. Since Islam forbids representation of a living animal, traditionally complex arrangements of plants, vines and flowers are used – but the Wau Kuching breaks the rules. Waus have paper tassels attached to the wing tips and stylised bird heads tops some.

Waus (Bulan, Kuching, etc) traditionally come from the Northern states of peninsular Malaysia but have been adopted as a major cultural symbol for the whole country, for example on the back of a coin, Malaysian Airline Services has an adapted Wau Kuching as its' logo.

Flat Kites by George Webster

The kites were probably originally developed by farmers for bird scaring and indicating wind changes at night. They do this as Wau Bulans (unlike the one in the photo) have a bow fitted to the rear before the main wings. The bow is at least the same width as the wings being a piece of bamboo with a thin strip of bark or ribbon in tension. Even in a constant wind the noise fluctuates as these kites have a very unique flying pattern:- they settle to a high angle and move in a horizontal figure of eight back across and up the wind.

The popularity of Wau kite festivals in recent years has led to the kites becoming smaller (about 4 – 5 ft high) and thus easier to transport. They are not demountable. Seen in England they are invariably flown by Malaysians. Hard to fly anyway, they do not travel well and seem unusually susceptible to warping in UK conditions, perhaps because they are under tension unlike the heat bent bamboo of most other kites. While I have seen plans for Waus – most recently in HOSKING (Color The Sky) – I have never known anyone try and make one.

Other Kites

There are kites using the elliptical wing but not having any body shape etc. Of the Waus above – one is the Wau Barat (Photo 8). These have 9 – 15 ft wingspan. Flown for performance, the name means Western Kite – a recognition that the kite originated in Thailand which is referred to as being west of Northern Malaysia (it is actually North West but no matter). I don't know of such a kite currently in Thailand.

There are kites without the elliptical wings called Wau, e.g. Wau Ikan or Fish Kite (Photo 9), also the Wau Ular (Snake Kite) in Section 5 below.

Other kites are referred to as Layang-Layang (birds) in Malaysia. They vary from quite sophisticated models (Photo 10 is a kite from Melaka) to versions very similar to Indian Fighters.

Perhaps the most important Malaysian kite has been the simple Malay (square flown on a corner with a bowed bamboo cross spar) which was the ancestor of our Diamond and Eddy (see Golden Age of Kites and a history of kites to come). While it is claimed that the Malay archtop still exists I have never seen one live or in a photo.

2.5. Other Kites using a Bamboo Bow

Three types of kite are included here.

Variations on the Indian Fighter design

The books by GALLOT, BOITRELLER and PETIT between them give a good range of kites similar to an Indian Fighter which are fought in Chile, in other Asian countries and Western variations. The Vietnamese children's kite is only known to me from Margaret Gregers writing. Photo 11 shows a ristop version. Photo 12 shows a Kiskeedee, requiring a tail it is a West Indian

years in the UK as the cheapest kite at a festival and often the most fun to fly. Viv Comma made them to dance and not to fight. I think he is the only kiteflier to have a street named after him (Kiteflier January 1999).

Brazilian Pipas

Until 10 years ago European fliers believed that the Brazilian Fighter Kite was the cloth and wood Papagaio (See Bird Kite article) – and that might have been true 20 years ago. From various sources, including contact at the Dieppe Festival, it is clear that although an Indian Fighter similar kite is used the main fighter is the distinctive Pipas or 'Top' kite (Diagram 8).

Various Designs

Many small kite designs from all over the world use a curved bamboo (or sometimes reed) spar.

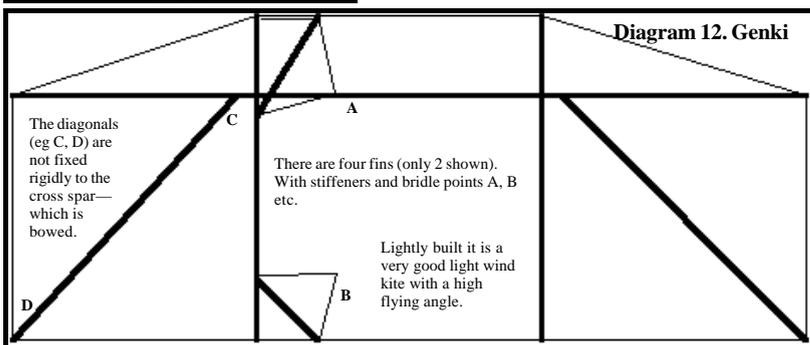
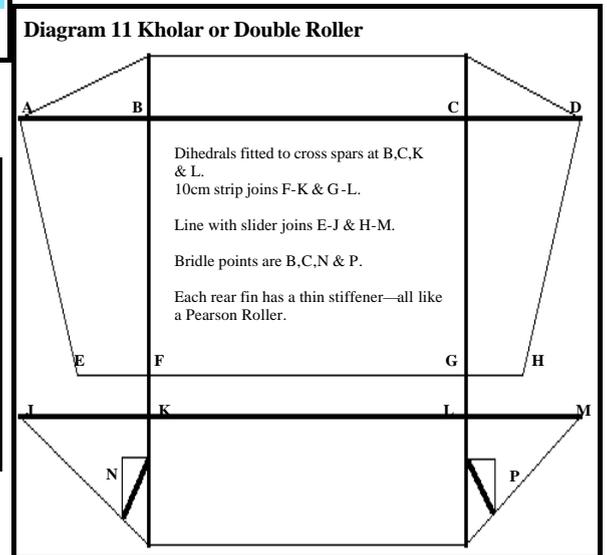
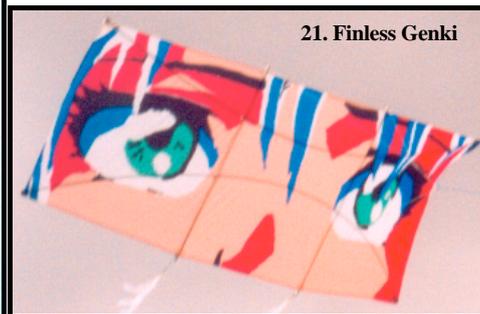
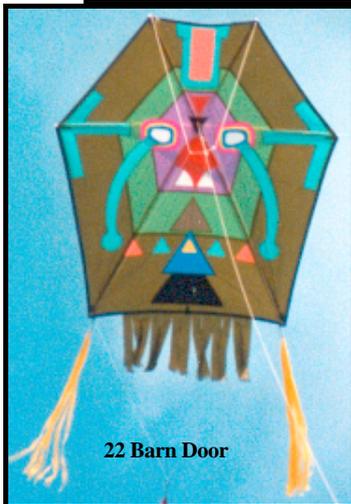
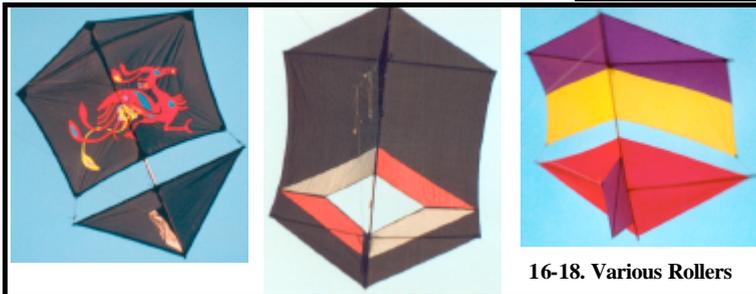
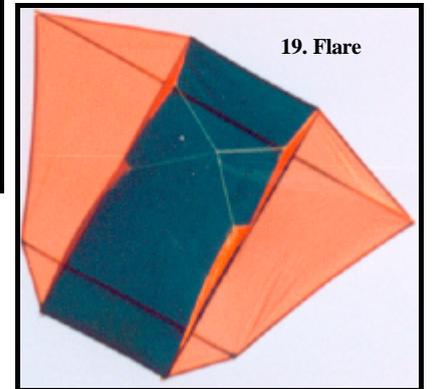
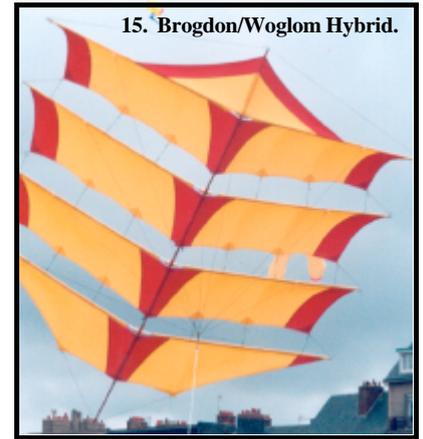
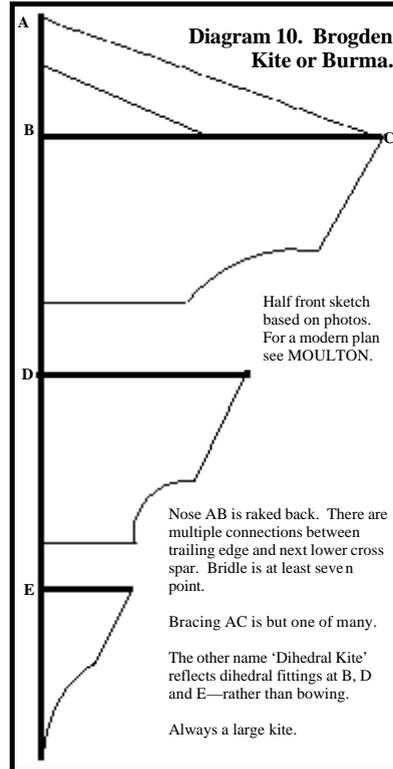
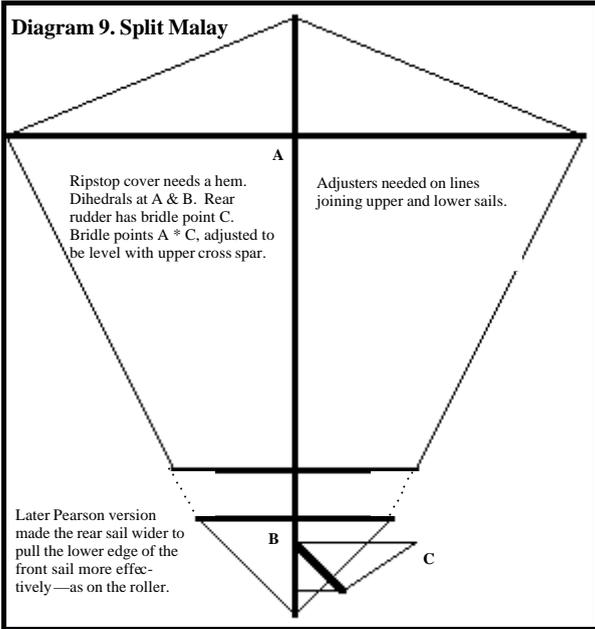
2.6 Western Single (and sometimes double) spine kites

As already indicated, other articles deal with the relationship between Malays, Diamonds, Woglom and Eddy up to the start of the 20th century. What of these kites today? Many are still sold for children's toys – often in plastic printed with exciting images or advertising logos. They all use tails to sort out imperfections. The Brookite Company was set up in 1906, always producing a superior product and from the start made the famous Cutter Kite – a fabric covered diamond with a keel.

Amongst kite designers development started quickly after Eddy became known in the 1890's. Taking on board that here was a tailless kite designers realised that increased stability could be gained by building in dihedral to the cross spar and that more lift would be got by subdividing the sail horizontally. Possibly the first development was the split Malay (Photo 13, Diagram 9 and photo 14, the latter is an Earnest Barton design with a tunnel rear keel). In 1903 a prestigious height competition in Sussex was won by Charles Brogden's Burma Kite (Diagram 10 and Photo 15 which shows a kite cross between the Burma and the Woglom). There is a good picture in PELHAM but MOULTON also has a plan. He points out the names Burma and Malay hint at the former's ancestry.

The Burma was a large kite (19ft long), sometimes called the Dihedral Kite because of the built in angle of the wings (rather than using bracing lines) and had a swept back or 'turned up' nose section. Although undoubtedly a great light wind flier, its complexity means that Brogdens are rarely seen today. But a descendant is.

The German toy company Margareta Steiff (better known in the UK for teddy bears with a button) designed the 'Roloplan' in time for the 1909 Christmas market. They simplified the Burma by having 3 or 2 (the latter being the only one I have seen) lines of sails, each tier of the same span, connected by 8 links



Flat Kites by George Webster

tion finished in the 1960's although very large home built versions were produced by East German fliers after that. I have a ripstop version which needs a fair blow but then flies well – however sorting out the 7 point bridle and the bracing lines is a nightmare. Part of the construction problem is that Roloplans get close to jibbed kites in the way that they behave with airflow between the wings.

One of the most famous British kites of the 20th century is the Pearson Roller. Several kitefliers made copies of the Roloplan in the inter-war period; one of them John Shaw flew at the Round Pond in Kensington where he met Alick Pearson. Pearson took the design forward and by the early 1970s had developed his simplified version which he produced for sale. The 'Round Pond Group' (see article by Dan Leigh in 'Kites' no 2 April 1996) were also well known for their bird kites and their split Malays. The cramped and wet site meant that kites had to be reliable at flying from hand to a high angle.

The Pearson Roller had a two piece bridle with only a rear rudder and one connector between the two sails on each side. EDEN has a plan. The roller shown in PELHAM is not the Pearson design which is square overall and has a lower cross spar. He made them 46" square to economise on the use of materials – he was the first to use ripstop nylon. Photos 16-18 show a range of rollers. The vented roller (17) can be a problem as the rear edge of the vent may lift (flap) – avoiding this may lead to the kite being bridled so square to the wind that you are flying a rok with a hole and a useless fin.

Rollers were popularised by appearing in PELHAM and by the availability of Pearsons followed by Jilly Pelham versions in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

They then gradually fell out of favour, partly, I suspect, because of the domination of the easy to make delta as the favourite light wind kite and partly because of the development of the Genki (see below). Ten years ago they were a rare sight at a UK kite festival but they have made a come back perhaps capped by the matched set flown by Team Volundra in 2002.

One unusual variation on the roller is the double spined Kohler or double roller (diagram 11), I have only seen a photo but it does look good. I know that we are basically looking at single spine kites but they a so few exceptions.

Our other double spine kite is the Flare (Photo 19). Designed by Pelham it features in the book as does the even rarer multi-flare. In the article on sled kites I jokingly suggested that the flare might have been derived from a winged sled with an oversize cross spar. Equally it could have been a double roller with oversize fins and no slot in the cover. Flares are rarely seen now being replaced by the higher performing Genki (Diagram 12 and Photo 20).

thuisen in about 1983. They are essentially flares with a higher aspect ratio made possible by a diagonal spar to the bottom corner of each wing. There was a single spine version (not seen) which basically would have the effect of a no-slot roller – and Genkis do use roller type small fins. Since Genki is meaningless in English they were called extended wing flares at one time and were christened in the newsletter of the Northern Flying group as the 'Windbreak kite'.

Carl Crowell's Wolf Genki could, at one time, be found on the internet. If you replace the fins and the centre section by a 2-cell Conyne triangular section you apparently have a kite called a Tiski-Tiski. Last year I saw a new Dutch Genki variation about 4 metres wide with no fins but relying on curved carbon fibre and clever bridling to provide dihedral (Photo 21).

That is all I want to say in this article about Western single-spine kites. Any experienced kiteflier will immediately recall interesting kites which have been omitted. I hope that they are not too important – except the Marconi? – and in another article 'The History of Western Kites' there is a section on kite artists which include the show kites of George Peters, Steve Brockett, Pierre Fabre, etc.

3 Kites with Crossing Spars

In this, the 3rd section of flat kites we consider kites where the defining character of their shape is given by the crossing of spars rather than a central spine. In some ways this is fundamentally a more difficult category of kite to be stable on flight as a well balanced single spine will produce dihedral from each wing which reduces the need for a tail. Most kites in this section need a tail – the Korean and some Japanese designs excepted.

The very simplest kite of this type, i.e. two crossed spars, is known as the Della Porta and appears in the article on 'History of European Kites'.

This section is broken down into:

- 3.1 The American Barn Door and Three Stick
- 3.2 Hexagonals and similar
- 3.3 The Bermuda Head Stick
- 3.4 Circular Kites
- 3.5 Korean Fighters and a Japanese Fish

3.1 The American Barn Door and Three Stick Kites

The American Barn Door (Diagram 13 and Photo 22) is literally referred to in books as the traditional kite of America. I have never seen an account of how this happened and it is interesting given that to the end of the 19th century the USA population was dominated by European immigrants who had a tradition of Arch Tops and Malay types. Where did the Barn Doors come from?

They were used from 1885 by Alexander McAdie for lifting equipment at the Blue Hill Observatory. However,

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the tailless Eddy in 1894. I have a note (but cannot find the reference) that Woglom refers to Arch Tops as the traditional kites of his youth (1870 East Coast USA?). Was the Blue Hill application so well known that it eliminated the Archtop?

Originally, up to say 60 years ago, these kites would have had a paper cover with the edges attached to a cotton framing line which slotted into, or was tied, to each spar on the perimeter. Such kites were not demountable. Nowadays spars are fitted into pockets on the ripstop cover and all are tied with a bridle at the centre point.

The kite is easy to make, open to a wide range of decorative styles but, in my experience, require a considerable tail. I have read that a good design properly bowed and bridled can be flown tail-less – you try!

Types of tail can be varied, two tails used, tassels attached to the side and even the spars at A & B on the diagram, extended beyond the cover to have a hummer, paper streamers, etc. Jalbert (HOSKINS Kites to Color) had a Barn Door with a fin down the centre of the face. This does not follow a spar but does have a tail attached to the rearmost point.

All in all this type of 3 stick looks good and can be flown in a wide range of winds depending on bow, tail and spar strength. Diagram 14 shows two of a wide range of alternative 3 stick arrangements.

3.2 Hexagonals and Similar

While you could consider the Hexagonal (diagram 15) a special case of a 3 stick kite (3 sticks all the same length, 60° everywhere) the kite has a different history and distribution.

The Hexagon was a classic Chinese shape. Photo 23 is of a Chinese Octagon which is very similar. The interest is that the phoenix on the face of the kite is three dimensional and the kite is aerodynamically not symmetrical – a long tail cures all.

I am told that Hexagon is the traditional Greek kite, sometimes made with a fringe on all sides. It is the child's kite of Jordan (photo 24) and is well known in Egypt. A variation in THIEBAULT is to fly it point upwards and arrange a Sode effect on each side. (diagram 15). But does it fly?

The diagram also shows a famous kite design used by Batut, a pioneer aerial photographer in 1888 – PELHAM p166. The Cuban fighter (Photo 25) is rarely seen. Less than 1ft in length it is one of the few fighters where a tail is essential.

3.3 The Bermuda Head Stick Kite

The basic Bermuda 3 stick kite is shown in diagram 16. As such it could be seen as an upside down barn door verging on the hexagonal. Or not, as the case may be.

stick is added (diagram 17). This projects forwards from the pane of the kite face and may be of varying lengths, straight or curved back. It provides the basis for a wide range of streamers, tassels and buzzers. Sometimes two head sticks are fitted to provide more scope. Colour is provided by the use of complicated patterns of tissue paper. Kites such as these are found spread through the West Indies. Construction may involve wood or reed rather than bamboo. They can be quite heavy looking frames but the winds can be strong.

Bermuda Head Stick kites featured much more in kite literature 20+ years ago. There was a small specialist book by Frank Watlington – Bermuda Kites (1980?) memorable for its advice to add some cayenne pepper to the flour paste glue to keep the cockroaches away. Back in 1972 Bermuda held a kite flying endurance festival won by a local with a time of 49 hours 40 minutes.

Bermuda and Trinidad also make 'true' hexagon kites which have extensions for tassels and have unpapered panels to cope with the high winds.

Bermudan kites are included in BOITRELLE and PETIT as fighter kites using razor fittings on their tails. MOULTON has a Bermudan plan with the full Watlington gluing sequences. They have also been included in HOSKING Kites to Color – who has the Bermudan and the Mad Bull of Trinidad.

I have never seen a ripstop version, even the originals are rarely seen but they make a remarkable kite. The unanswered question is why did the three stick and hexagon become common in the West Indies? My only response is that they can cope well with heavy winds. But head sticks are not the only heavy wind kite and they are confined to that area.

3.4 Circular Kites

To my knowledge there are very few circular kites made – I have never seen anything of the Hawaiian Circle and Chinese Orange designs in PELHAM. The well known Japanese Wan Wan (see 4.4 below) is an oval designed to look round when bowed in flight. The circular cell components of a Chinese dragon kite will be considered in a later article.

But there is one important exception and that is the massive Barrolettas of Santiago de Secatepaquez in Guatemala. These kites are made up of two fine layers of tissue paper one coloured and the other plain. The kites are supported by a cartwheel like frame made up of 2" diameter bamboo poles. Tiny pieces of tissue paper are carefully glued until the desired effect is achieved. An article by M P Tourigny (Kitelines Spring 1993) describes the current giant kites as going back no further than 1945-50; prior to that the kites were much smaller and simpler. Building is done by Indians and the design does involve Indian, Mayan and Spanish culture. The close up of the La Cultura Maya kite (Photo 26) portrays a history of Spanish oppression and

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festival was promoted externally, undoubtedly the craftsmanship and the religious/social tradition is strongly held: for example the kites are never sold.

When I was at Dieppe 2000 an attempt was made to launch the big kite (about 9 metres high) by a mixed group of international kitefliers. The rope was massive,



26 La Cultura Maya Kite

the tail a long length of rope with off cuts of cloth attached. No Luck.

3.5 Korean Fighter Kites and three Japanese Delights.

Korean fighters (diagram 18 and Photo 27) have a separate section because of:

- The distinctive basic structure with 4 spars crossing the centre and a leading edge spar.
- The unusual use of a circular hole in the middle of the cover.

They are not the only kites flown in Korea but they are the kites flown by serious kitefighters. Abrasive lines are used as with Indian Fighters but the fights seem to be more tightly controlled.

The kites are paper and bamboo flown with the top spar bowed. The overall height is 18" – 2' and it is claimed that the classic proportions are: 1 unit diameter centre hole; 3 units width; 4 units length and therefore 5 units diagonal.

The first Koreans shown in the kite books (eg PELHAM) had paper ears at the bottom corners (diagram 18) but I have not see them for real. Light wind variants have no mid cross spar. A smaller hole (e.g. 1/5 not 1/3) makes for a faster, less stable kite.

CRUMPLIN has a good section on Koreans. Tony Slater used to make shiny, slick Mylar Koreans. I once made a 3ft ripstop and timber version --fearsome and turned like a slug on a lettuce. But if you come across one they are great fun.

Another kite with a hole in the skin and very similar frame is the Japanese Fugu – the name of the fish which the kite depicts in a head-on view. Photo 28 shows a ripstop version. Note the heavy bowing, the tassels and the tails. The Japanese original has a curved top horizontal spar.

There is a kite, the Nambu, which has the same frame design but does not have the central hole. It does have a buzzer on the top edge bracing strings. Instructions to make one can be found in HOSKING. The Saruga has a similar frame design, but a unique outline – Photo 29.

Finally we have the Tahara kite (diagram 19) which is a high aspect ratio, lightweight version of a Nambu. I have only seen one or two, it would seem that they can be used in fighting and are excellent light wind kites.

4 Multi-Spine Kites

The essential feature of a multi-spine kite is that the cover is supported by a grid of vertical and horizontal spars. The great majority of such designs are Japanese – thus the originals used bamboo and Washi papers. Western versions are common due to the attraction of an uninterrupted flat surface to decorate and the dramatic effect of the multiple bridles.

We will consider the Edo and Shirone Odako and briefly mention Wan Wan, Hammamatsu, Chinese Designs and Western Designs.

4.1 Edo Kites

Many sources feature Edos, the comprehensive HOSKING is the single best source, but perhaps the easiest 'way in' to understanding their construction is via the very clear section in Dan Kurahashi (Japanese Kite Concept and Construction 2000).

Diagram 20 has a basic Edo with 9 spars and fourteen bridles – each bridle will be 20 times the height of the kite. Photos 30 & 31 show 2 Edos, the second by Teizou Hashimoto, the last of the Master Edo Kite Makers who died in 1993.

Edos are built to take strong winds and always have the diagonal spars. Both the number of spars and the bridle points may vary but bridle points run to the tips of the top cross spar (A & B).

Edos range from about 2 metres up in height. Often seen in the UK is a small (0.75 metre) children's' version with a fabric (not washi) cover. All Edos are flown bowed. Many Edos have a hummer bow across the top.

Edo was the old name for Tokyo and had a craze for kites in the mid-18th century. The kite type was spread through Japan by merchants and also by regional rulers who were required to spend three years in Edo followed by 3 years in their home region. In general at this time ordinary citizens were not allowed to travel – as a result very localised cultural forms developed (eg styles



27 Korean Fighter

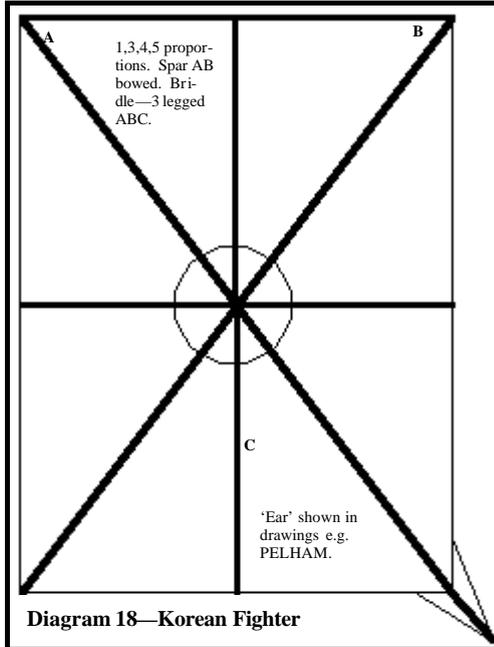
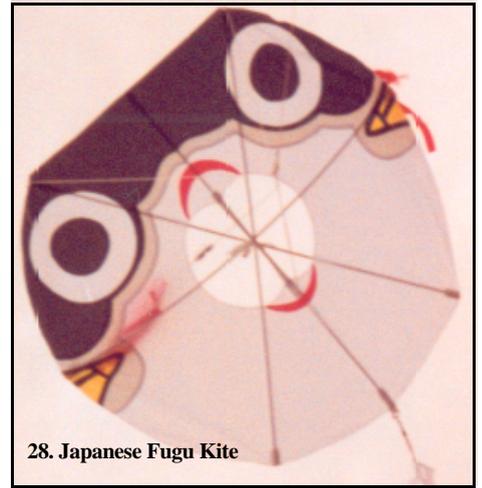


Diagram 18—Korean Fighter



28. Japanese Fugu Kite



29 Suruga

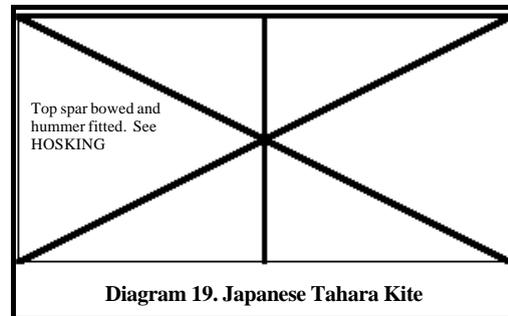


Diagram 19. Japanese Tahara Kite



30 Crane and Wave Edo

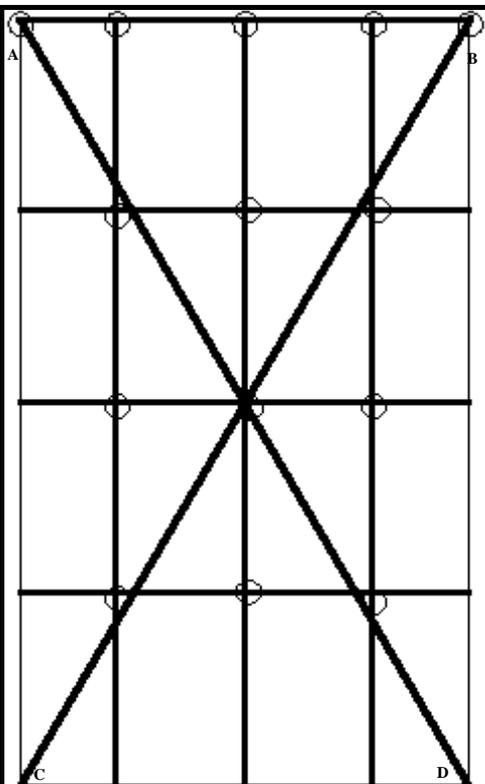
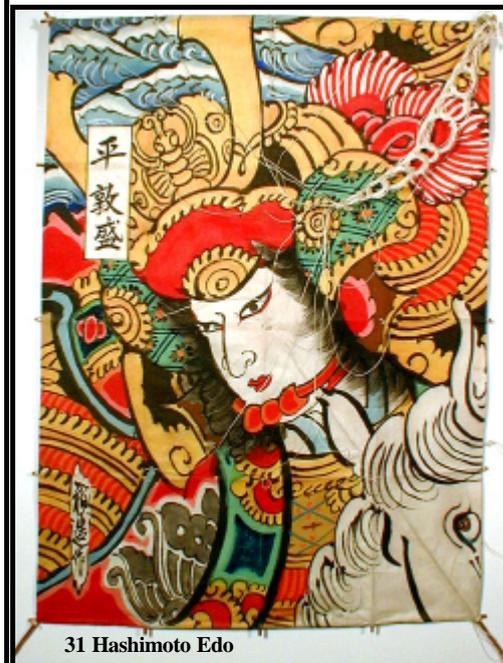


Diagram 20—Japanese Edo Kite

The kite has 9 spars and 14 bridle points.

Edo kites are made to fly in strong winds. Cross spars bowed.

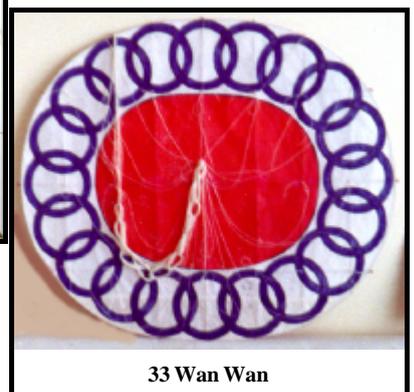
Shirone Kite. Generally lightly made. No diagonal spars. Might have a spar ac CD. No bridles at A and B.



31 Hashimoto Edo



32 Shirone Odako



33 Wan Wan

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The distinctive multiple bridles are usually explained as being required to spread the loading over the cover while still using a relatively light and flexible frame. Probably construction was also influenced by the size of the washi paper sheets (24" by 18" is typical). Kurahashi writes that on some Edos many of the bridles are required only for decoration and for their stabilising function as a 'tail'. These kites are never flown with a conventional tail. A large Japanese Edo with a bold traditional painted pattern and many bridles with the hummer working is one of the most dramatically complete sights on a flying field. These kites require specialist painters and the larger sizes are beyond the resources of a single flier to construct and fly. This is one of the unique features of Japanese kites – consult STREETER and HOSKING for more detail.

In the 1980's a group associated with Vlieger Op – the Dutch kite store – developed a method of painting on ripstop nylon and used this to develop the Hague Art Gallery. Edo kites each individually painted by an artist and flown as a 'gallery on the sky'. In 1994 Sunderland City Council sponsored the making of 22 such kites, the work of British artists with Dutch made frames. The kites are 'Edo style' each 2.4m x 1.4m with a fibre glass and carbon frame (3 vertical & 5 horizontal). They are flown off their bridle of which there are 17 (5 then four rows of three) each 30m long and gathered into an upper and lower group. Using to hands the flier can adjust the angle of the kite and thus its attitude. Since 1998 these kites are flown and maintained by the North East Kite Fliers; a group of, say, 12 in the sky confirms the name Sky Gallery.

4.2 Shirone Odako

This is very similar to the Edo (Photo 32) but it doesn't have diagonals and is generally of lighter build. The top bridles do not include the corners as on the Edo. Vertical spars sometimes frame the design. A large Shirone with 7 spines and 8 cross spars could have 56 bridles – needed because of the light construction.

In 1982 a stuntman weighing 171lbs was attached to the cover and lifted by a 12m x 8m Shirone Odako. Odako simply means 'giant kite' and the kites used in the annual kite festival are approximately 7m x 5m. The kites are fought one-to-one over a river with one team on each bank; when entangled they usually end up in the water. This destroys the cover, but the main event is the ensuing tug of war which continues until a flying line breaks. Apparently 14 teams use about 300 kites over 5 days. Spars are salvaged for reuse. There was an attempt to fly an Odako at Dieppe in 1998. Two things stick in my memory. Firstly the way an asymmetrical design was achieved by holes in the cover. Secondly, there was some damage caused by the kite tipping over on the first launch. There was a rapid response by Dutch kitefliers who remove their boots and swarmed over the kite repairing with gaffer tape.

A similar kite, but from Yokaichi, was bought to London

in 1981 but didn't fly. Raised at Parliament Hill Fields, it was rolled up and found its way to the museum at Wroughton. There it provided living accommodation for mice.

There is an excellent photo of a Hoijubana or Hoshubana Odako with 200 bridles in PELHAM p98.

4.3 Wan Wan

I have never seen a live giant Wan Wan, an elliptical kite which looks circular in the air when bowed. Photo 33 shows a small one. The kite is interesting because in 1914 a kite 20 metres in diameter and with 146m rope tail was claimed to be the largest in the world. There is at least one photo of a very large kite indeed – which took 150 men to fly, but there is dispute about whether a kite of that dimension would fly given the claimed weight of 2500kg.

4.4 Hammamatsu Kite.

This is one which I have never seen in the air. It is a fighter kite, square with a distinctive trailing edge made in various sizes, 1.5m – 3.5m. Photo 34 shows a small one. When assembled a spine (x2 length of the kite) is attached with rope tails as stabilisers which are used to tangle with opponents. Holes may be made in the washi cover to balance the kite or to reduce area in strong winds.

4.5 Chinese Kites.

Interestingly, given the direct derivation of Japanese kites from Chinese kites from at least the 7th century, I don't know of a single 'Edo' type. This is even stranger given the similarity of the woven latch kite reported in Marco Polos famous account of a makeshift kite being used for divination.

However, the attraction of flying an ideogram has led to some multi spine kites, e.g. the Double Happiness kite by HA (photo 35). There is a well known frog design which uses a bamboo grid.

4.6 Western Kites

There are few western designs using a grid of spars. There are designs heavily influenced by the orient. Photo 36 shows a turtle. The most original use of grids to allow asymmetrical kites is by Don Mock. He specialises in Native American influenced designs and is an expert in bridling.

While few other contemporary designers produce asymmetrical flat kites they are not new. Hunt (in 25 kites that fly – originally written in 1929) has several such designs including an elephant and an extraordinary fisherman with a tail formed by fishing line festooned with tissue paper stuffed paper fish.

5 Snake Kites

Often generically called 'Thai Snakes' (photo 37); I am not sure why since other old kite cultures make snake kites. Will Yolen called them Cambodian Snakes. Photo 38 shows a small paper and bamboo Chinese

Flat Kites

snake (alright it is in the form of a dragon, the Chinese use catfish and tadpole kites using the same basic configuration). Photo 39 shows a Malaysian Wau Ular. The kite head is about 1 metre wide and uses a series of Wau crescent wing shapes. The maker was Ismail bin Jusoh, since it was the first cloth covered kite which he had ever made all the pieces and edges use glue – he couldn't sew as stitching wasn't needed for paper kite. Diagram 21 shows some common head designs.

At this point it should be clear that here is an easy kite to make and the main design problem is what material to use for the tail (ripstop is too heavy/stiff except for large kites) and how long can I be bothered to make it. Should you come across a long tapering banner then consider attaching a type 3 head, use a 2 point bridle on the centre spar and off you go. Long pennants were used 1500 years ago in Europe and it has been argued that they could have been the earliest European kite (see History article to come). But I do not know of any European tradition of this type of kite in the last 500 years.

Photo 40 shows two 'toy' snakes of 20+ years ago – one the brother of the famous Zammo sled. Brilliantly printed lightweight Mylar makes superb snakes. California seems still to be a source for 60's type rainbow headed light taffeta – nylon snakes.

The long tails of snakes need very little extra lift so long kites are feasible. Photo 41 shows Erik flying at Bristol in 1986. The head is ripstop, the 500m tail tyvek. He was sponsored for the Midlands Kite Fliers by the Jorvik Museum in York. Now a trim 450m due to an old accident, as I write attempts are being made to get him flying again. And in the late 1980's there was a 1000m French snake.

For one of the easiest kites to make you get a lot of spectacle for your trouble. Though for me the most spectacular snake is Jake the Snake a soft cobra (see article to come).

6 Oriental Winged Creatures.

All the kites in this article have been flat and essentially two dimensional i.e. although they may be deliberately bowed or take up a curved shape in flight they have a two dimensional cover. In the article on Bird Kites we considered Chinese (and other) flat bodied birds but also kites with a three dimensional body. In that article, in order to narrow the field I excluded 'creatures' which are not birds. But that left out a range of interesting kites, some of which are often seen – so here is a selection. There is not a lot to say, look to the bird kite article for background and construction. While butterflies are always soft winged, others may be either hard or soft.

6.1 Chinese

Butterflies (photo 42) shows a Ha kite. These are often easier to fly than birds. Some are identifiable insects

others have brilliant colours to show in the sky. (NB Indonesian butterflies have realistic eyes, antennae, legs and tongues). Insects. There is a whole range of wonderful dragonflies (photo 43).

Fish and suchlike. I know two main types of fish kite – one which is a representation of a 'goldfish' viewed from above. With long flowing fins and a tail the body may be (as with birds) two or three dimensional and silk or paper used. Photos 44 – 46 give examples. Then there is the two fish flat kite representing man and woman (photo 47). There is a very realistic crab (photo 48).

Others. There are, often asymmetrical, figures usually with wings bearing them literally and figuratively across the sky. There were some attempts a few years ago to produce modern images. Photo 49 shows a paper Kangaroo which I have never tried to fly. The 'joey' is removable and non-flying.

6.3 Japanese

Washi paper does not drape and Japanese makers do not use silk, with the result that their designs do not include butterflies or fish where floating and flapping wing surfaces are required. They do represent carp in three dimensional windsock banners. But washi paper, which can be quite stiff when painted, together with the use of a Yakko type wing means that there are several excellent cicada, bee, horsefly, etc designs. Photos 50 and 51 show a Sato bee front and back. The latter shows the exceptional precision of the frame made by Sato San from bamboo 100 – 400 years old. Note the hummer.

7 Playsails etc

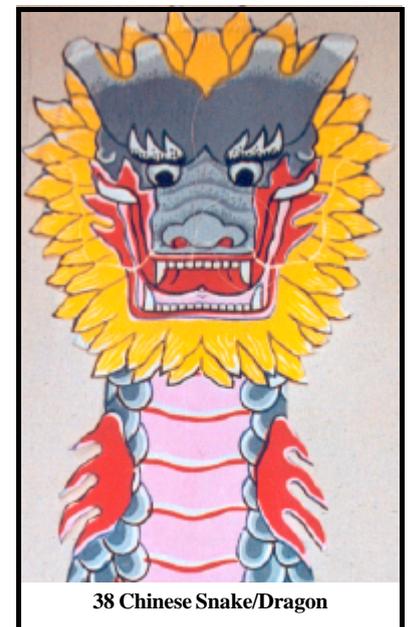
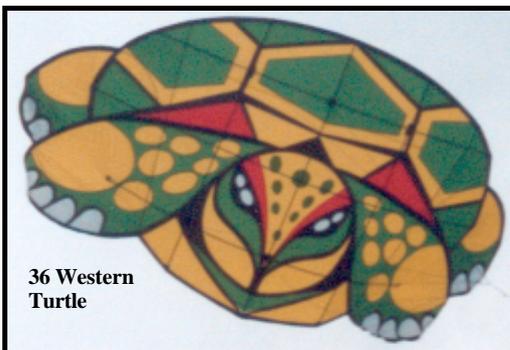
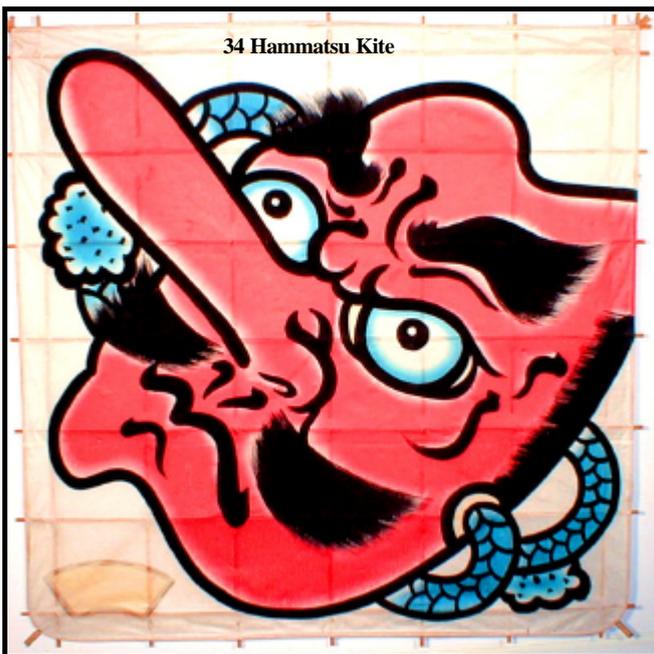
A playsail is a fairly large sheet of fabric, say 3m high by 5m wide, with two long loops of line each attached at the top and bottom of one side. Two fliers, by adjusting their hand holds on their loop can determine the angle of attack of the sail which when reasonably adjusted – flies. Associated in England with George Peters, but invented by Australians Richard and Kathy Dovey in 1981. Playsails make quite good club projects where members each make a square and the squares are sewn together. There are a lot of fun – large ones in a strong wind may need several fliers to each side. Are they kites? Surely yes – even though they are not single line kites. They can fly at a respectable height as photo 52 shows. Probably this is the minimalist kite. It is closely related to the kite spinnaker used recently with yachts. Similar idea to get your sail higher than the mast head.

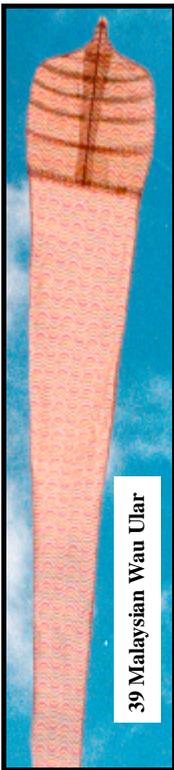
Are there still more minimalist kites? Well there are kites seen in Dieppe, but I don't have an illustration, which can best be visualised as a playsail in shape with areas of ripstop applied in perhaps a random pattern, well designed and carefully bridled I am sure the effect is interesting.

Flat Kites by George Webster

Bibliography.

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- Geoff Crumplin 'Not an Indian Fighter', 1995. Very clear about flying and making a range of fighters.
- Maxwell Eden 'The Magnificent Book of Kites', Sterling 1998. Good on Western Kites.
- Phillippe Gallot 'Making and Flying Fighter Kites', Batsford 1990. Good on how to make fighters.
- Ha K & Ha Y 'Chinese Artistic Kites', Commercial Press 1990. Wonderful stuff on the Beijing Kites which the family make.
- W Hosking 'Kites to Color the Wind', Skytie Arts 2000. Plans for paper and ripstop kites.
- W Hosking 'Kites of Japan', Skytie Arts 2000. Shows 340 Japanese kites on colour and background information.
- Tal Streeter 'The Art of the Japanese Kite', Weatherhill 1974. The original Western Account.
- Skinner & Fujino 'Kites. Paper Wings Over Japan', Drachen Foundation 1997.
- A Thiebault 'Kites and Other Wind Machines', Sterling New York 1982. Same as windtoys 1948. Referred to in Drachen Kite Journal Spring 2002.





39 Malaysian Wau Ular

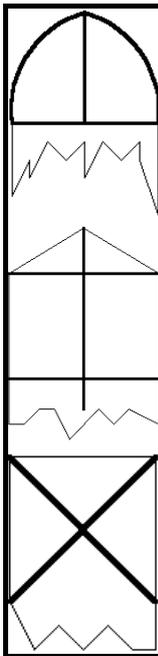


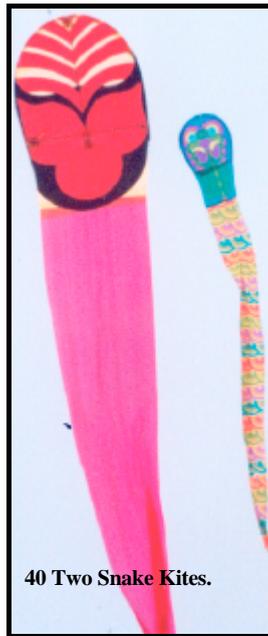
Diagram 21 Snake Kites.

Width 18" approx. Bridle top to bottom. A frequently found commercial kite. Tail 25'.

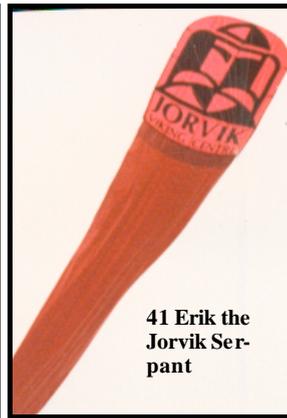
'Efficient' head. Remove centre spine and kite can be rolled. Problem. Snake kites fly better a 2+ bridle attached to the centre spar.

Remove top triangle for another way of sparing a square head.

Simple Head. Bridle top corners and centre.



40 Two Snake Kites.



41 Erik the Jorvik Serpant



43 Green Dragon-fly



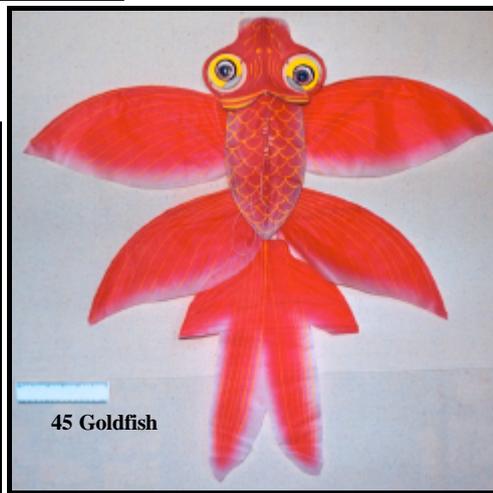
42 HA Butterfly



48 Crab Kite



44 Goldfish



45 Goldfish



46



49 Kangaroo Kite



47 Fish Kite representing Man and Wife



52 Playsail



50 Sato Bee Front



51 Sato Bee Back Detail

Kite Event Calendar

July		
12-13	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton.	Simon Hennessey
12-13	Barmouth Kite Festival, Barmouth Beach, Wales.	felt@jon2c.freereserve.co.uk
19-20	7th Kennet Valley Kite Festival, Henwick Worthy Sports Ground, Thatcham, Berks.	kreativekites@btclick.com 01635 528 400
19-20	Hereford Kite Festival, Kingstone High School, Kingstone, Hereford	Karl Longbottom 01981 550326
27	Petworth Kite Festival, Petworth Park, Sussex	Joanna Mersey
26-27	Tewkesbury International Kite Festival.	Paul Collins 01684 297242
27	Dunstable Kite Festival, Dunstable Downs.	Dunstable Kites
August		
3	Royston Kite Festival, Therfield Heath, Royston, Herts.	01223 207213
9-10	Teston Bridge Picnic Site, Maidstone, Kent.	Kiteability
9-10	Middle Wallop Kite Festival, nr Andover, Hants.	Kites Up
10	Stockton On Tees Kite Festival	Malcolm Goodman
17	Kites over Capstone, Capstone Country Park, Gillingham, Kent	secretary@seks.org.uk
16-17	High Force Kite Festival, Middleton-in-Teesdale	Malcolm Goodman
16-17	Coventry Kite Festival, Memorial Park, Coventry	M.K.F.
23-25	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hampshire	The Kite Society
25	Bournemouth Kite and Balloon Festival, Canford Magna Arena, Poole.	IMT! Promotions
30-31	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol.	Avril Baker
31	Hunstanton Kite Festival.	Bryan Cattle
September		
7	Whitley Bay Kite Festival	Malcolm Goodman
13-14	Hartlepool Kite Festival	Malcolm Goodman
March 2004		
19-21	Fort Worden 21st Annual Kitemakers Conference, Port Townsend, Washington USA	www.kitemakers.org

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	016560871871	margam@kiteshops.com
Martin Corrie	3 White Horse Road, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex CO7 6TU	01206 299560	martin@skfc.co.uk
Neil Harvey		01285 740295	
Simon Hennesey		01273 582309	mailto:info@bkf.org.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
Peter Whitaker	12 Littlefield, Quedgeley, Glos GL2 6GZ	01452 728521	Paul@gvfk.org.uk
Great Ouse Kite Fliers	Peter West	01733 269687	Gokf@btinternet.com
Force Nine Kites	40/42 High Street, Clacton, Essex CO15 1UQ	01255 221059	Sales@fnk.co.uk
Michael Lowe	44 Bellemoor Road, Shirley, Southampton, Hants SO15 7QU	023 8077 0788	
Bryan Cattle	21 Shepherds Close, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge CB1 4HP.		
Kiteability	45 Windsor Road, Welwyn, Herts, AL6 9JY		ron@kiteability.co.uk
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
Andrew Pidgen		024 7232 3004	
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Avril Baker	5 Lilymead Avenue, Wells Road, Totterdown, Bristol BS4 2BY	0117 977 2002	info@abc-pr.co.uk
Malcolm Goodman		01833 640584	malcolm.goodman@virgin.net
IMT! Promotions	Des Poeling-Oer, Suite 363, 89 Commercial Road, Bournemouth, BH2 5RR	07790 013808	

Middle Wallop Kite Festival - 9th & 10th August 2003

On the A343 Andover to Salisbury Road (Hampshire). 10 am to 5 pm both days.

The gate fee is set by the Museum, we now have no say over this unfortunately. In May it was £3 a head and under 14's free. We are trying to negotiate less, watch the web-site (wallopkitenbuggy.org.uk) for any developments. The money goes to the upkeep of the Flying Museum-the same as in all previous years. Camping is available on the Friday and Saturday evenings for a small fee, (£3 a night per unit) in the area by the wind direction windsock, for those who want to stay on site. There will not be the facility to stay over on the Sunday though. There are toilets facilities with water and a water bower on site.

There is a licensed Bar, with reasonable prices (including soft drinks and nibbles), as well as food traders, who stay 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 al-

Bournemouth Kite Festival - 25th August 2003

The Bournemouth Kite Festival is even bigger this year, combining forces with the Bournemouth Balloon Festival organisers to create the Great Dorset Balloon and Kite Feista 2003.

The event is FREE to the general public and is set is for Bank Holiday Monday 25 August 2003, with the new bigger and better location being the Canford Magna Arena in Poole.

More emphasis is to be placed on family entertainment with LIVE stage entertainment across the day, fun fair and children's entertainments, as well as the usual Kite workshops, Trade stalls, arial and ground displays and learning areas for the kids.

Kites over Capstone - 17th August 2003

After a gap of some five years, Medway Borough Council are keen to relaunch Kites over Capstone as an annual event. This year, they are giving over "the event field" to kiting on Sunday August 17th. Those of you who have attended previous events will know this is a pretty big field on top of a hill.

For those who have not been before, Capstone Farm Country Park is located in Capstone Road, Gillingham, Kent. It is easily accessible by car, but I don't think there are any public transport links. Car parking will be in the orchard car park, adjacent to the

located for buggying (please adhere to this!). Providing you have B.B.C. Insurance, there will be no charge-FREE-to buggy. Please register if you intend to buggy or board. You can pay your camping fee at the same time. If you are not there to buggy/board, you can also pay at the Kites Up stand during the day for your camping.

We will have a Kite Workshop for the kids, parachuting teddy bears, we also have a round of the STACK League, tandem buggy rides, (where possible) 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!

The camping money and beer tent takings are what finance the whole event, so 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.

Hot Air Balloons will be on proud display all day (most will have featured in the Bristol Balloon event the week prior) with a full choreographed Balloon Glow to music planned in the evening for the crowds gathered. Full on-site catering will be provided and car parking is available within walking distance.

Trade stall pitches are still available and are £95 for the full day. ie. 10am-10pm.

For all queries please call Event Organizer Des Poeling-Oer on 077900 13808 or post IMT! Promotions Ltd, Suite 363 / 89 Commercial Road. Bournemouth, BH2 5RR.

flying field. Access is via the entrance next to the ski centre, not the entrance to the visitor centre. Follow the road to the top of the hill, which opens out into the car park.

We're still trying to organise some teams and traders for the day. If you fit into this category and are interested in attending, contact me, Gareth Williams, either on 01622 763059 or gareth@seks.org.uk.

There will be a limited amount of free camping available at the site on the Saturday night. Please contact me to arrange a booking. I look forward to seeing you there.

Fort Worden Kite Makers Conference - March 2004

Fort Worden 21st Annual Kitemakers Conference takes place at the Fort Worden State Park Conference Centre, Port Townsend, Washington USA March 19th - 21st, 2004. Please visit our website: www.kitemakers.org for full details.

Past conferences have featured kite makers from around the World; Japan, Germany, The Netherlands, Australia, China, England, Canada & many more. If you like, we can provide more information (Class List & Teachers) as it becomes available to us in the next couple of months.

With your help, we can further promote kite making to the world. Kim & Barry 'Buzzer' Poulter

7th Hunstanton Kite Festival - 31st August 2003

Smithdon School Fields
There will be a full programme of events from 10am to 5pm on Sunday 31st

Team Adrenalize will be demonstrating the art of power kiting and their famous man lifter. Team Spectrum and Dark Star kite displays and special guest Bruno with his amazing stacks of deltas. Stuart and his flexifoil stack.

The Great Ouse Kite Flyers will be teddy bear dropping and doing a children's kite fly in the arena, plus come and fly your own kite.

Refreshments, beer tent, craft fair, kite stalls, children's entertainer, and much more.

For more information please contact Bryan Cattle 01223 243825

Bristol International Kite Festival - 30th & 31st August

11.00am - 5.00pm, Ashton Court Estate

Introduction Plans are well underway for this year's festival which had a triumphant return in 2002 blessed by lovely weather - a huge relief after the dreaded foot & mouth problems of 2001.

We look forward to welcoming familiar friends and hopefully lots of new faces to Bristol this year. Please do bring along any interesting kites, windsocks, inflatables, ground displays or sky junk to fly either in our special arena or generally in the free flying areas to add to the Festival atmosphere. If your kites are really spectacular or unusual let us know in advance and send in pictures so that we can build them into the Festival pre-publicity.

This year we have also teamed up with a new local charity **Bristol Kidz which has been set up by radio company GWR FM to help give local young people a chance to achieve and to experience opportunities they would not normally encounter in their everyday lives.**

This fits very well with our own Festival aim which is to ensure the event remains friendly and welcoming and involves the local community. Together with Bristol Kidz we have just launched a somewhat ambitious schools project involving a hands-on kite making project and a poetry competition with over 30 local primary schools. Schools are being asked to decorate 6 kite sails & tails which resident kite maker & designer Nick James is kindly going to make up into some huge arches, to fly at the Festival. Schools are also being invited to join in a poetry competition on the theme of kites and kite flying. Shortlisted poems will be published in the local paper and read out on GWR FM with the overall winning poem transferred onto the kite tail of a special delta.

Guests There are still some invitations outstanding to various flyers and clubs and we are liaising with Portsmouth over possible sharing of costs of some long distance guests. So far confirmed attendees include regular superstar Peter Lynn with his big beasties hot foot from New Zealand, Patrick Maconochie from Australia, members of the Settimo Cielo Aquilonisti kite club from Italy, sport kite maestro Dodd Gross and his master class and hopefully some of the French group Generation X. We are in conversation with one or two others including one of the French sport kite teams and the intriguing Johan Hallin with his amazing feather kites. As if these were not enough we also hope to welcome back many of the usual suspects such as the Decorators, Carl Robertshaw and many other wonderful UK flyers.

Last but by no means least the 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 putting on their own 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. AKF have requested more relaxed rules a la Francais to help entertain crowds, so within reason anything goes but for safety sake no kevlar or sharp objects please! Paul Chapman from AKF is also interested from anyone who would like to in participate in some Indian fighting kite displays/challenges.

Alongside the arenas there will be the usual line up of kite traders and Festival food and drink, full bar and some modest children's entertainments

Saturday night party As has become a tradition at Bristol there will be an on site party under cover in the large marquee where the usual excellent meal, with bar, which will be followed by the Festival auction. Tickets for the meal which will cover a choice of two or three hot dishes (vegetarians catered for) and a pudding (likely to be crepes again). Prices have been pegged for a third year running at £10 per adult and £5 for a child (under 14 please!!) which, for those of you who have enjoyed the food before know, 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. If anyone can contribute to night flying we would love to hear from you.

Accommodation After last year's difficulties we have again negotiated discounted rates and ring fenced rooms at Redwood Lodge Hotel, which is the nearest hotel to the site. These rates will be held for reservations made before 31st July 2003; the room rates for the first time vary depending on which nights you require. All include bed, breakfast and VAT:

1 night Friday 29 th August only:	£80 per double, £65 per single
1 night Saturday 30 th August only:	£80 per double, £65 per single
2 nights Fri & Sat 29 th & 30 th August:	£75 per double, £60 per single per night
1 night Sunday 31 st August only:	£50 per double, £35 per single

Bristol International Kite Festival - 30th & 31st August

Please note that the hotel will charge their normal rates for reservations made after 31st July.

Bookings should be made direct with Redwood Lodge tel 0870 609 6144 mention you are booking as part of the Kite festival.

If you want to make other hotel arrangements try the Bristol Tourist Information Centre on 0117 926 0767.

Camping As many regulars will know this is always a real problem for us as the Council has a complete 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 camping for traders and suppliers to which we manage to add in a good few of you flyers as well! If you would like to book in there and it will be pretty basic please write in with an SAE and we will try to fit you in! We are also trying to negotiate a small area within the crew field for caravans/motor homes because at the moment we are limited to tents because it is a local horse club's gymkhana field! Again write in if this might be of interest!

American Kitefliers Association Convention - September 29th - October 4th

Phil Broder writes: I hope some British kilters will be coming across the pond this fall for the 26th American Kitefliers Association convention. The AKA convention is always one of the world's largest and best kite festivals, but it's very special this year. To celebrate the Centennial of the Wright Brothers first powered flight, the AKA will meet in their hometown -- Dayton, Ohio - on the grounds of the US Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Base, from September 29 - October 4.

The trip will be worth it for the kiteflying alone. Besides a full week of kiteflying on large grassy fields, sport kite and kite making competitions, buggying, indoor flying, fighter and rok battles, and more, there are incredible workshops. Learn to build kites under the watchful eye of masters like Charlie Sotich, Tanna Haynes, Jon Burkhardt, Kevin Shannon, and Ron Gibian. And you'll probably go home with some new treasures from the auction and raffle.

But if that's not enough... how would you like to fly a kite under the wing of a B-2 bomber? The Air Force Museum houses an amazing collection of military air-

Alternatively 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 2000/1. Again we will post details in due course in the website or contact the festival office for details but they do get booked up very early.

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 £2.50 per day, (instead of £6 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 you soon.

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 or e-mail: info@abc-pr.co.uk or festival@kite-festival.org

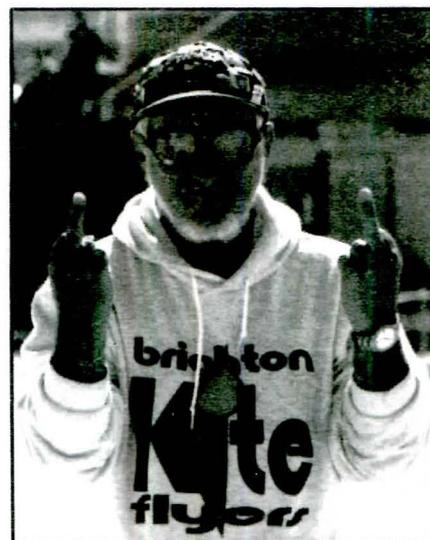
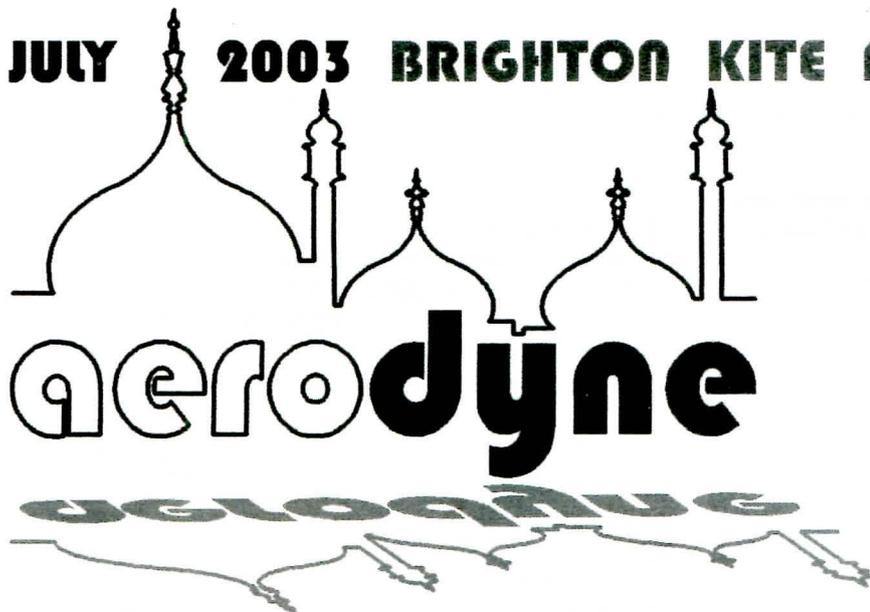
craft, and many convention activities will be in the museum galleries. Airplane buffs simply won't be able to pass this up.

The AKA convention typically costs about \$200, and with an exchange rate very favourable to British visitors, it's quite affordable. The nearby Hope Hotel -- America's only hotel actually on the grounds of a military base, so it has Air Police guarding it -- will also be used for many activities. Full information about the AKA convention will soon be available at www.aka.kite.org, including online registration.

If you're checking into air travel, Dayton has a small airport that might be expensive to fly into. Instead, try flying to larger airports like Chicago, Indianapolis, Columbus, or Cincinnati. (I'll try to arrange ground transport from airports to Dayton if anyone is interested; please contact me at twelvewinds@hotmail.com).

Hope to see some of you in Dayton, so I can return the hospitality I was shown in England.

JULY 2003 BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS JULY 2003



The new Honorary President with the normal Brighton welcome (two beers please).

THE NEWS LETTER FOR THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

OFF TO BERCK WITH A BUNCH OF BERCKS

For the past few year SEKS have organised a coach to a kite festival at Berck Sur La Mer in France. Back in February this year I asked if this was on again for 2003, unfortunately it was not, so the job started in finding a coach company who would run the coach from Brighton to Berck. I started getting quotes in (not a cheap way to travel) and asking members who wanted to go. After a few weeks it became clear that even with the two clubs it would be hard to make the trip work financially. We then looked at the option of taking a fleet of cars over and discovered that the Tunnel was doing a spring special of £25.00 per car. So with this in mind the trip was back on again. Numbers grew and by the time to book came we had 30 people interested. With the day looming arrangements were made as to pick-up points and timings. It was going to be an early start as we had to get the train before 8.00am to get the cheap fare. Due to this Paul Chapman and Tony Smith stayed over on the Saturday night. We were joined by Alan and Dorothy Crag at 4.45 in the morning. Just in time for bacon sandwiches and coffee. We left to start the trip at 5.15am and had an uneventful trip down to Tesco's car park where we were meeting some of the ELF kite group. Then over to book in at 7.30am to meet up with SEKS and more of our members (Danny

Steer, Keith Boxall, Alan Outram, Dave McArthur and one of Alan's work mate called Leslie)

Some of the ELF group had never driven in France before so we travelled in convoy down to Berck with no problems. A slight tail back into Berck but otherwise no jams the whole way. We arrived at Berck at around 11.00am French time and off down the beach arranging to meet back at the cars at 5.15pm. The wind (what wind there was) was very iffy up and down over the houses but still when we made the beach the sky was full of kites.

How do the French manage to put on such a show, could have something to do with the fact that there is no sea between them and the rest of Europe so the cost of getting to the festivals is much less. After walking down the beach and meeting a lot of old friends including our very own Ray Oakhill, who had been there all week. Ray mentioned that the weather had been bad and it had even snowed earlier in the week. We had picked the best day weather wise for going, bright sun shine and warm with it. We looked at the traders which includes a sewing machine seller (I want a new machine, boy were these nice). We met up for a spot of lunch (Mussels and Chips). Then back down the beach and meeting and chatting with friends again. By this time the beach

and prom were heaving with people, both kite flyers and public you could almost not move. Time flew by and soon it was time to get back to the cars. We had picked up some extra luggage on the trip. So once all had been loaded up we set off. We will not mention the first 2 1/2 hours of the trip home other than to say "Never leave Berck at 5.15pm" Once on the main road we made good time to the Tunnel and the rest of the trip home was uneventful.

All those who went said what a good time we had had and are ready to go again next year. So is the the start of an annual pilgrimage for BKF or should we change to different festival in Europe each year, please let me know your feelings and I will see what is on and where for next year.

Simon Hennessey



W E Y M O U T H
R O K K A K A K U
C H A L L E N G E

Kite Drags
man to sea

After losing "Slack Alice" (the Rokkaku with the Japanese face) last year, I decided that it was time to make a larger kite for The Weymouth Rokkaku Challenge this year, so that I had a better chance of beating the "Big Boys" with their "Big Toys" rather than using a smaller 1metre kite. So I searched my loft for appropriate ripstop and decided that it would be an expendable kite - quickly made with dowel spars and unfussy stitching. Not so! I ended up with immaculate stitching and carbon fibre spars and spent far too long making it. Ces la vie!

Having fought against Doug Jones and his "Hello Jim" for many years, I decided that a personal challenge was in the offing, so I appliquéd "Goodbye Jim" on my kite, and off to battle. Doug seemed to spend most of his Sunday lying on the beach and did not appear in the fight, much to my surprise. However, I issued the personal challenge on Monday by assembling my kite and thrusting it in his face, to which he responded most vehemently and with surprising

activity as "Hello Jim" was in a poor state of repair and needed new pockets and spars. "Look what you've cost me Oakie"! said Doug, on his way back from the traders with new carbon spars for the kite. He must have been serious 'cos "Hello Jim" never had fancy spars like that before!

We never did actually come "head to head" in the ensuing battle, because I ended up in a death spiral with someone else early on in the fight, which was won by Martin Croxton. However my new kite excelled itself on the Sunday with a first, so all that meticulous sewing was worth it after all.

How did a kite come to be called "Hello Jim" anyway? It seems that some years ago at Bristol, Doug was due to meet an old friend at the kite festival, so his mate asked how they would find each other - you've guessed it - his name was Jim and the kite located Doug on the field.

Next year Doug - next year! Or could it be sooner?

Ray Oakhill

SUMMER is on the way and with it come warnings about dangers on our beaches.

Last week, a visitor to Ballbunion was dragged out to sea after high winds proved too much for his kite. Two men who went to his aid also found themselves in some difficulty. The man with the kite was pulled about 250 feet off shore and was eventually rescued. "What happened should serve as a warning about the dangers of using kites on beaches." says Frank O'Conner of the Ballbunion Sea and Cliff Rescue Service.

Artical taken from the Irish "Evening Echo" April 23rd 2003

This man was lucky, the death of a young kite flyer in Suffolk while power kiting has caused more news than ever before in the press about kite flying. For your safty and that of others please ensure that when you go out flying you always use the right kite for the wind condition. Lets get some posotive press.

B E R C K S U R M E R 2 0 0 3

This was my third time at Berck International Kite Festival and I can honestly say that we had four seasons weather in a week! Everything from warm sunny spells, with no wind to sleet and snow. It is certainly was a week for wrapping up well. Then there were the winds, which blew from every direction of the compass, sometimes all on one day! As always the Penneys and the Blowers of The Beccles Bunch were on hand, providing daily sustenance for the party, for which I thank them most profusely. The party included Peter Lynn and his redoubtable "side kick", sorry that should read "reliable crew member", Clyde Cook as well as Robert Brassington from Tasmania and others who shall be nameless, 'cos they just turned up unexpectedly! Did you know that Peter Lynn has a

female groupy - well at least one in France. No doubt he has them all over the world, but he never lets on!! Restuarants were very well frequented at the end of each day and we certainly sampled a few. Logis de France seemed to be well up on the gourmet trail.

The night flight was one of the most amazing that I have seen and taken part in. The off-shore wind was extremely light, so a long launch was appropriate, but all kites in the air were nailed to the sky. Laser light beams lit up the kites from the promenade and lower down banners on the beach were illuminated with coloured lights - very spectacular.

This year it was the World Sports Kite Championships - but hey - wasn't that last year? Oh, no - last year it was the World Cup! So, there is a difference?

Yes there is! It seems that the World Cup is a privately owned and sponsored event, whereas this one is sponsored by STACK, AKA and others in Europe. Well, now we all know! It was good to see Matrix Management on the field showing the flag again.

Finally, I vowed some long time ago never to go to a kite festival banquet again, having been to some pretty awful ones - this is food and value for money I am taking about here, not the company, which is always the tops. However Pete Willis said that this one was "the business" last year, so I succumbed and I was pleased that I did, because the cold table was superb and the wine flowed like water - even to champagne at the end! Well done Berck - see you again next year.

Ray Oakhill

POSTAGE WHAT A FIRST STAMP KITES

by Charlie Sotich

1. Cut the stamp(s) from the envelope or sheet of stamps.
2. Soak the stamps in a cup of water to remove from the envelope paper. Leave the stamp in the water for about 4 minutes (plus) after the stamp is off the envelope (so water can penetrate the back side).
3. Remove the stamp from the water & place it face down on a cutting mat.
4. Gently rub the back of the stamp with the tip of a finger using a rotating motion.
5. The adhesive of a self adhesive stamp will come off in small globules. Keep the back of the stamp slightly damp as you continue the rubbing.
6. The stamp back should start to unroll. Be careful to remove the paper rolls across the entire back. There will be changes in the colour of the stamp back as paper is removed from the back and it gets thinner.
7. When you have removed enough paper, set the stamp aside to dry. Use tweezers to pick it up if necessary.
8. When the stamp is dry, put in two diagonal creases. Then fold in half from the bottom to the centre. The depth of the creases should be no more than 1/8th inch (3mm).
9. Use fuzzy thread for the kite's tail. Make two tails, each about 6 inches long per per square inch of surface area. Glue them to the back of the bottom corners.
10. Cut a piece of tape about 1/16th to 1/8th of an inch wide by 1/2 inch long. Tie a 1/4 - 3/4 inch loop in the end of a very thin flying line. Put the tape in the loop. Then apply the tape to the stamp face, about 1/3 of the way down from the top using tweezers.
11. Fly the kite, Adjust the bridle point and dihedral as necessary.

**NEXT MONTH
FLYING BRIGHTON TEDDY
IN NO WIND IS POSSIBLE**

Most men in their mid fifties like to think they have seen nearly everything. My visit to Berck has changed all of that. This was my first time to any kite fest let alone the 'Berck,' and I was blown away literally, by the event.

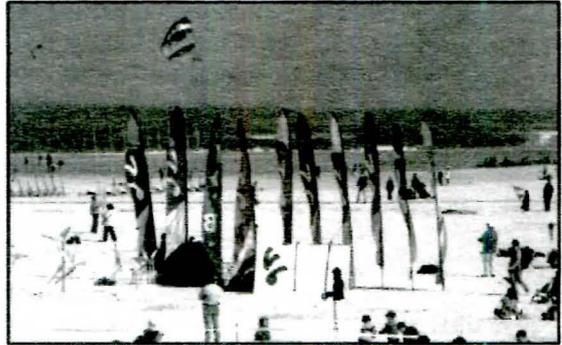
Turning off the Autoroute we joined the trail of vehicles to where a flock of kites hung in the air and these gave the final directions to those who, like me did not know where to go. Inflatable animals and figures, were there for you to see. Familiar kites of various shapes that I had only seen on Internet sites and magazines were on show 'au naturel' (flying out of their wrappers) and people with famous names in the kite world were available for us to talk to or drink with.

Most of the people flying or exhibiting seemed to have that sun weathered face that used to only be found on labourers or seamen. What with their complexions and the way that most seemed to have cornered a hut and were selling their wares, I wondered if these were new age gypsies? We had however arrived on the Sunday and from the people that I was introduced to, apparently the previous week's weather had encompassed all of what Michael Fish could ever dream of. However this day, was gorgeous with the light almost perfect, the wind gusty and veering from off the land.

On the prom' above the strand, stalls had been set up, selling almost everything kite-like except for that big delta that I wanted. A large kite workshop was on the go next to a stall with the most incredible flying dragons and butterflies. Very nice but how do you get them home in the average hatch back? I found

the marquee that I had come to see and inside it contained some of the most outstanding Kite Aerial Photos to be found. Various camera rigs were hung overhead to show me how to do it.

Take note British resorts! The town of Berck was given over to the event for the benefit of visitor and resident

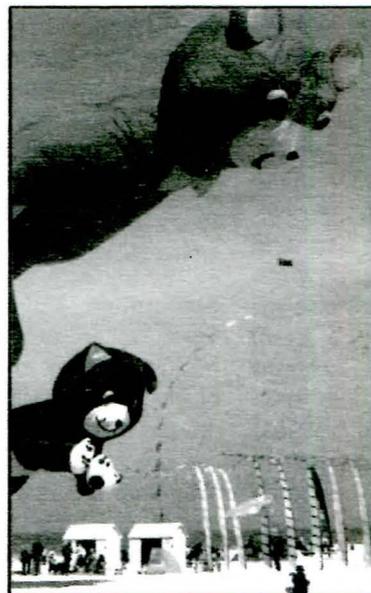


alike! And not just for the day! Parking was free, chaotic, and everywhere! People strolled through the whole of the sea front that had been closed to traffic for the duration. Good food was available at very reasonable prices from the stalls, cafes and restaurants participating in the festival.

As the sun sank the wind was now settling down to a late evening, steady blow from off the land. This allowed the artists to perform. I could now see what the attraction of multi line flying was about. To be able to watch the experts, achieving aerial perfection in balance and accuracy. This was a sight to see. Please forgive my hyperbole but there are

people who like me have never seen it done before and unless I describe it as I found it the regulars might have glossed over the experience. Dare I go again? I would love to, but what if I cannot repeat it? What a memory. P.S. The mystery tour to get out of Berck in the evening was quite entertaining too!

Tony Smith



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WEYMOUTH DIARY 2003

Easter Weekend, The first big festival of the year is coming up, and it is time to get ready for the weekend. I will be staying at my usual campsite overlooking Chesil Beach, so the camper needs to be got out of the garage and prepared for the new camping season. The tyres are pumped up, the larder stocked, so all seems well except that the water pipe has gone mouldy and needs to be replaced. Fortunately, I find a piece of pipe in the workshop, so I am clearly well prepared for this eventuality. The old pipe is a bit of a mare to get off, but the new one goes on easily (a bit too easily as it turns out later on, and causes a leak that needs running repairs with the help of Mr B&Q).

The kites I put out last autumn to repair or modify during the winter are dragged out of the corner of the lounge and the necessary remedial work put in hand urgently so that they can be packed in the kite bag. The new winder is also built in record time and seems to work tolerably well, although the Mark 2 should be better. A good weekend's work, and it is with enthusiasm that I look forward to a weekend at the seaside.

28 April, The weather forecast for the coming week shows a deterioration from the past few weeks of unseasonably excellent weather. Next Saturday is shown "fair", but the rest of the weekend as wet or showery. I take solace from the fact that the forecast is for London or Plymouth, so Weymouth being between the two might be better.

29 April - 1 May, The weather forecast remains much the same, although "rain" has become "showers" for some of the time, giving rise to unbridled optimism. Get the camper out on Thursday night while it is still dry with the promised showers not yet arrived, so are all ready to go early Saturday morning.

Black Friday, So much for the weather forecast. A fair morning turns into torrential rain by lunchtime. I get absolutely soaked on my cycle ride home from work. Weather forecast now alternates between rain and heavy showers for Sunday and Monday, with limited prospect of a break on Saturday. Get home thoroughly depressed, and make the

tentative suggestion to call the trip off. My wife and daughter are made of sterner stuff, and make the point that as they are going for the shopping, the weather is not important, and they do not propose to miss their trip. It is a joint decision to go.

Saturday, Leave Sussex at 6:00am to a pleasantly sunny start. Everything is still very wet, but at least it has stopped raining. Have a very good drive to Weymouth, with the occasional threatening clouds but no more rain. I am very cheered by the suggestion that I am dropped off at the beach with my kites while the girls go to pitch the camper and return later with lunch. The beach is strangely deserted with no more than a dozen flyers. Wind is a chilly northerly, so is nearly offshore, but reasonably brisk. Get out my brand new Rok, and launch easily, but wind turns out to be fluke coming over the hotels. Decision time: with the tide high, do I go for a long line to get over the roof of the hotels and hope for steady, clean air, but taking the chance of the wind dropping the kite into the sea; or be cautious and keep lower but potentially dry? As usual, a compromise is reached, going higher than most, and letting out line as the sea retreats from the beach.

Lunch arrives, and I realise that although it is bright, it is really quite cold. The plan is to meet up with my son who is helping to run a Wargames convention in the town later in the afternoon, so after trying out a couple of other kites in the increasingly fickle wind, leave the beach to a bit of shelter in the town. Returning to pick up the car at the end of the afternoon, see that the beach is almost deserted apart from those staying in hotels and biding their time until the evening meal is ready.

Sunday, Wake up to beautiful sunshine. The wind has shifted to the normal south westerly, so it is off to the beach as soon as possible. Grab one of the last spaces in the Pavilion car park, and met up with other BKF members at an impromptu camp close to one of the big ground anchors (someone must be expecting an Indian attack as the cabanas are set up in a rough circle). The BKF

Teddy is laid out ready to launch, but down on the beach the wind is nearly non-existent. This provides the opportunity to buy this year's pin badge (single liner this year - excellent) and to seek out the chandler's where it is rumoured, correctly as it turns out, that cheap Kevlar line is on offer. Like many other flyers that weekend, I stock up on new line.

Back on the beach, the wind has picked up, and although it turns a bit during the day, fly kites well into the early evening. Having packed up, set off to my son's for a barbecue. It gets chilly as we finish eating, so go indoors for a coffee until it is time to return to the beach for the fireworks. No sooner are we indoors than the promised rain arrives, but actually lasts no more than an hour, so the fireworks go ahead as planned and are the usual great spectacle.

Monday, This cannot be, surely - it is still sunny! The girls are in excellent humour (something to do with the earlier shopping trips?), and send me off to the beach again while they pack the camper for the trip home. The wind has swung round to the north again, and with a much busier beach than Saturday, several kites end up in the sea whenever the wind drops - some lucky flyers more than once! Fortunately, the pedalos are out and carry out some daring rescue missions, so no major losses are encountered. Left in charge of the smaller BKF inflatables while other members go in search of Kevlar, I eventually decide to ground the kites as it is getting exhausting hoisting them up or disentangling them from other kites as the wind keeps us on our toes. The new "fish" deltas are tried out, but even these are a bit erratic, so while there is no chance of a decent display of several of them flying at once, they do look good in the air even if only one at a time.

Meet up with the girls for a bite to eat for lunch, then it is back to hitch up the camper and head back to Sussex, with the best of memories and a usual reminder of Weymouth beach in the kite bag, in the shoes and so on. And to think on Friday, I nearly stayed at home

Peter Jackson

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NEW KITE EVENT SEPTEMBER 2003

The 5th Annual Kingsfold Vintage Rally, 27th and 28th Of September, Wattlehurst Farm, On the A24 between Dorking and Horsham.

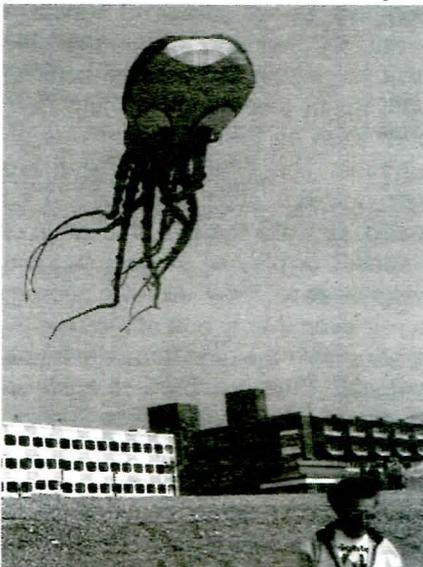
As an experiment all kite flyers, regardless of club affiliation are invited to attend the above vintage rally for the first time this year, there will be no charge for those who pre book but for those who are not sure if they will be able to come, the day rate will be £6 on the gate. The rally organisers have allocated an entire field of 3 acres exclusively for kite flying and overnight camping for those kiteflyers who wish to stay for the entire weekend.

The weekend will hopefully be a "fun" and relaxed flying weekend with absolutely no competitions and should be a first class opportunity to introduce kite flying to a captive audience of the visitors to the vintage rally, some of these visitors may have never seen a kite "festival" and as such it will be an excellent method of promoting our sport and hopefully getting a few new recruits to join the kite flying fraternity

Your admission documents, should

WHAT IS OLLY SAYING?

Your ideas to olly@BKF.org.uk or post to the editor of Aérodyne



you decide to come along will grant you access to all the other exhibitions which are mainly old farm engines, tractors, steam engines and general country show type exhibits. There will be considerable numbers of "commercial" stalls, again the sort of market you might find at almost any steam and country show up and down the country. There will be plenty of "fast food" stalls and even a bar for those who wish to partake

Any kite flyer who would like to attend, for one day, two separate days or for the entire weekend, including the Friday and Sunday night (camping) MUST book in advance to enable free passes to the show ground to be issued prior to the actual event

All kite flyers MUST have public liability insurance, which will be checked by the main rally stewards during the weekend, if you do not have such insurance Simon or Corinne Hennessey of Brighton Kite Flyers (details elsewhere in this magazine) will be pleased to provide you with membership application forms for the BKF club which will

include the public liability insurances required

Simon Hennessey and myself intermediary administrators for the issue of the rally passes and in an attempt to keep costs down to a minimum we are going to try to do as much of the administration as possible by email and ask those of you who have read this and who have friends who would like to attend and who may not have email facilities, to apply for passes on their behalf. If you need to resort to Royal Mail, please send your request, including a stamped addressed envelope to:

Kingsfold Rally
42 Rife Way
Ferring
Sussex
BN12 5JX

Email contact
admin@media-services.co.uk

Look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible for a good fun weekend.

John Dimmock

WHAT HONOUR

A committee meeting was held back in February 2003 where one of the things discussed was the possibility of honouring one of our long standing members, a letter was duly sent out as follows;

Following a pre AGM meeting by the committee, one thing that was brought up was the behaviour of club members and the public's view of the club.

Due to this discussion at the meeting an unfortunate situation has arisen as follows.

It is not often that we are forced as a committee to revoke a membership to anyone, but due to your continued attitude towards the

club we are forced to put to the membership at the AGM, that we revoke your current membership. We will however renew your membership with a "life membership" as Honorary President if you agree to this.

A short while after the letter was sent we had a reply that if it did not involve too much if any extra work (height clearances can still be obtained) Ray Oakhill would be honoured to accept the post of "Honorary President for life"

This was put the AGM and carried unanimously. Thank you Ray and well deserved.

Useful Contacts:

Coordinator/Chairperson:

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 ☎ 01273 582309
 ✉ simon@BKF.org.uk

Events coordinators:

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 ✉ ray@BKF.org.uk
 Simon Hennessey
 ☎ 01273 582309
 ✉ simon@BKF.org.uk

Aerodyne:

Simon & Corinne Hennessey
 ☎ 01273 582309
 ✉ Aerodyne@BKF.org.uk

Club library:

(BKF members only):
 Paul Hill
 ☎ 01273 421286
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Club Kites:

(BKF members only):
 Simon Hennessey
 ☎ 01273 582309
 ✉ kites@BKF.org.uk

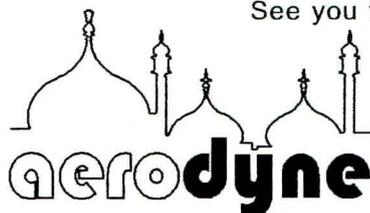
Membership Secretary:

Peter Jackson
 ☎ 01444 451071
 ✉ Membership@BKF.org.uk

fly - in reminders

Our Monthly fly-in is where we try and get as many of the club members to fly together. These are held on the 1st Sunday on Telscombe Tye, East Sussex 2nd Thursday Stamer Park 6pm. Remember that during the summer members may well be attending kites festivals, but the fly-ins are still on.

See you there



Merchandise

T-Shirts/Sweatshirts:

Alan Outram
 ☎ 01737 771196
 ✉ alan@BKF.org.uk

Pins/Badges/Pens:

Simon Hennessey
 ☎ 01273 582309
 ✉ simon@BKF.org.uk

Thank you

I would like to say thank you to all those who made this issue of Aerodyne possible, Alex (Burt), Peter Jackson, Dr John Dimmock, Ray Oakhill and Simon Hennessey for articles, design and putting up with me as editor. I would also like to thank the Evening Echo for the article used from their paper. I know, I keep going on, but Aerodyne is only possible with your help, so thank you again to those who help.

Corinne Hennessey

Next Issue

Reports on the 25th Brighton Kites Festival, held in Stanmer Park Brighton on 12-13th July 2003. Answers to "What is Olly" Saying? but only if you send them in.

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@BKF.org.uk

Deadlines dates;
January issue - 1 December
April issue - 1 March
July issue - 1 June
October issue - 1 September

The South Downs Way by buggy

For a number of years I have had the idea that it could be fun (plus hard work!) to kite buggy the length of the South Downs Way. More recently I began to think perhaps it wasn't such a silly project to undertake, I checked lots of details on the internet, read up books etc, etc, I was convinced it could be done. All I needed was a good reason for doing it. This arose when my wife was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, so my aim is to raise £5000 for cancer research and funds for the oncology department at St George's hospital in London where she currently receives her treatment. Plans are now going ahead for this to take place in August/September 2003. The South Downs Way runs for 98 miles, and I hope to achieve this with in 5 days. The Libre buggy has now been bought, This has been built with high ground clearance, and the kites I have chosen is the new "Bullet" by Flexifoil, I have found it can be flown on short lines and still have good power and control. I know there are places on route which I will not be able to fly or buggy, so intend to walk pulling the buggy and equipment. I will start the run from Winchester to Eastbourne using the westerly winds. On some of the down hill sections the buggy will overtake the kite!! Has anybody out there an idea for slowing the buggy on the down hill?

Alex Burt ,
 Carousel Kites Worthing.

If you want to sponsor Alex or the event please e-mail with details southdownsway@bkf.org.uk BKF wish all the best with this project and will come and support you in any way we can.

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.



42 ROMAN CANDLE 69.

YOU LOOKIN AT ME?



The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad. The International Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils. Arguably the most photocopied piece of mindless drivel in Kiting today. Runaway winner of the "Worlds Most Crappiest Publication" competition, and do we give a toss?

WHEN PARA TEDS GO MAD OR WORSE.

Funny, aint it when we had to reach episode soixante neuf (no jokes please, we're British) of the running gag, before the question of insurance reared its ugly head. Still, in a world that is slowly but surely going raving barmy, it was only a matter of time, and it seems as if the time is now.....

From Jerry Swift... Dropniks "Electric" Arthur Dibble and Jerry "You Bleedin' Wot" Swift, have, it seems finally lost the plot, gorn to the funny farm and joined those traitorous barstewards who insisted in turning the "Ted Berets" (affiliated to Ye Olde BMISS-thats wat dey fink) into a bone fide club. Should be clubbed the pair of them.

Seems that a number of the po faced in some of the Kite clubs have been going into rear end clench mode, as to wether or not their club insurances cover the activities of Arthur and Jerry and other likeminded humes intent on causing mayhem with the bretherin of a furry persuasion and a stuff the jolly old rag fixation.

So J and A have found someone who is prepared to insure third party risks associated with one or more of us going bonkers and having a total or mega R.C. onto the unsuspecting via a power plummet which could cause multiple injuries or possibly a large dent in somebodys motor. As evidence that the world is going or has gorn nuts, it now appears that The National Trust requires £5m insurance cover to play on their land, and sure as night follows day, others will jump on the bandwagon. Gordon Bennett, how much did it cost DUBYA in insurance cover against damage in EYERAK???

The BOF is now lifetime El Presidente (hold it, hold it, El Presidente???, look, forget all the kiss my arse jokes, when you hold a gun to my head, kindly warm the end of the barrel, and you, food taster, you may not like dripping doorsteps, but git 'em down yer) Arthur is the chair (spends more time slumped in one) and Jerry is the secretary (always knew there was something odd about him with them stilleto heels and all the gear)

Possible new members who wish to be considered for membership of the Ted Berets, with the strength of the insurance co around you, no bars on the basis of furriness colour of fur or wether they are flora, fauna or "what the heel do you call that. In other words they dont care which way yer muvva put yer hat on should contact Jerry for a discussion- humes must be accredited fauna bombers. Call Jerry on 01653 668157, orkey into electric malarky jerry.swift@btinternet.com

Spouse its no use cryinto yer pint, its now the way of the world. Everyones after a drink on the slightest pretext. still we did get away with some right capers way back. Drift into the serving hatch of that ice cream van? ooh, £½m, bouncing onto the roof of the cops car, no need for high fibre diet, that must have bin worth a Mil per shocked copper.

Carwash nearly chewing up the prop on that cessna, cor' it dont BEAR finkin' about do it? And what about that Flash bang wallop of that fauna on the power line at Brighton all them years back? that could have cost some dropnik an arma nd a leg. Black out half of Brighton would you? thats a million squids wivout the VAT you plum.

Good job you can laugh aint it?

SO, IF WE GO RAVIN' BARMY, THEY SUE US

NAH, THEY SUE YER DAFT DROPNIK



Disney faces loss of \$6bn Pooh revenues



In the seemingly neverending courtroom slugfest between the Disney Corp and the descendants of A.A. Milne on the one hand and the Slesinger estate on the other, it appears that the knockout blow has finally been delivered.

Disney have been left reeling after a federal District Court ruling said that the direct descendant of A.A. Milne, Claire Milne cannot reclaim the rights to Winnie the Pooh under new U.S. copyright laws passed in 1998. This ruling effectively torpedos a proposed deal between the Disney Corp and the Claire Milne Trust, which would have benefitted disabled people in Britain.

A.A. Milne originally licensed the Pooh characters to Slesingers in the 1930's, they in turn licensed the characters to Disney in 1961. A new agreement was drawn up in 1983 since when the Slesinger estate alleges that Disney owes it hundreds of millions of dollars in unpaid royalties. If Claire Milne had been successful in the court case she would have re-assigned the rights to Disney in exchange for royalties, estimated to be worth some £10 million a year.

Lawyers for the Slesinger estate are now seeking punitive damages of \$700 million and the right to terminate all future rights of Disney to exploit the pooh characters which if course not only involve Pooh, but Piglet, Tigger and Eeyore, too.

All this courtroom malarkey seems a million miles away from the hundred acre wood and the innocent pleasures of Pooh sticks on the bridge, but, and its a big but, when you realise that good old Winnie the Pooh is not only Disneys most popular character who generates some \$3bn-\$6bn of Disneys total annual sales of some \$25bn, you can see what is at stake dough wise in these interminable court cases, and you know whos looking for a substantial slice of the financial pie, yep, you got it in one, for the lawyers reckon the fight will still go on. makes yer wanna puke.



Dear friends, I can assure you that everything here is A,OK and ticketyboo..... the godless hordes of the furry wotsits of the forces of darkness are in full retreat. everywhere they have fallen from the sky they have been mercilessly slaughtered in thier thousands and the battered survivors are fleeing in terror, dragging their vile rags of desecration behind them.

Those nightly explosions you mention are nothing . nay nothing more than our joyous population celebrating thier victories with our traditional home made fireworks, and those piles of rubble you see all over the city are the evidence of our main industry, which as you know is namely the re-cycling of Hard Core rubble for various construction projects undertaken by our glorious leader.

The lack of T.V.?quite honestly our people do so get fed up with 24 hour nonstop reporting of our victories that its not worth showing programs, apart that is from the one featuring our dear leader even if at times we show him live in five places at once. The coalition of the furry denizens of hell would have you believe that they have cut me a new centre parting with an Armour Piercing Fin stabilised jar of honey, but that is just wishful thinkig on thier part, no, I cannot remove my Beret as I would be improperly dressed, suffice it to say that all thier lies and falsehoods will be thrown back in thier faces when we deploy our secret weapons, no, I cannot confirm tinned alopecia or sarin flavoured lager, thats bovine scatologia.

I would dearly love to tell you more, but I've just had my asylum forms from England and I do like the sound of a new house, unlimited cash and never having to work again. There's also rumors of a T.V. Quiz show in the pipeline, so I must take my leave, CHEERS.

ENGLAND EXPECTS EVERY NUTTER

Stunt jump is leap of faith in Dalai Lama

The more charitable of our readers may see this as a right on way of protesting against the rather heavy handed treatment

of the people of Tibet by that naughty chinese regime, whilst the more cynical amongst you (who, noi?) may see this stunt as just another blatent attempt by a hume to become a full member of BMISS

Mind you this was a pretty hair raising way to protest or to gatecrash this Connery geezer must have had absolute faith in his equipment working correctly, as from 170ft there was absolute no margin for error. Although he got away with it, when the stunt was reviewed in slow-mo on video, it was a close run thing.

The chute must have been rigged and packed for near instantaneous deployment, which it pretty well did, but not quite, for as the humes feet toched the pavement, the two outer cells on the canopy were not fully inflated, but no matter, the stunt came off with the hume safe and sound although right against the wall around one of the fountains, whilst the canopy rotated forwards and ended up in the water. We are not too sure how this stunt rates as a world record for the lowest deliberate survivable parachute jump but it must be pretty close to a record. Suffice it to say that after the jump the hume and his sodden chute were carted off by the boys inblue, doubtless to be charged with some misdemeanor.

And what was it all in aid of you may ask? One Gary Connery a proffessional stuntman on the Harry Potter films parachuted off of Nelsons column in a protest against the chinese occupation of Tibet. the stunt was organised by the Act for Tibet group. With three fellow activists connery scaled the column where they unfurled a 50ft photo-banner of the Dalai Lama the spiritual and political leader of the Tibetan people.

Connery then did his jump, whilst the others abseiled down.

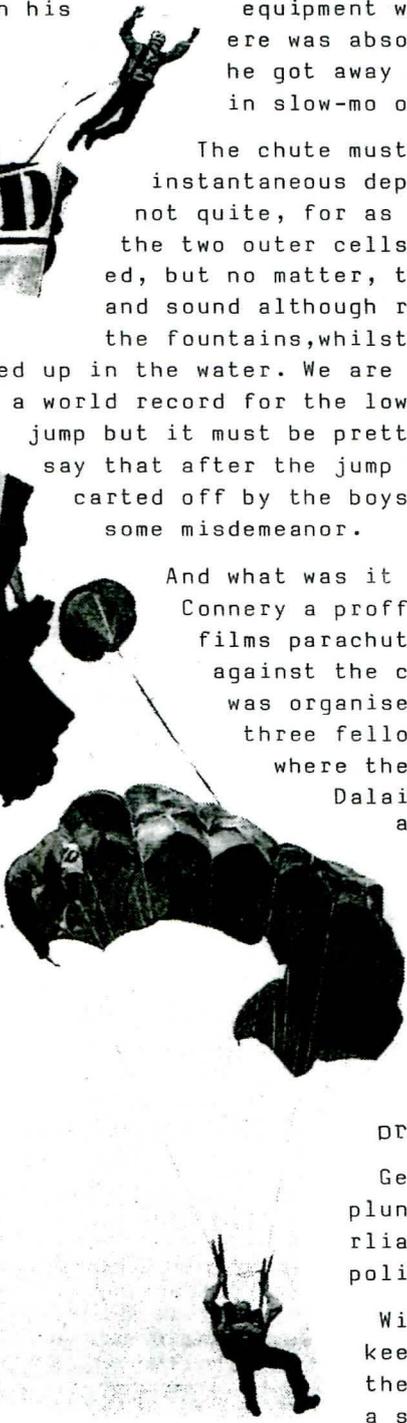
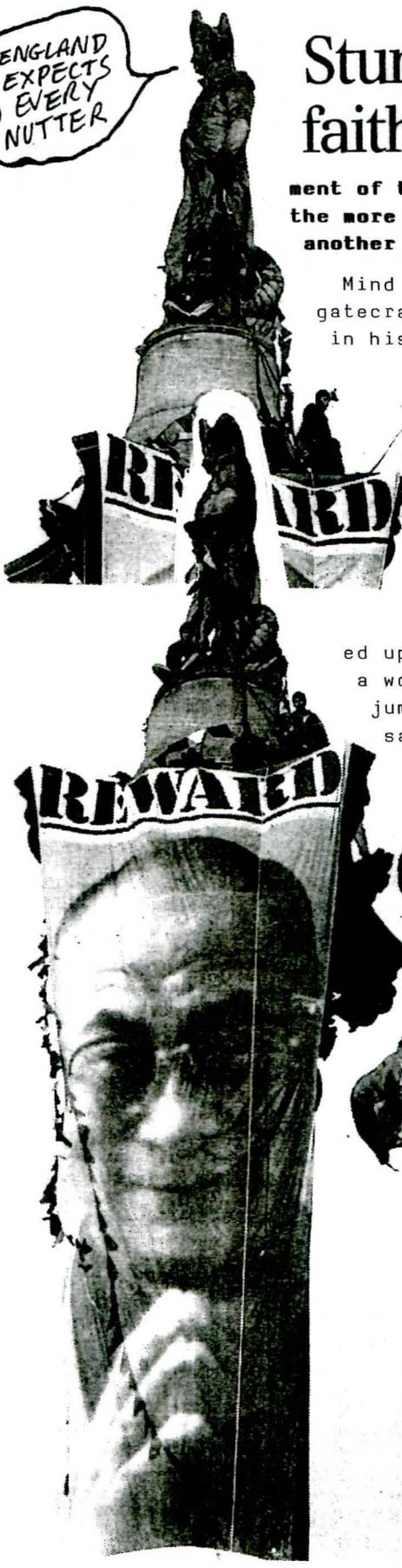
Politician in fraud probe skydives to hs death(you'd better believe it

We know that yoo furry lot do get up tight with the humes always casting nasturtiums about us going Bad, Mad or Bleedin Sad, but this proves that humes are the real nutters.

Germany's most colourful politician plunged to his death shortly after his parliamentary immunity was lifted and fraud police began raiding his properties.

Witnesses said that Jurge Mollemann a keen skydiver cut loose his main canopy then failed to deploy his reserve during a skydiving outing with friends, reports say he was killed instantly.

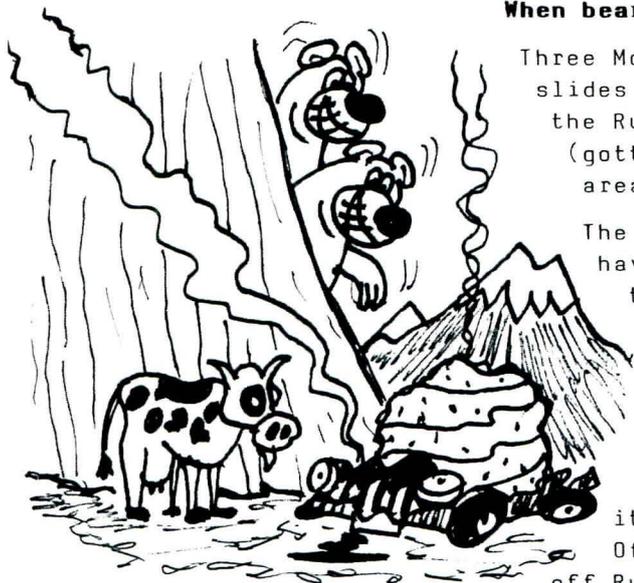
Mr Mollemann, a former leader of Germanys Free Democrats caused a scandal last years election with anti-Semitic statements. He resigned from the party after lengthy attempts to expel over comments in the media and on an election leaflet. He was a former deputy chancellor and economics minister under Helmut Kohl, but became embroiled in allegations of fraud and tax evasion. Though we dont go a bundle on politicians, it does seem a bit drastic to quit this life in this way, and they reckon us furry wotsits are bonkers.



THOSE WERE THE DAYS MY FRIEND, WE THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER END, GOOD FOR EVER AND EVER.

Time was, when any two bob Dropnik hankering for a laugh, could launch any amount of assorted furry wotsits into oblivion from a jolly old Kite without a care in the world. Deploy or total, float or bounce, who gave a toss, all that mattered was the bottom line in laughs. Now it appears the jig is up on the ad lib fun front, for now the aforesaid two bob Dropnik has to check his or her insurance and give the D.Z. a good clockiing in case a rep from Sue, Grabbit and Runn is hiding in the bushes, ready to scream blue murder in court with a glove puppet client if he sniffs the faintest aroma of earning a few bob, for few, read many bobs and squids. This is now the way of world, not only in fauna bombing. M'learned friends are on the make, anyway they can.

When bears really do go Bad,they go Bad bigtime.....



Three Motorists were killed and dozens injured by rock slides falling onto their vehicles on the road between the Russian resort cities of Adler and Krasnaya Polyana (gotta be a made up name) recently and people in the area are blaming Caucasian Bears (do me a favour)

The Bears (Honky or otherwise) are were alledged to have started the rockslide capers onto cattle which they were eating. but, having got bored with that they had graduated to rolling rocks onto vehicles and human beings. Vladimir Tkach a local hunter, said that the Bears were doing this just for entertainment. (this was originally in the Independent, and we lifted it from Fortean Times. its bunged in here for what its worth, but really it must be in the "yor 'aving a laugh" catagory) Of course, the other explanation is that its pissed off Russian Parafauna getting their own back on Russian Ambulance chasing Lawyers, whoops a daisy, On yer 'ead Ivan.

The popular Museum of Childhood at Bethnal Green in London is staging a "100 Years of the Teddy Bear" exhibition throughout the Year.....

Over 400 Celeb and not so well known bears are on display in the exhibition, which features Teds in Books, on T.V. and in music. One of the celeb Bears is Paddington, who famously washed up at yes you guessed it, with a luggage label around his neck, which is rather strange to say the least for the famous "Teddy Bear Hall of Fame" at Stratford upon Avon in a display which includes an original T.V. Sooty, Winnie the Pooh???, Rupert, Super Ted and Nookie Bear, is a Paddington who was, Yaderda, Yaderda, Yaderda. Hey! wot gives? Is this the same Paddington or what, is he commuting between two gigs or has the sticky pawed little barsteward, cracked being in two places at once via a marmalade powered time warp device. Wow, lets hope its that, gordon Bennett, wot scope for a giggle if we had something like that and used it vertically, cor, we could do some serious mindbending on Dripniks.



You dont need us to remind you furry sods out there that our favourite pastime is partaking the urine out of the Po-Faced Kilters, and our second favourite pastime is sticing it to our Dripniks, instant laffs guaranteed...

But at the risk of belabouring the point, overegging the pud, or simply boring the pants orf you rotten lot, it could be as well, to get your dropniks mind(do they have such a thing) around to having a discush with monsewer Swift on the subject of involuntary "CLENCH", you catch our drift. its either that or you feed your dropnik a diet of quick setting cement, as the ad used to say "You know it makes sense"

So there we was standing in a field..... when all of a sudden, HEE,HAWW,HEE HAW, its the boys blue with their size fifteens(Spike Milligan accent) Hexcyoose me sir'ave yew gotta license,M.O.T. and insurance to drop dem fings,cos we are the Euro Bill and yew may have to accompany us down the nick if yew aint got dem susstificates like. Ha, Haa they really are coming to take us away... far from thewest London Madhouse which is the Teddytorial at 48 Laurel Lane, West Drayton, Middx,UB7.7TY. in what will always be our England,no matter what the traitors have planned, a plague on them all.

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Jackite



Marguerite Stankus is the driving force behind "JACKITE". In 1988 she designed the incredible Jackite Osprey, this is the kite that launched her company & career. In 1996 she was asked to design a kite to fly at the summer olympics in Atlanta, She was given just eight weeks to design, develop, manufacture & deliver 275 kites. She did it & the Olympic Dove of Peace was born & flown at the opening ceremony.

Since then Jackite have gone from strength to strength with the addition of many more life like birds including the massive American Bald Eagle, Ducks, Geese & Sea Gulls to name just a few. With more to come these versatile kites fly as either in their own right or as windsocks from poles & are ideal as decoys also used in pest control. They are often used by bee keepers, marinas, farmers, gardeners, orchard owners & government agencies or just fly them for pleasure as they are so life like.



Our Website is updated to include the Jackites

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