

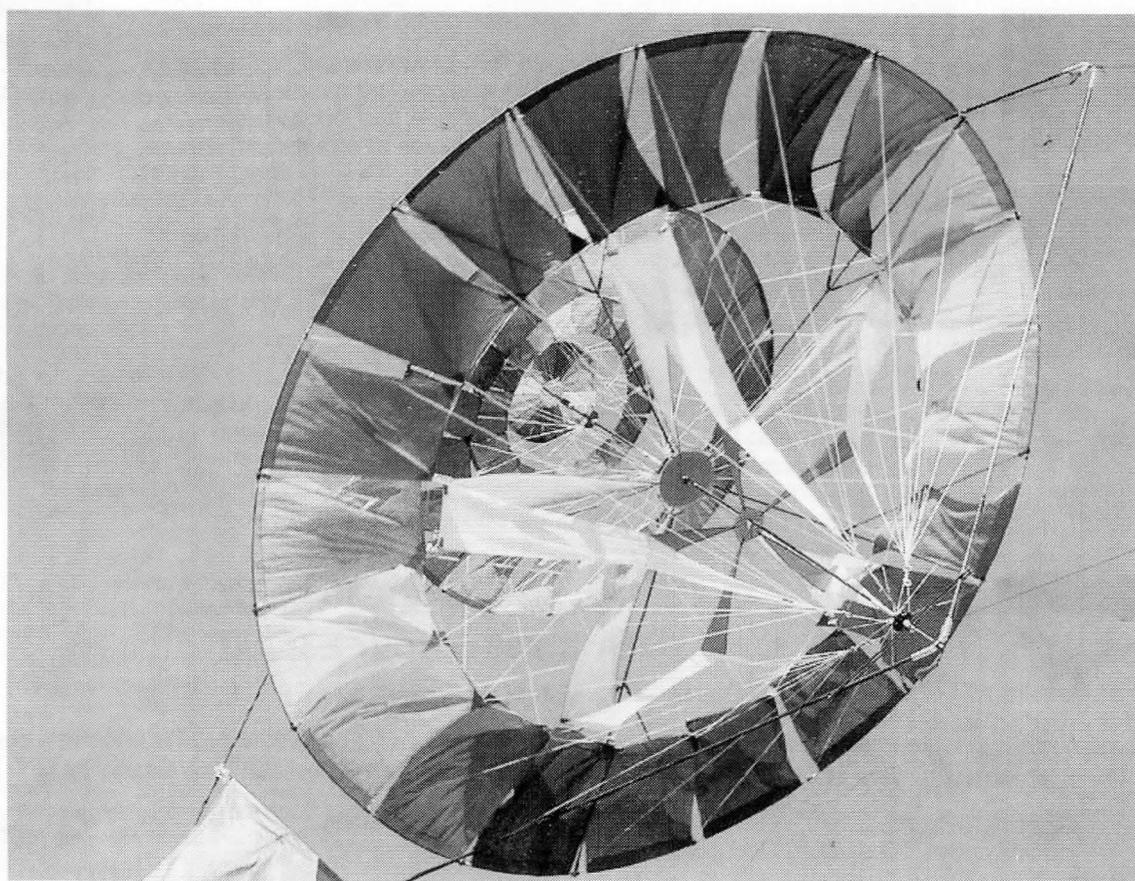
# THE KITEFLIER

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★ **25th Anniversary - 1979-2004** ★  
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**Issue 99**

**April 2004**

**Price £2.00**



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

# DUNSTABLE KITES

We have moved to  
The Kite Centre  
Unit 1 Barleyfields  
Sparrow Hall Farm  
Edlesborough  
Beds  
LU6 2ES

Tel: +44 (01525) 229 773  
Fax: +44 (01525) 229 774  
sales@dunstable-kites.co.uk

**benson**  
**airbow**

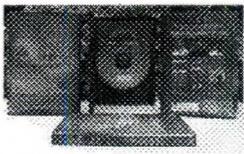


The Airbow is a revolutionary hybrid which combines the carving turns and trick capabilities of dual line kites with the precise handling and total control of quad line flying. The unique 3D shape is symmetrical both left-to-right and top-to-bottom, giving the kite equal stability in powered flight in all directions and unprecedented recoverability from slack line trick and freestyle flying. Switchgrips are also available (Airbow dedicated handles)



**Airbow Kite**  
**£190**

**Switchgrip handles**  
**£24**

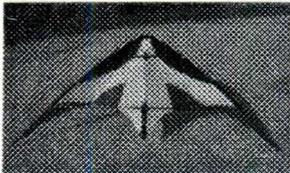


Flying Techniques is an instructional DVD presented by three of the UK's most respected sport kite flyers; Andy Wardley, Carl Robertshaw & James Robertshaw

The DVD is aimed at the kite flyer who wants to take their skills to the next level and is presented in a way that even a complete novice can follow.

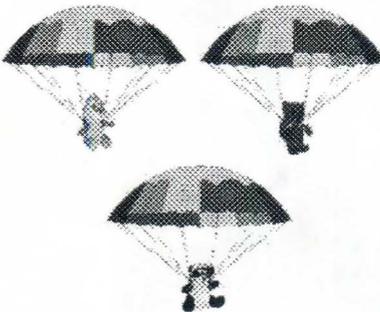
It also details the methods for creating flying routines and concentrates on the skills required to master four line and two line sports kites including the Airbow, Revolution, Gemini, Matrix and Dot Matrix. Flying Techniques lasts 93 minutes and there are 20 minutes of extras.

**Flying Techniques**  
**DVD**  
**£20**



The Peak is a new entry level trick kite from DIDAK. With its high aspect ratio and its anti tangle trick line arrangement makes it an ideal kite for the intermediate flier wishing to learn some of the more radical tricks, packaged complete with Dyneema lines and Wriststraps.

**PEAK**  
**£48.90**



Para Kites new for 2004, these four colourful characters actually do fly as a kite! Ideally suited to the stronger wind conditions these will find a place in most peoples kite bags. They are completely ready to go and just need the flying line attached to the bridle and unfold the chute and there ready to go!

**Para-Kites £9.30 each**  
**Or a set of four £35.00**



Colors In Motion present a brand new tail for 2004 with there Transistion Tail, At 24ft in length its ideal as a stabiliser for an erratic kite or for when the wind is very strong. the unique stripe will create an eyecatching display item.



**Transistion Tail £9.00**

## Kite people of the world!

Dont forget here at Dunstable Kites we still keep a huge range of fixtures and fittings of all shapes and sizes, we have even been known to find illusive or long lost parts!

Our Ripstop range always has a wide variety of colours including the standard 14 colours of Spiraglyde, but we dont just stop there we also have wind meters, books, line, handles and many more bits and pieces needed to make that new kite. So don't delay call us today!

## Windsocks and Windgames

Yes still popular as ever we have a huge collection of these items available so many that to list them all would need a Kiteflier magazine of its own to house them all. You can see most of these items at Kite festivals throughout the show season. We continue to update our website but with so many items its hard to keep up!

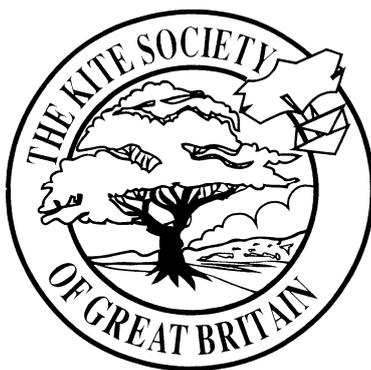
**Dont forget our new Phone Number is 01525 229 773.**

**See you on the Flying fields.**

## The Kiteflier, Issue 99

April 2004

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### Editorial

Dear Reader

Welcome to the 99th issue—only one more to go!

Usually in this issue we have the group and trade directories. With the prevalence of the web and the volatility of the information we have decided not to do this. A printed handbook will be available at the festivals but if you require one to be sent to you then please send us an A5 sized stamped addressed envelope with 21p for 2nd class postage.

For the 25th year we are producing some limited edition cloth badges—round this time. Together with a small number of baseball caps. See us at festi-

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

vals for these. Next issue we will have the price sorted out!

Finally—despite the popular belief, the Kite Society does not provided insurance for members. However, this may soon change as we are in negotiations at present with the provider and hope to have full details soon.

See you all on the field somewhere

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

### Private Ad.

**To Let:** I have a holiday apartment in Dieppe (sleeps up to 6) and it occurred to me that some of your members may be interested in accommodation for the Dieppe International Kite festival. It is on the Quai du Hable which is literally 100 metres from the beachfront at Dieppe. If anyone is interested in this they should contact Patrick O'Flaherty. Home 0208 664 8845 Mobile 07740 376863

**Correction.** In the last magazine (issue 98 page 15) the Geometric Sphere was incorrectly attributed. The correct author is Nicolas Wadsworth to whom we extend our apologies.

### Front Cover Photo.

The kite on the cover is called "Odyssee" and is built by Sonja Graichen one of the invited kitefliers to Weymouth this year.

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

## Letters

### From Ron Dell

Thank you all most sincerely for the Christmas greetings you sent me, they all helped me in my hour of need. Pat would be proud to know that you are all looking out for me in your own way. Sorry to anyone that I did not send a card to, I was thinking of you all.

We have contacted the hospital regarding the Pat fund that now stands at £6359. We are awaiting a reply as to what we can do with the money to assist them in their good work. I will keep you posted.

My best regards to you all, see you when the sun shines.

### From Raymond Ashby

Has anybody else tried this, or is it just me? The kite I've been working on for some time now is a seven foot wingspan dragonfly – scaled up from a Chinese bamboo and paper kite (you know the ones – hippies used to hang them on the wall as decoration) that I bought from the Covent Garden Kite store in the Seventies.

Part of my efforts in trying to get my scaled-up dragonfly to stabilise involved making a multi-drogue tail and it seemed important to get the drogue sections as accurate as possible – so I drew them out on computer with the idea of printing out a card template to run a pen around.

Then - BING !! an idea struck me. I cut my ripstop nylon into A4 sheets and fed them tentatively in to the computer printer - Sh\*t or bust time! Would the Epson Styluscolor 600 do the job or would the printer wreck itself? To my delight the design printed perfectly onto the ripstop, and hand-feeding the printer with one A4 sheet of Ripstop at a time soon resulted in a pile of half drogues with the cutting lines (blue) and stitching lines (red) accurately marked out. REEEEEESULT!!.. Any drawing programme can obviously be utilised – I've used the ancient ClarisWorks and more lately QuarkExpress with equal success on my G3 AppleMac. My A4 printer limits the size of design parts it can be used for, but A3 printers are becoming cheaper...

Also: I'd be interested to know what fliers-builders use to put their creative efforts together. Talking to a guy on Blackheath a while back, he said he'd made his own (absolutely beautiful) Rok on 'his mum's old Singer sewing machine' and the first kites I made were also sewn on old Singers. I've always found them awkward- with no 'reverse gear', and generally no instruction book to help set the thread tension etc. But I recently bought a Janome Memory Craft 3000 from Alders of Croydon, and this is a total joy. For example, reverse-gear locks the stitching at the touch of a button, 30 stitch patterns are available – again button-touch, and stitch width and pitch are easily adjustable via its LCD screen. It is also totally idiot (me!!) proof.

There are many other features that impress me on my beloved Janome 3000 but I'll stop wittering for

fear of people thinking I'm a limp wrist!. Checking out modern sewing machines (thanks to the lovely Joan at Alders' sewing machine centre..) is well worth doing and I'd be interested to know what other kitemakers are using and why! Yes I guess I'm talking sewing-machine road tests here! Ooops!

### From Jerry Swift

The next meeting to discuss the possible formation of the British Kite Flying Association will be at Holyhead School, Milestone Lane, Holyhead Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B21 0HN (thanks to the Headmaster, staff and Bill Souten) on Saturday 23rd May 2004.

The meeting will start at 10.30 with the working groups discussing their proposals. It is hoped that these can be published on the BKFA website in advance of the meeting. After lunch, we will start the main meeting at 2.00 pm. The meeting has only one thing to decide: are we going to set up BKFA as an unincorporated association.

The timing of this meeting is not ideal. We appreciate that it is close to the beginning of the season and few of us will be thinking about setting up associations around now: I suspect most of us are realising all those jobs we meant to do over the winter and just didn't get round to.... and then there is the DIY etc! But, if we are to maintain momentum that has built up, we feel it is necessary to press ahead.

The agenda is fairly straightforward. Each of the groups will report back on what they have found and how they see the way forward. We can then discuss the issues that have arisen and then put a simple motion to the vote.

This has to be decision time. We know some clubs feel that this is not for them. Others have taken a neutral stance, or have decided to wait and see. We need to decide, based on the reports the groups make, whether there is a case to press the green button. And if the enthusiasm isn't there from clubs throughout the UK then there will be little point in forming the association.

But based on much of the feedback received from individual kitefliers and some of the clubs, there is a recognition that a national association is required and would be beneficial so it is anticipated there will be a lively debate.

Please make every effort to join us in Birmingham. Your opinions really do matter and this is your chance to influence the future of kiteflying here in the UK.

Further details and directions from Jerry Swift, 01653 668157 or email Jerry56.Swift@btopenworld.com.

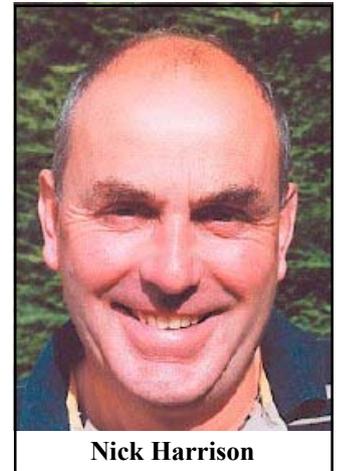
# The Brookite Company

## The Convoluted History of Brookite A 97-Year-Old English Kite Company

Through surprising turns of fate, the Brookite Company of Okehampton, Dartmoor, in far southwest England, appears to be the oldest continuously operated kite company in England, and probably Europe.

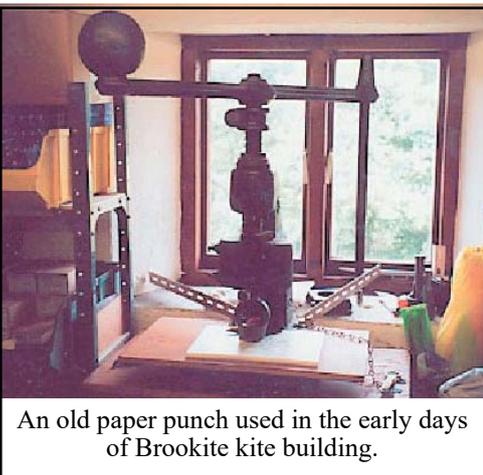
Brookite was registered as a business in 1906, although it may well have been running before then, by the brothers Tommy and Walter Brooke. Mad for kites at a time when aviation was all the rage in Europe, the Brooke brothers peddled their kites at English beaches from a motorcycle. One brother flew kites, the other sold.

The business flourished and Brookite records show photographs of a company kite being used by Marconi in one of his pioneering long distance voice transmissions, this one in 1910 from Newfoundland to the steamship *Princessa Mafalda* in Clifton, Ireland. Almost a century later, Brookite (the "e" was dropped early by the Brooke brothers) makes and sells the exact same kite— a winged, double-box Conyne. The shape is the same, the wooden spars the same. As a concession to the revolution in kite materials, the Brookite Marconi kite today is offered with ripstop nylon sails instead of cotton ones.



Nick Harrison

As a business, Brookite has a convoluted history - made difficult to document because a fire in 1938 gutted the company's London headquarters and forced it to move. Nick Harrison, owner of the firm with his wife Mandy, believes the Brooke brothers sold their firm sometime in the 1930s. By the late 1940s, Harrison's maternal grandfather Ernest Sewell was running it. Sewell was a master magician and branched out from performing to sell box games such as tiddlywinks and to renting out fun fair equipment. His operation shared quarters with Brookite, so he was able to learn all about kites.



An old paper punch used in the early days of Brookite kite building.

Although it suffered a serious reverse with the 1938 blaze, Brookite made a comeback during World War 11 as it created barrage and other kites for military use. After the war, it benefited from a new interest in recreational kites and increased personal incomes. The revolutionary new space age materials for kites - ripstop nylon, carbon fibre spars, virtually unbreakable flying line—made little initial impression on ultra conservative Brookite.

Noted British designer Martin Lester, who was then running an avant garde kite store in London, recalls: "Brookite in those days put out the archetypal British kite. It took a hurricane wind to fly. The Brookite kites in the 1960s had sails of porous cotton like

1. Brookite emphasizes quality and packaging. Here a kit permits the buyer to colour crayon his own design on the kite sails.



1

- 2 In addition to kites, Brookite sells a wide variety of other toys, including this handsome hobby horse.



2

- 3 Brookite's warehouse bulges with boxes of kites marked "Made in China."



3

## The Brookite Company



3 George Brooke, co-founder of the company shows off one of the firm's large kites.

cheesecloth, only heavier; the spars were half-inch spruce, and the sail was stapled to the frame. The kites were oversized. British memories of the kite are of running along the beach at Brighton, ploughing furrows as you ran to get them aloft. My shop never sold them. We wanted our customers to come back."

Nick Harrison says his father Peter took over the business in 1963 and started building it up and modernizing it. Nick himself worked for the firm part-time starting in 1969, but his heart was in sports and he worked at Lords, the legendary London cricket field, for the next seven years, before joining Brookite full time.

By this time, Englishman Peter Powell had marketed his delightful two-line stunter, easily flown in train, and put recreational kiting to the fore. A television interview of Powell had the Brookite phone line ringing off the hook the next day. "We had to get into two-string stunt kites," says Nick Harrison, "and we did."

Because of time wasted in commuting to work, the Harrisons decided to move out of London. The government was promoting the underdeveloped southwest part of the country and generously offering to pay company staff that would not move a redundancy settlement, so the Harrisons went scouting and found a sturdy old water mill in Okehampton, on the fringe of wild Dartmoor, near Exeter, and bought it.

Father Peter Harrison kept the business running in London while son Nick and wife Mandy adapted the stone mill as a kite factory. The move west was finally accomplished in 1980. Nick took over as production boss, Mandy ran sales. Although there were initial financial strains, within five years Brookite had increased its staff to 20 people and employed another 20 as "outworkers" creating kites in their homes. By this time Brookite had switched over to spinnaker nylon, or ripstop, and was making kites in 25 shapes and many sizes. At first, the firm made only basic two-line stunters, but now it produces a number of models. To keep up with the competition, the firm bit by bit added a range of two-line stunters and soft Parafoils as well as large, expensive arc "power kites" to its line.

1. A Brookite double box is used during experiments by Marconi on the ship *Principessa Mafalda* in 1910.

2. A page copied from an old Brookite catalogue shows the famous "Brookite" double box. The term "By Royal Letters Patent" was apparently used by the firm to give the impression the company had the King's blessing.



**The "Brookite" Kite.**

By Royal Letters Patent, No. 25493 06.  
A Kite for Sport, Scientific and Advertising Purposes, &c.

---

**Double Box Aeroplanes.**

---

**The "Brookite" Double Box Double Stretcher Aeroplanes**

No. 6	Area about 16 square feet.			10/6
" 7	" 28	"	"	15/-
" 8	" 60	"	"	25/-
" 9	" 70	"	"	30/-
" 10	" 85	"	"	42/-

For Sport, Aerial Photography, Signalling  
Life Saving at Sea, and Meteorological  
Purposes.

## The Brookite Company

Brookite made it a point to emphasize quality in its kites and concentrated on developing attractive packaging, and as a result the firm established a good reputation among retailers. "We sell a half million kites yearly, which is pretty small," says Nick Harrison. "But we're doing very nicely with kites and all the other toys we sell-----hobby horses, toy boats, bubble makers, wind spinners. With a variety of products, we've taken the risks out of the business."

Brookite very much goes its own way. "We don't go to kite festivals," says Nick, "our interest is business. We don't have to make an impression on the kite world."

Other than leaving London, Brookite made its most important business decision when it studied China as a place to manufacture its kites a decade ago. "When I got the first price quotation for China, I thought they got the decimal point in the wrong place," says Nick. That's how great the savings were-----an estimated 50 percent.

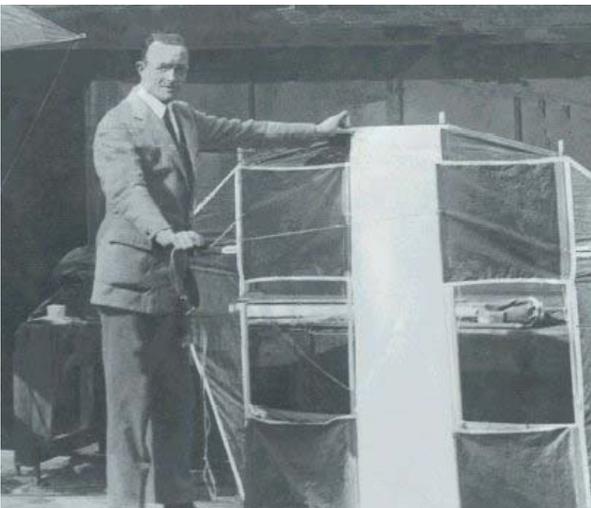
Brookite inevitably switched over and now has three-quarters of its kites made in a Chinese factory employing 400 people. "Our business is negligible there. If we asked them to make 100 speciality kites for us, they'd laugh in our face." Harrison is satisfied the quality is first rate. "We get pre-production samples. If they get it right the first time, they'll get it right every time."

Longevity as a business has inevitably provoked outside interest from kite fanciers, the Harrisons maintain an archive of clippings, and photographs they make available for study. They also have some old kites stashed away, but are hesitant to dig them out because of the work involved. The archive is a motley assortment dealing with Brookite in particular and kiting in general. Here and there are fascinating articles: a 1974 story of a kite bringing down a German helicopter when the 'copter caught the kite's string and a 1937 piece on Amelia Earhart testing kites she planned to take on her round the world flight to fly in case of an emergency. Old photos document the impeccably dressed Brooke brothers displaying and flying their kites.

With their business running smoothly and the remodeling of their handsome mill, house, out-buildings and gardens virtually completed, the Harrisons look to the future with optimism. Having a daughter and two sons, all in their 20s, they hope the business will become a third generation one. "I'm not saying this is our pension, something in the coffers to keep Mom and Dad in red wine in years to come, but I would like to see the business continue in the family," says Nick.

***This article reproduced from Drachen Foundation Journal Winter 2003-4 with permission.***

In another of the historic pre-World War II photographs from the Brookite archive. Thomas Brooke (left) shows off yet another large kite his firm was producing. The production line for making kites (right) was staffed mostly by women.



## Vintage Recollections

### Vintage recollections Oh Wow Man!!!! Raymond Ashby

I've been interested in kites since I were a lad but most of my early attempts to make my own kites were disappointingly unsuccessful. Things improved around 1975 when I bought a copy of Pelham from the Kite Store in Covent Garden. Starting off with what seemed one of the easier designs in the book I built a keeled diamond with a six-foot wingspan which flew reasonably well. Inspired by the amount of lift available in a good wind I decided to suspend a cine camera beneath it.

I borrowed a simple Super 8 camera, because it was the lightest, and set about sewing a harness to suspend it from the kite. This was easy because the camera was just a rectangular box, with viewfinder at one end, and lens and the 'go' button at the front.

Getting ever more ambitious I used the single – frame facility to make an animated title for the upcoming film. Shooting single-frame from the front-room window, and with two mates getting busy with chalks on a white wall on the other side of the road I soon had the makings of the title "Going Up" in the can.

Then it was off to Richmond Park. Where, with the camera locked "on", I did a long-line launch and hoisted the super 8 up to around 500ft. I timed three minutes—the duration of a standard Super 8 cartridge – and bought the camera down again confident that I now had a masterpiece on film.

It took a week or so for the film to be processed but when it came back I borrowed a projector and excitedly invited a few friends to view my masterwork. The title sequence was quite impressive and bought cheers from the chalkers involved, as "Going Up" appeared one letter at a time on the screen. But the flying sequence seemed a bit wrong and we couldn't work out quite why. There were the browns and the greens of the park interspersed with flashes of blue and white sky but.....?

Soon we realised that because the camera was so simple, and almost symmetrical, I'd managed to harness it upside-down!!! DOH! (or "Oh wow man..." as we used to say). We tried to invert the moving image using a variety of mirrors etc but to no avail. The only way to watch my 'masterpiece' was to run the title, then physically turn the projector on its head to view the flying sequence, which then made

sense. The aerial footage turned out to be quite impressive. The camera had taken in the park below with small flashes of a white-clad figure (me) on the bottom of the line, and sunlight glinting from a couple of car windscreens, before swinging up to reveal a surprisingly distant horizon, then fluffy cumulus clouds in a rich blue sky.

I've since tried to have the film transferred on-to video, but when I've asked whether it would be possible to have most of it inverted to make it viewable I've drawn a blank. (As in Blank Looks!!!) DOH!!.

### Kite Flying Recollections Barbara Cartwright

My recollections start during (I think) 1976/77 when I saw an ad in the 'Girl about Town' magazine in London for a kite flying weekend in Holland. Tony and I put ourselves down for this trip and at the meeting point met up with, Jon & Gill, Malcolm Goodman and quite a few other flyers who we are still in contact with after all these years. Holland was the first of many trips, quite a few organised by Jon & Gill over the years. Also they organised trips to Dieppe, which has changed and grown over the years.

In 1989, Tony and I went on our first USA trip (as members of the AKA) which we belonged to after a flyer wrote in to the Blackheath Kite Club from Washington DC and asked if they came over to the festival, could someone put them up. We did and have been friends with Jon Burkhardt ever since. Our trip to the USA - DC was mind blowing – we saw for the first time team flying to music. Tony had his cine camera with him and took lots of film. We then had at home in Tottenham (North London) a kite film evening with (I think) 45 flyers. We had flyers everywhere in the house, on the stairs, kitchen, dining room - we even had to take the door to the living room off so that people could see the screen from the stairs.

Over the years we have been to many festivals, a group of flyers went to the first ever festival in China, Jon & Gill, Malcolm Goodman & sister, Fred & Jane Waterhouse. My memory will live on with Jon & Gill and Tony and myself sharing a train journey to Jinan, and trying to turn off the Chinese propaganda in our sleeping carriage which Jon did eventually and we were very grateful to him. It was an amazing trip (again organised by J&G) we took about 10

## Vintage Recollections

rolls of film!! They still look amazing today, a trip of a lifetime.

On one of our AKA trips to USA, we went to Hawaii – brilliant – we arrived after flying for many hours (Heathrow/Baffin Island/Seattle then Ohaho) poor Tony only just arrived then had to take himself off to the flying site to compete in a competition! To say he flew in a straight line is the understatement of the year!! Malcolm & Jeanette also got married in Hawaii – again very good memories.

We had many a good time flying in the USA, Chicago, Oregon, DC, Hawaii and Wildwood - brings back many memories and long term friendships.

Tony's interest in kiting goes back even further when he used to fly kites with his father on Parliament Hill, London.

We also (along with J&G) flew kites at the Dickens Festival in Rochester (in all our finery) then also at Hyde Park where we were on tv!

We have over the years flown kites at many festivals, large and small. We've been very lucky to have met and known so many flyers over the years, many still in contact with and still fly with.

We've had all types of weather over the years – snow, rain, cold, hot, windy and no wind – still you end up chatting with people. I remember in Le Touquet during World Cup when the wind picked up so much that during the Blast fly – the girls being pulled so much they ended up flying sitting in the sand, that event even those watching had sand in every possible place – spitting sand for days after, even cars were covered and sand blasted down one side.

We love all festivals, one of our main trips over the years has been to Oostduinkerke in Belgium, a relatively small festival with a very big atmosphere, good food and excellent beer!!

Also, Bristol, Portsmouth, Weymouth, Tyne & Wear, Petworth, Basingstoke, Southampton (Netley – excellent camping stories), Bath, Weston super Mare, Anglesey, Aberystwyth, Bedford, Mullion, Biggleswade, Birmingham, Shrewsbury, Cleethorpes, Fylde, Glasgow, Brighton, Hackney to name but a few. The Blackheath Kite Festival (Easter & Summer) which was a flyers festival, when no wind then the remote cars were used!

Monmouth – which excellent for sweet drops (which normally ended up going over the town) and duck racing – happy memories (especially George's commentary – taking bets over how long it would take to mention sweet drops and dentists)!!

Festivals in Holland, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Japan, USA

Flyers who appear and then find other hobbies/lives! Whatever happened to Yogi, who organised the festival near Borehamwood for example – Patrick Bonneau, Peter Powell to name a few. I also remember Len Patten's daughter who was with us in Holland, the Welsh guy in Dieppe (*Guy Jones*) and a name I cannot remember who did the Mary Rose and the guy on horseback (sorry probably someone famous) by hand (*Ted Ladd*). Wonder what happened to him and his kites. The other guy also from Southampton area (*Bill Baulch*), who always travelled to Blackheath by train and had so many excellent kites (again cannot remember his name).

This year we flew kites in Jordan – for King Abdullah II's birthday. Hopefully this festival will be bi-annual (depending on what happens in the middle east)?

Over the years, Tony has flown in many teams: The Blitz, The Blast, Zen and now flies with Flying Squad – our adventures continue.

The Kiteflier also helped initially to get STACK off the ground and held the first York festival – had us running round like lunatics with the rokaku battle! Dave Clements/Tony Cartwright – Paul Jobin & Mike Ward first dual line competition in the UK

We have also lost many along the way – Greg Lock, Jack van Gilder, Mel Govig, Pat Dell, Doug Hagaman, Steve Edekin, the list is endless – gone but never forgotten – flying without strings!

*Whilst reading Barbara's recollections other names came to mind—Patrick O'Driscoll, John Spendlove, Dave Turner, Jack Spiers, Clive Rawlinson, Don Dunford, Viv Comma. The list is endless (almost). What/who do you remember? Let us know, maybe with a short recollection of the person.*

## INDRA—a fun fighter. By Roy Carline.

Material – Mylar  
 Spine - 1.5mm Carbon Fibre  
 Bow (56.5 cm) – 2mm Glass Fibre  
 Stretchers - 1.5mm Glass Fibre

All the vulnerable spots are reinforced with a light duty carpet tape

Suggested Bridle length:

Top Leg 29cm  
 Bottom Leg 30.5cm

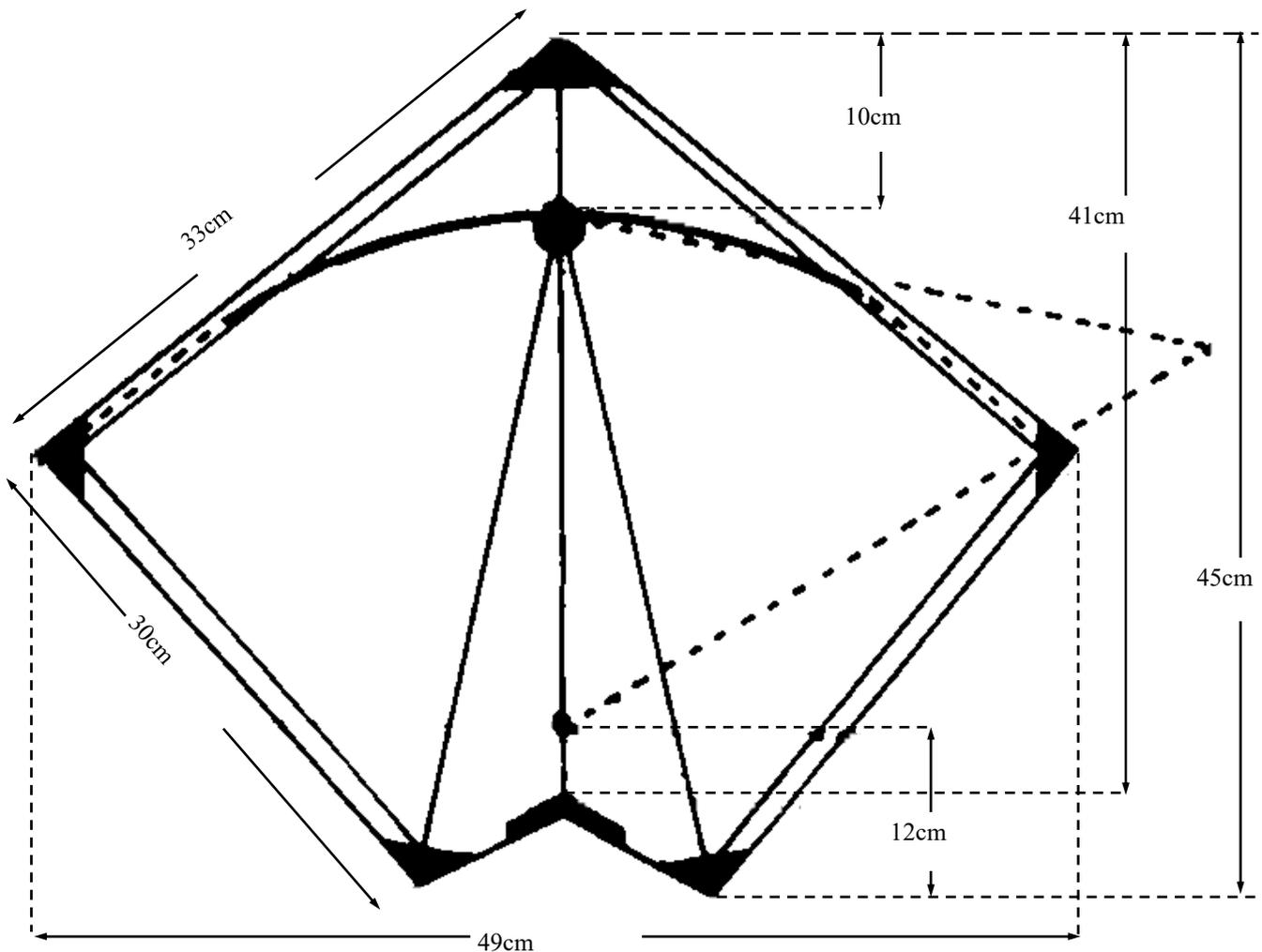
Although I make final adjustments on the flying field.

I've made mine from Mylar but I see no reason why other materials shouldn't be used.

I've nicknamed this kite the wind tamer because whenever the wind is too strong for all my other fighters I can always rely on this one (incidentally, Indra means wind god, well that's according to my Thesaurus).

I never cease to be amazed by this kite's performance. Just the merest tension on the line and it reacts. Vertical climbs-dives tracking spins, you name it, and if you need a rest just take it to the top of the wind window and it parks there

Happy flying



## More Box Kites—George Webster

### 1. Introduction

"The best thing about box kites is the crunch it makes when it hits the ground. It sounds like someone dropped a load of kindling in a parking lot".

*Stormy Weathers in American Kite, Fall '96*

The article on the 'Golden Age of Kites' (as it has come to be called) dealt with the box kites of Hargrave, Cody & Bell – of whom Hargrave is generally agreed as the major influence on box kites. But Section 4 in the article accepts that there are some box kite developments in the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century which are different enough from Hargrave's designs to be treated as 'new'. They were developed in a different climate from the 'Golden Age' e.g. the 'needs for kites' listed in that article had basically been satisfied in other ways and these kites were primarily recreational.

Of course there are those who argue that all box kites are descended from Hargrave – certainly a look at his designs (e.g. as shown in Hart p137/8/9 & Pelham p36 & 37) makes me wonder how many of the experiments using circles, tubes etc rather than straight edged boxes might be worth further development using modern materials e.g. carbon fibre, ripstop and Icarex.

Hargrave certainly got to fly kites where the lifting and stabilising surfaces were the cross or circle types shown in Diagram 1. None of these have produced designs much used today. There is J.W. Jordan's 'Make your own Kites' 1982, a very odd book indeed, which includes his patent (Diagram 2). More relevant is the easily available book by D. Michael 'Step-by-Step Making Kites' Kingfisher 2000 edition which has a Ringwing kite made from card and carbon fibre (and also Dracula's Cloak but more of that some other time).

The two key features of 'classic' Hargrave boxes are, firstly, cells which are given their shape by diagonal tracing and secondly the common use of identical cell shapes mounted one be-

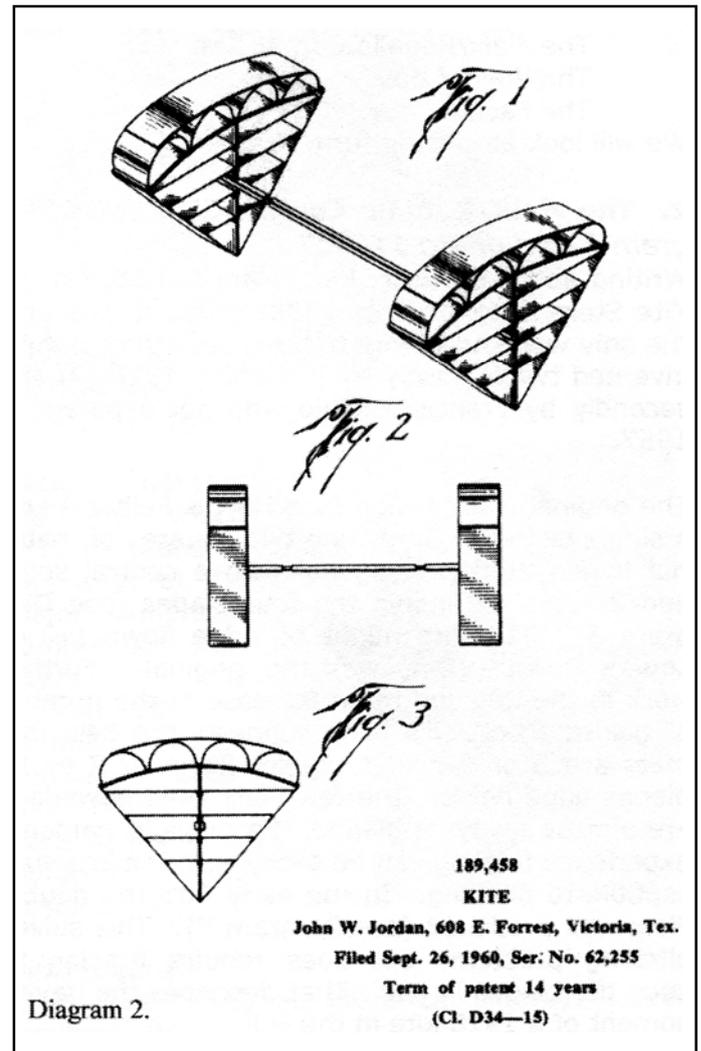


Diagram 2.

hind the other and connected by a single spar or system of spars. Lecornu's boxes followed Hargrave very quickly and were quite different. They were single celled using framing around the edge of the individual cells in addition to cross bracing. Lecornu developed a bridling system that allowed the kites to fly very upright and at a high angle.

A common feature of modern box kites is that they use perimeter framing. As we will see this means no piercing of the kite fabric – better aerodynamically and generally tidier.

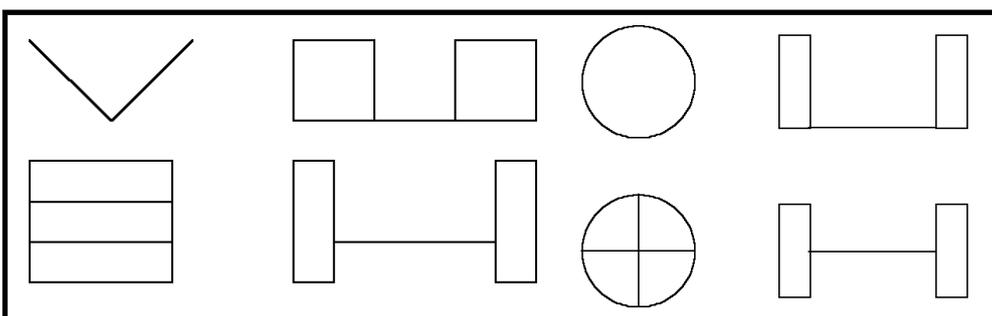


Diagram 1. Some experimental Hargrave types shown front and side elevation.

## More Box Kites—George Webster

The three major types of modern box are:

- The Flaix/Rogallo Corner Kite
- The Waldof Box
- The Facet.

We will look at each in turn.

### 2. The Flaix/Rogallo Corner Kite. (see Diagram 3 and photo 1)

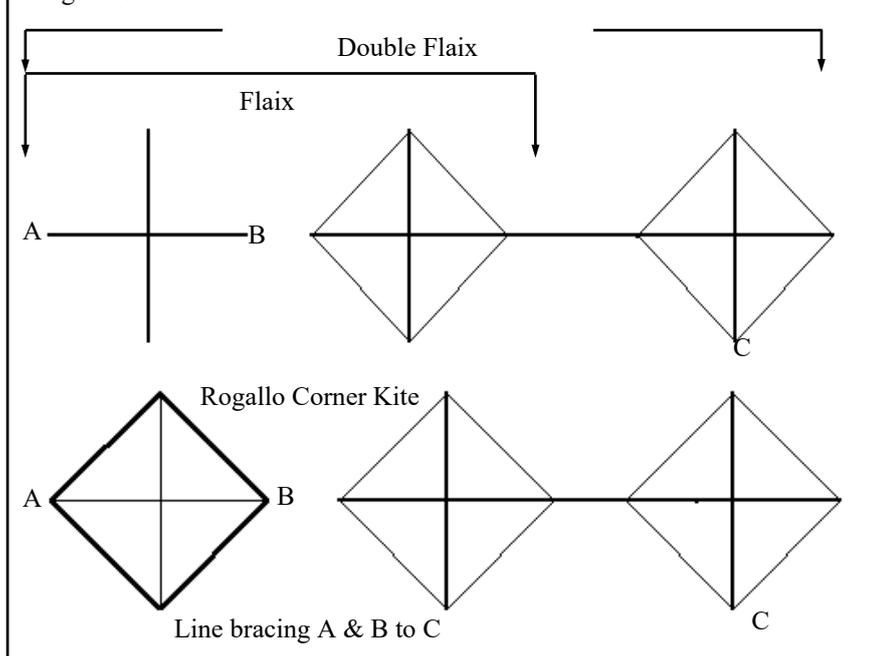
Writing about the Flaix Kite, Mark Cottrell (in the Kite Store Book of Kites 1988) called it 'probably the only well known kite to have been successfully invented twice', firstly by P. Flaix in 1910 (?) and secondly by Francis Rogallo who got a patent in 1957.

The original Flaix design (see Hart & Pelham) was a single cell kite comprising two squares of material joined at their diagonal with a central spine and 2 spars extending the four blades (see Diagram 3). The kite might be edge flown (+) or square flown (x) as was the original. Further work in the 80's led to an increase in the number of blades. Cottrell's book suggests the best formats are 5 or 9 blades square flown or 7 or 11 blades edge flown. The few Flaix seen nowadays are almost always 4 bladed. From slight personal experience bridling can be tricky with the kite susceptible to pitching. In the early 80's the double Flaix was produced (see Diagram 3). This solves pitching problems but does require bracing to keep the blades in line. That describes the development of a 1910 kite in the U.K.

There is a brief account of Francis Rogallo's invention of the Corner Kite in American Kite, Fall '88. From this it is apparent that neither he nor the writer knew of the Flaix. The US Navy in the 1950's was looking for a radar reflector, imagining an angular metal object a few hundred feet up – but how to keep it there when the ship is moving? Rogallo's solution was the aluminised Mylar Corner Kite. I don't know whether the US Navy ever used it but for several years a version for kite fliers was marketed in Kites Lines magazine.

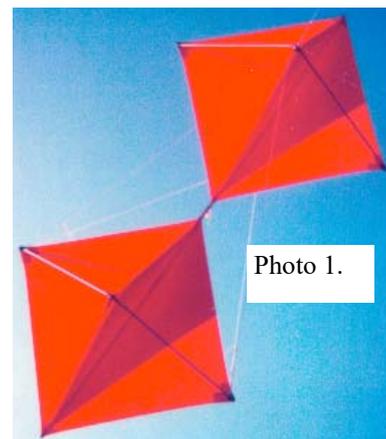
For me the most important feature of the Corner Kite (see photo 1) is its construction – it was to my knowledge the first kite to use spars under compression around the perimeter of the points of the blades rather than cross-spars. My Rogallo Corner Kite used thick denim for its pockets. These gripped the spars sufficiently to hold them while you completed inserting the 4 spars around each cell. Kites using perimeter spars are notoriously difficult to erect single handedly. More significantly, the spars must be strong and rigid enough for the last one to be forced in under considerable pressure otherwise the kite will flap or distort too much when flying. Stretched cell edges are another problem. However, the great advantages of this system are that an odd number of blades can be in the design and, more importantly, that the blade surfaces are clean, as they don't have to be pierced by crossing spars. All this and a weight saving. This opened the way to the Facet Kite; but first.....

Diagram 3. The Flaix and Corner Kites. Shown front and side elevations.



### 3. The Professor Waldof Box Kite

In the period roughly late 70's – mid 80's Peter Waldron developed several innovative box designs but this was easily his most influential design (see photo 2). The kite was twice as wide as long and had a



More Box Kites—George Webster



unique 'look' with its six points and internal cells (Bell influenced). However it was about the last cellular box that used cross spars, in this case joined at a machined nylon block central fitting. It has recently been revived

and one or two originals can be seen – but I haven't spotted the triple celled version or the 6 in a cluster variant for years.

4. The Facet Kite

At about the same time Stephen Robinson developed the Facet Kite. He is the least known of British kite inventors with his contribution recognised in Kite Lines Winter 79/80. This design exploited the property of perimeter spars to allow a large number of points (6 or 8) which could then be developed with a honeycomb effect or more famously the 'Snowflake', although in the original version the kite was square. Many variations have been produced (photo 3). Some (photo 4) have similarities to Lecornu (acknowledged as an influence by Robinson); others, such as Peter Malinowski's honeycomb stars had a very high aspect ratio and used his radial spars. I suspect this was because the pressure required on perimeter spars could cause the kite to twist. The minute shrinking of ripstop in warm dry conditions can cause such kites to twist (eg Photo 4).

5. Conclusion

The new-box kites mentioned in sections 2,3 and 4 had influences into the early 90's which interacted with each other. One example was Kathy Goodwind who seemed to be influenced by the Waldof Box and the Facet to produce the Asteroid and Starflake (see Photo 5) Single celled and using cross spars the kites would 'tumble'. The technique was to let line out faster than the downwind drifting speed of the kite which would then rotate so as to wrap the line loosely around itself. Pull in the line and it would unwind and climb, a popular feature for a while in the 80's.

These three modern box kites don't seem to have caused further box kite development over the last 10 years. Older designs have made a



Photo 3.

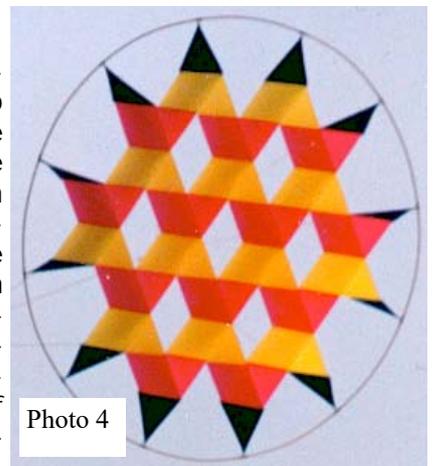


Photo 4

'come-back', notably the Cody – which is to be found in the range of the major American commercial suppliers. The 'Cotton Club' in Europe produces faithfully accurate representations of the early Hargrave based designs.

Bibliography.

- Clive Hart, Kites an Historical Survey. 1967 (revised 1983).
- D Pelham, The Penguin Book of Kites 1976.
- W Hosking, Kites to Color the Wind 2000.
- Plans of a Robinson Snowflake.



Photo 5

## Bits & Pieces

### From the Press

#### Anti-kite flying protest tomorrow.

LAHORE: The Anti-Kite Flying Democratic Front (AKFDF) has decided to protest kite-flying tomorrow (Friday) in front of Lahore Press Club, AKFDF Chairman Khawaja Izhar Amratsari said in a press release issued on Wednesday.

Mr Amratsari said several social organisations like Anjuman-e-Shehrian, Women's Anti-Kite Flying Association, Anjuman-e-Mutasareen Patangbazi, Anjuman Zindadilan-e-Lahore and members of some non-government organisations would take part in the demonstrations. — Staff Report.

**The Daily Press, Pakistan**

*(Shades of Monty Python!)*

#### Kite fliers near airport under fire

Flying a kite near the Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Tangerang regency could one day get you in big trouble: up to three months in jail or a maximum fine of Rp 5 million (US\$588).

Responding to complaints from airport operator PT Angkasa Pura II over the residents' pastime, the Tangerang administration has submitted a draft bylaw banning kite-flying near the airport. PT Angkasa Pura II officials say a number of airlines have complained that kites could be sucked into jet engines, posing a risk to the safety of flights.

Under the proposed bylaw, it would be illegal to fly a kite within a radius of 18 kilometers of the airport and at a height of between 100 feet and 300 feet.

Tangerang Mayor Wahidin Halim said deliberation of the draft bylaw had begun. "Upon passage of the bylaw, people will no longer be able to fly kites in the vicinity of the international airport," the mayor was quoted by *Antara* news agency as saying.

The mayor is convinced the bylaw would effectively put a stop to kite-flying near the airport. — *JP*

**The Jakarta Post**

#### Sail Duo in Kite Power Bid Record

A couple of sailors from the Isle of Wight are in the final stages of preparation for the Kite Boat Challenge. Jeremy Waitt (30) and Chris Burk (21) who live and work on the Isle of Wight are attempting to circumnavigate the Island on a 16ft kite-powered catamaran. They are scheduled to start from Yaverland Bay at 0930 on 20

March, rounding anti-clockwise with the tide, and aim to complete the task in less than five hours averaging a speed of 12 knots (approximately 17 mph). The kite-powered craft has been built and designed by the team, who have pieced together a conventional 16ft catamaran hull and a kitesurfing water re-launchable kite to create a craft that deals with the eventualities of sailing.

If the winds are light the pair will use a 25m kite with a wing span of a light aircraft. In stronger winds the kite can be de-powered. The Round the Island challenge is part of a bigger project to Kiteboat across the Atlantic, a task which Jeremy believes can be achieved. Jeremy said: "It's not so much whether it can be done, of that there is no doubt - it's how fast it can be done and who does it first that will be interesting to see."

Jeremy believes a kite powered catamaran could achieve more consistent average speeds than a conventional sailing craft therefore beating the current record set by PlayStation II in 2001 of 4.5 days. Commenting after sea trials in the Solent, Jeremy said: "The advantage of a lifting power source seems to make a considerable difference." In their search for ongoing support and sponsorship for the Atlantic Challenge Jeremy will be sailing his kite powered craft from Land's End to Dover in the autumn.

**Isle of Wight County Press**

**Press Release**

#### ***Fury is our new ultimate sport kite!***

This mail from Carl Robertshaw Kite Related Design brings you up to the minute news of our new kite The FURY.

You will also find some useful links at the bottom of this email to some early reviews of the Fury in action at Blackheath, London. On our own website [www.kitestudio.com](http://www.kitestudio.com) you can find out all the technical specifications along with the colour schemes.

- The Fury from Carl Robertshaw Kite Related Design has these great features: New Leading Edge cut outs meaning no line snags on the fittings.
- The adjustable Trailing Edge allows the kite to change from a noisy slow kite to a fast silent kite with one simple slip knot.
- The YoYo line allows you to do all those YoYo tricks better without the need for those obtrusive stoppers!

The FURY has it all!

The Fury will be available from April 2004. AI-

## Bits &amp; Pieces

ready we have received great interest and are taking pre-release orders.

There are two versions available directly from [www.kitestudio.com](http://www.kitestudio.com) and all the best kite stores!

The Skyshark version is £185.00. The Aerostuff version is with its superior frame and custom built sail is £485.00.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Carl.

[www.aeolian.co.uk/kites/kites04/bheath.html](http://www.aeolian.co.uk/kites/kites04/bheath.html)  
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## Book Review

### The Kite Making Handbook

By Rossella Guerra and Guiseppa Ferenga. Published 25<sup>th</sup> March 2004 ISBN 07153185512 Publishers David and Charles, Paperback £12.99 144 pages and 400 colour illustrations.

As you can perhaps guess from the authors names, this was originally published in Italian in 2002.

Unfortunately whoever did the translation for this book was most definitely not a kiteflier and so the book is full on interesting mistranslations like towing line for flying line, tapering cones for drogues and perhaps the best - wingspan traverse for a wing spreader.

Translation quirks aside what else has the book to offer? Well there is the usual potted history (with some unusual facts for example - American schoolteacher George Pocock! Travelled through the ENGLISH country side by means of a char volant, (when Pocock is one of the most important English kitefliers in Kite history). We then have the glossary and types of kites, accessories and materials, bridles knots and construction techniques, all fairly standard and quite clear apart from the unusual translations.

For the kite designs there are: a simple paper kites (2), basic diamond and eddy, delta, square and sled kite, then a basic Rokkaku kite, cube kite, conyne and facet kite, some guide lines on how to make a centipede and a variation of a delta kite in the shape of a seagull.

Really nothing new and all have been covered in other books in the last few years. About the only thing that is different is that the pictures are mainly taken in Italy.

It then goes onto perhaps the most interesting kite design. Some of you may remember an Italian called Medio Calderoni whose kites featured in Kitelines magazine a few years back. He specialises in art kites but he is most famous for his flying sailing ships, made from various local materials such as river reeds. The book says they are quite difficult to build, but the diagrams illustrate well the main steps involved.

The book has a basic fighter kite design and goes onto stunt kites with a Peter Powell design followed by the how and where to fly, how to make a simple windsock, hoe to make musical kites with hummers and kite lanterns, messengers and parachutes round off the book.

So to sum up – not a bad book for a beginner but not much to attract the more advance kite-maker. Lots of good illustrations and colour photos, but the poor translation lets it down often making the instructions hard to follow and for some interesting reading - towline for flying line did get very annoying by the end of the book!

## Review by Gill Bloom

### Charity Kite Surf From the Flexifoil Website.

Flexifoil rider Andreyia is leading an attempt by the world's top ten women kitesurfers to make the first kitesurf crossing from the Isles of Scilly to the Extreme Academy at Watergate Bay, Cornwall.

Dreya hopes the 70 mile crossing, which is planned for May 2004, will raise over £10,000 for charity and make the Guinness Book of Records for the largest kitesurf crossing.

Individual crossings have been successfully made across the Irish Sea and English Channel, but this attempt is a double-first in terms of both the route and the number of riders taking part. Joining Dreya, who is ranked ninth in the world, will be current world champion Cindy Mosey (New Zealand), world no.2 Ingrid Kollbichler (Austria) and world no.3 and Flexifoil teammate Petra Goeschl (Germany/Holland), along with six others.

"This route has never been done before and coming in at Watergate Bay was the obvious choice - it's where I learned to Kitesurf and it's home to me," said an enthusiastic Dreya. "I was also the first person to kitesurf in the Scillies so

**Bits & Pieces**

this crossing is a natural link between the two."

The crossing will benefit two charities - the Silke Gorldt Foundation and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (R.N.L.I.). The Silke Gorldt Foundation is an international charity set up in memory of German Silke Gorldt, who died in a kitesurfing accident in June 2002 when she was ranked second in the world. The Foundation runs camps educating children about how to kitesurf safely, as well as providing financial help for people who have suffered injuries kitesurfing.

"I was talking to friends about how it would be nice to do something to remember Silke by, and to enjoy the sport that she loved," said Dreya. "Everyone taking part knew Silke, and I thought it would be really nice to get all the girls together and do something that Silke would have been proud to do. What would be more fantastic than kiting up the coast with 10 of her friends? The whole idea stems from Silke's huge sense of adventure - she would have loved this."

Dreya is now looking for sponsors to help finance the £10,000 attempt. Funding is needed

for safety boats to accompany the riders on the crossing, travel from the mainland to the Isles of Scilly, and accommodation on the islands for the days preceding the crossing attempt.

For more information contact Andrey Wharry on dreya@watergatebay.co.uk or Liz Long at The Extreme Academy liz@watergatebay.co.uk



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*"Please note" - Visitors are most welcome. please ring before visiting.*

## The Eyeclops Workshop

We arrived at the Village Hall at 8.30am and began setting up the tables, ready for the days Eyeclops Kite Workshop. Others began to arrive and leant a hand. By 9.15am, we had our full quota of 15 students (14 men, 1 woman!) armed with sewing machine and enthusiasm!

Roy explained the order of the days proceedings, with the help of a pre-made Eyeclops for all to refer to. This turned out to be a good idea, as although a set of instructions were included, well, men don't read them, do they! Most had reached the stage of having done most of the sewing by lunchtime, so all adjourned to the Jolly Farmer at 12 noon.

They had all chosen their food earlier, and Rick and Gill had it all ready for us when we arrived (and virtually filled the pub). After eating, people were keen to get back to work, so we were back on the case by 12.45pm.

Most people did their own design for the centre parts of the kite, so soon there were some interesting designs beginning to appear. Some of the students hadn't even used a sewing machine before, but they stuck at it and ended up with a finished kite ready to fly.

We had a group photo at the end, an impressive collection. We got the impression that they had learnt something and enjoyed it at the same time. We certainly enjoyed it from a teaching aspect, and look forward to doing it all again.

Roy Broadley

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## Exceptional Kites—George Webster

### 1 Introduction

We are now near the end of the articles that I hope will form chapters in a book. My approach has been to classify kites by type (e.g. Deltas, bird kites) and not by country of origin. It always seemed inevitable that there would be designs which are currently being flown but which don't fit the classification – I've called them exceptional.

There are, of course, some good kite types which have been omitted because they are really very similar to an included kite or because I just don't know about them.

There are some intriguing new designs from the Sauer sisters in Germany.....

Perhaps I should have something on miniature kites and paper kites.....

Anyway at the moment there are three exceptional kite types

The Chinese Dragon Section 2

The Rotating Kites Section 3

The Circoflex Section 4

### 2 The Chinese Dragon

Called Centipede kites in earlier books and more usually called 'dragon-head centipede kites' in China, nothing is more spectacular than a big one flying well (see photo below). Typically there is a 3D dragons head, either bamboo framed with a paper/silk cover or carved polystyrene (or a mix). Functions vary but include rolling eyes, whiskers, flowing beards, smoke/fire breathing and impressive horns.

The body of the kite is a series of discs, each sized 18"-36" with an overall length... I've seen 150 cells but I've seen an illustration of one 350m long, probably with 500 cells. Discs are framed with bamboo, each disc has a pair of balancers, which may be a single horizontal spar with an overall length of the disc's diameter x 4. The tip of each balancer comprises tassels or feathers which provide stability and which can be trimmed to balance the individual disc. Balancers are set below the mid point of the disc. Various systems of connecting the discs are in use; often three lines are used, the centre taking the considerable pull of a long dragon with two lighter lines to hold the discs parallel. The best source of data is Ha and Ha.

Dragon, or centipede, kites are really a train of disc kites supporting the spectacular head. As such they are the most dramatic example of a train seen in the West. You will sometimes see lions and tigers made up of 5-7 cells, stabilised by floppy feet. I have seen an illustration of a Great Wall of China kite, 100+m long, with each cell representing a part of the Wall; also a train of asymmetrical mythical figures. There is a V formation of flying geese with one at the point and four in each line behind. A kite which has just arrived in the U.K. is 'Two dragons and a pearl' The sequence from the ground up is: tail of the dragon, body, head, pearl, head of second dragon, body tail. There is also a double dragon – 2 heads and side-by-side cells. Of course the Chinese produce miniature dragons, a bijou version about 6ft long seems to fly very well.



## Exceptional Kites—George Webster



Although kite books from Pelham onwards have included plans very few are made. By far the most spectacular western versions are those designed and made by Iqbal Hussain in Switzerland. Humorous kites are unusual, dramatic and well crafted ones more so. I like the crocodile head with each cell a handbag and the chicken (which sometimes lays eggs) with cells of frying pans with 2 or 3 eggs. There is also the cow's head with cells depicting burgers, packets of fries and, of course, sauces. The latest illustrates the Pied Piper of Hamelin story with the Piper, limping boy and pairs of rats.

Difficult to fly – remember you are launching a train and not a kite with a tail – fragile and hard pulling in the larger versions; but nothing else gets such an aah! Or spontaneous applause from a crowd.

### 3 – Rotating Kites

**3.1** There are three distinct types of rotating kites, in addition to several kites that have a rotating propeller/sail incorporated in the design. Of the latter type most common are windmills, which may have flat or 3D bodies. In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century at least one kite (see Bio in Pelham p 30) had a propeller fixed to the bottom edge at right angles to the axis of the kite (unlike the windmill where the sails are parallel to the axis) that was designed to help stability. Stability control would come from the faster

rotation as wind speed increased. I don't know whether it worked and what would be the effect of a single propeller spinning in one direction; contra-rotation seems the thing to aim for.

The three types of kite where the whole thing, or at least the parts providing lift, rotate are: -

The Rotary Wing (3.2)

Kites rotating around an axis in line with the wind (3.3)

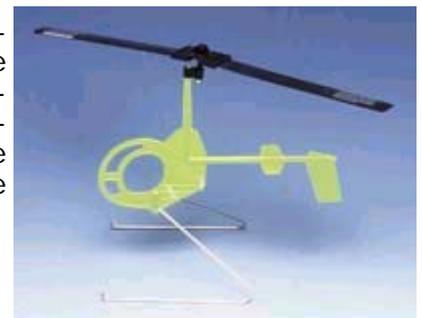
Rotor kites (3.4)

### 3.2 Rotating Wing Kites

Whereas aeroplanes have fixed wings, helicopters have rotating wings. In a fixed wing the body is pulled through the air by an engine and the airflow over the wing provides lift. With a helicopter the engine driven rotary wing provides lift and forward movement - hence the distinctive forward dip of a helicopter in fast and level flight. Kites of course use the wind not engines and those that obtain their lift from spinning rotors are akin to the autogyro. Not seen nowadays these were propeller driven aircraft with a rotor not fixed wing developed in the 1920's and 30's.

In the Second World War German U-Boats experimented with a man-carrying rotary winged kite which was kept aloft by the boat's speed. The Bachstelze or Wagtail flew 300m high and improved spotting. But problems with quick retrieval led to only 200 being made.

Commercial rotating wing kites are produced, invariably helicopter-shaped but I've only once seen one flying well.



### 3.3 Kites rotating around an axis in line with the wind

Box kites can be made to rotate either by having stub wings angled to give the propeller effect or by having the whole frame twisted to provide rotation. The most successful commercial version is the Windy Kites Clarkes Revolver. Nicholas Wadsworth has produced several good designs (see next page), sometimes flying two counter-rotating off the same line. I have seen bigger German arrange-



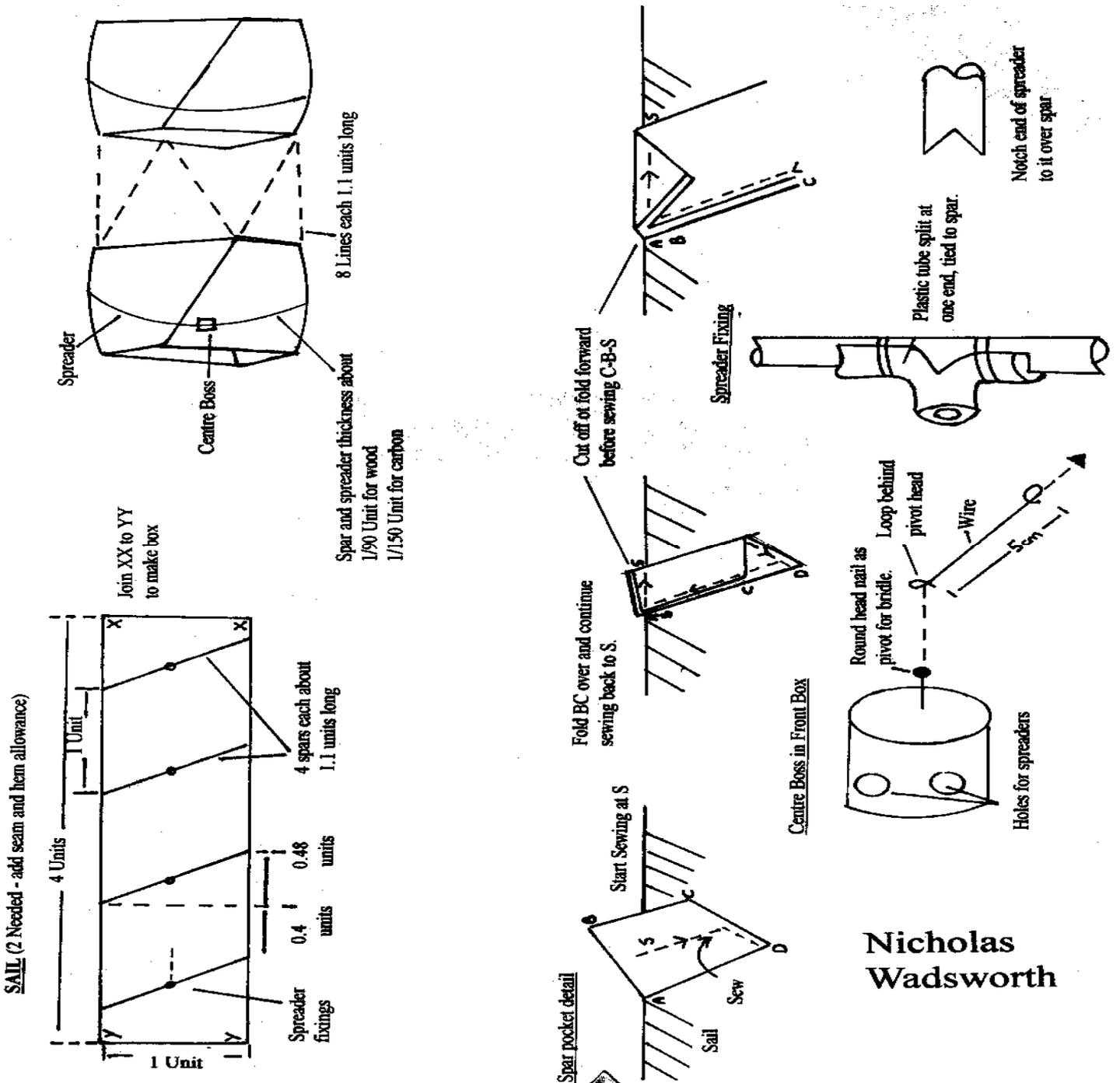
# Issue 57—October 1993. The Wadsworth Spinner

This kite is almost as simple to make as a normal box kite but it spins rapidly in the wind. It works well made of plastic sheet, green garden canes and sticky tape or of ripstop and Ramin dowel. No doubt you could use carbon fibre.

The two sails are each 1 unit by 4 units. A 30-40cm unit is quite suitable. Four spars are fixed at an angle as shown. The spreaders are attached to the spars 0.4 of the way back from the leading edge of the box. In the rear box the two spreaders run right across the diagonals of the box. In the front box there are four half length spreaders which fit into a central boss. I made the boss from a short length of wooden broom handle.

In each case as the last spreader is sprung in the box springs into shape with the spars bent and the box faces curved. (There are also some wrinkles). The length of the spreaders should be adjusted so that when in place they are slightly bowed, keeping the sail taut. Start with the spreaders 1.45 units long and shorten carefully. In the front box the spreaders should bow forward so the bridle point is not more than 0.3 units behind the leading edge.

When complete join the two boxes by 6 lines in a zig-zag from corner to corner. The kite is flown from a pivot on the central boss in the front cell. To prevent the line twisting it is tied to a stiff wire looped behind the head of the pivot..



Nicholas Wadsworth

## Exceptional Kites—George Webster

ments of counter rotating boxes flown in frames. John Eaton has produced a superb dramatically coloured box (photo 4).

### 3.4 Rotor Kites

The simplest rotor kite is a vane free to rotate at right-angles to the wind (diagram 1). The idea goes back at least to an American patent by J. Donaldson in 1948 and every few years since then it seems a 'new' rotor kite has been marketed – including about 10 years ago a double rotor where the kite had an aeroplane fuselage with rotors at a dihedral replacing fixed wings. To the best of my knowledge, and unlike other kites in this section, rotor kites exist in their own right and are not a scaled down or wind-driven version of anything else.



4 John Eaton Spinning Box

In the U.K. undoubtedly the most common rotor which has been marketed over more than 20 years is the UFO Sam kite, patented by the late Ken Sams. Great fun and mysterious for those who don't understand how they fly, they tend to suffer from two common problems with ro-

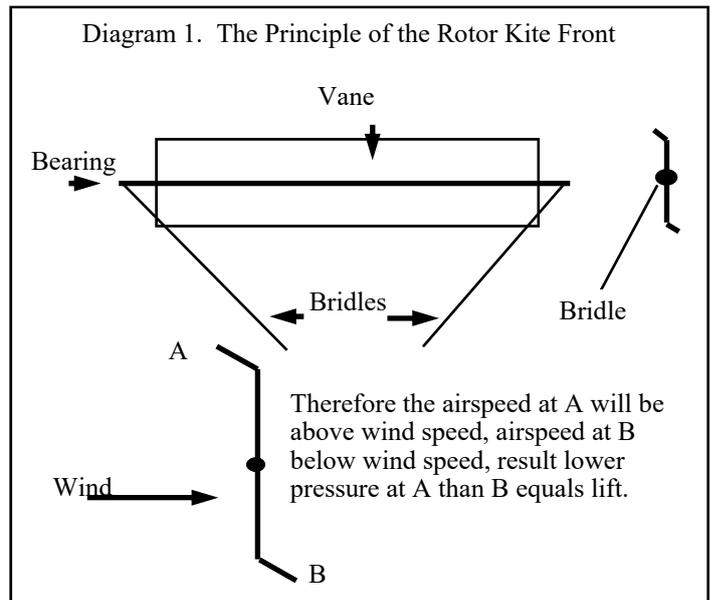
tors:

- fragility
- the difficulty of providing a cheap light axle and bearing which can cope with rapid revolution

Sams wrote an interesting book 'Flying Toys' (Sally Milner Publishing 1991) with instructions for a variety of 'UFO Gliders'.

There isn't really a mystery of how they fly (diagram 1). The basic theory of lift states that as air flows over an aerofoil it takes longer to flow over the top surface compared to the airspeed on the underside. Increased speed means reduced pressure and the pressure difference results in lifts. In the case of a rotating wing designed to rotate as shown in the diagram, the speed at A will be higher than the airspeed at B and therefore we have lift.

I don't know of a 'hand crafted' rotor kite now although there was a Dutch model about 15



years ago.

### 3.5 The Circoflex

Tubular lantern kites are a traditional Chinese design that flies bridled from a point on the leading edge. Newman and Newman have a plan (p 98) and an illustration of an American battery of 8 on a frame. Far more frequently seen are cylindrical drogues with a stiffened leading edge and a 3 or 4 point bridle.

The kite developed by Ton Oostveen & Helmut Schiefer in 1996 marked such a break from those designs that it is by general consent a new design of kite. If you were determined to look for an ancestor it would be Le Cornu because of the bridle/flying angle arrangements.

According to an article in American Kite (Summer '97), the kite stemmed from a problem Oostveen had had in 1993 flying a 9' rok supporting a 21' windsock (with a message on the hazards of drunken driving). He started to develop a better bridling system for the windsock that led to an ability to fly independently. He could also shorten the resulting tubular kite from 24' circumference and 14' long – ultimately to 7.5m circumference and 50 cm long. There was rapid development during the summer of '96; the kite was then taken to the Dieppe Kite Festival and was clearly the outstanding kite of the show. The design was registered in 1996 but the inventors have made the construction and dimensions generally available (see diagram 2). Details can be found in Moulton & Lloyd '97 and Kite Passion No 3 March '97.

Presumably because there is a restrictive pa-

## Exceptional Kites—George Webster

tent I've not yet seen commercially produced Circoflexes but they do appear at kite festivals in various sizes and proportions. For me they are at their most dramatic in Silver and Gold where often the bridles can't easily be seen and they are startling and mysterious. However I remember a green ripstop Circoflex on Saturday evening at Portsmouth 2002. All the other kites were down except this one high above the funfair area. Not many looked up but those that did might well have wondered about the upright green ring steady in the sky

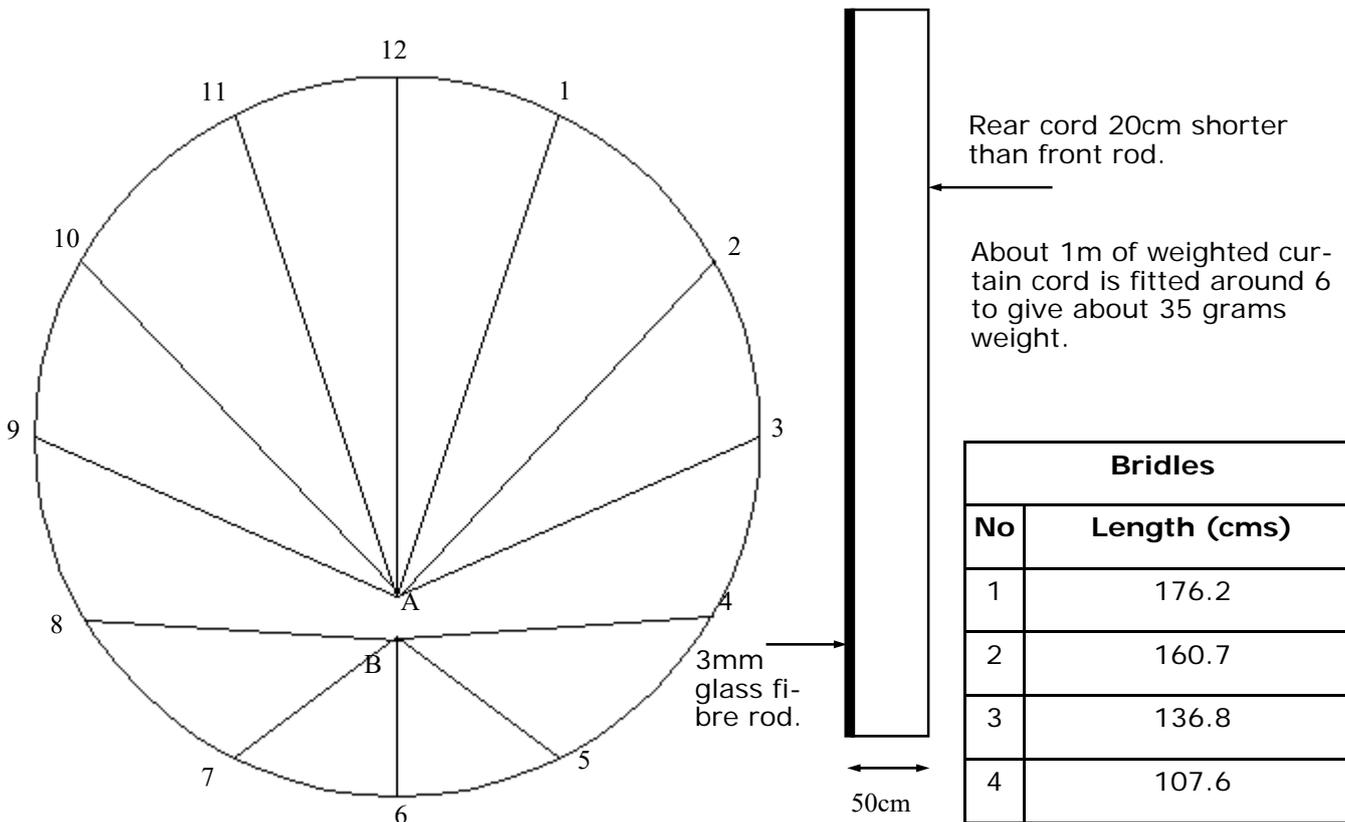
### Bibliography.

Ha Kui Ming & Ha Yigi "Chinese Artistic Kites" 1990  
 L S Newman & J H Newman "Kite Craft 1974 (reprinted 1998).  
 R Moulton & Pat Lloyd "Kites", second edition 1997.

Thanks to Carolyn Swift who read my writing and Jon who reworked the diagrams. Dragon kite photos courtesy of Malcolm Goodman.

**Diagram 2. The Circoflex Kite '750'.**

750 is the circumference. Not to scale.



The twelve bridles are attached at the 'hour' points 1– 12. Not shown is the bridle point which is on a short line connecting the upper and lower sets (A to B) so as to keep all 12 taut at a point 25% of the diameter. This should be 30cm in front of the face. The bridles are attached to loops to spread load.

The slightly pulled in rear edge is vital. The kite will fly at about 5° from vertical.

There are a number of web sites—a search for Circoflex in Google.com will find them. These have lots of construction hints and tips.

Bridles	
No	Length (cms)
1	176.2
2	160.7
3	136.8
4	107.6
5	79.8
6	66.8
7	79.8
8	107.6
9	136.8
10	160.7
11	176.2
12	181.5

## Events List

<b>April 2004</b>		
17-25	Berck International Kite Festival, Berck-sur-Mer, France.	gerard.clement
18	7th Streatham Common Kite Day	<a href="http://www.reeddesign.co.uk">http://www.reeddesign.co.uk</a>
<b>May 2004</b>		
2-3	Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival, Weymouth Beach, Dorset.	The Kite Society
8-9	Swindon Kite Festival, Wroughton Airfield.	White Horse Kite Fliers
15-16	7th Suffolk International Kite Festival, Rougham Airfield, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.	Martin Corrie
16	Poole Kite Picnic, Baiter Park, Poole.	Richard Nourse
15-16	Cleethorpes International Kite Festival, Lower Promenade, Cleethorpes.	01472 323352/323004
29-31	Tewkesbury Kite Fun Weekend, Glos.	<a href="http://www.gvkf.org.uk">www.gvkf.org.uk</a>
29-31	Middle Wallop Kite Festival, Andover	Kites Up
<b>June 2004</b>		
5-6	Basingstoke Kite Festival, Down Grange Sports Complex, Basingstoke	Kites Up
5-6	Bedford International Kite Festival, Russell Park, Bedford.	Andrew Pidgen
6	Second Annual Kite Festival, Tonbridge Sport Ground, Kent	angela_mcnair@hotmail.com
12-13	Fylde International Kite Festival, The Beach, Lytham St Annes, Lancs.	<a href="http://www.flyingcircus.info">www.flyingcircus.info</a>
12-13	Margam Park Kite Festival, Margam Park, Bridgend, South Wales.	<a href="http://www.thekitingexperience.com">www.thekitingexperience.com</a>
12-13	Teston Kite Festival, Teston Bridge Picnic Site, Maidstone, Kent	ron@kiteability.co.uk
13	Peterborough Kite Festival, Ferry Meadows, Peterborough.	Great Ouse Kite Fliers
19-20	Shrewsbury Kite and Boomerang Festival, Sundorne Playing Fields, Shrewsbury.	Skybums
20	Butser Hill Festival of Flight, Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Hampshire	Kites Up
<b>July 2004</b>		
3-4	Sunderland International Kite Festival, Washington, Tyne & Wear	Malcolm Goodman
10-11	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton.	Simon Hennessey
10-11	The Festival of Air Creation, Ashton Court, Bristol.	anne@anneharris.org
17-18	8th Kennett Valley Kite Festival, Thatcham, Berkshire	info@kreativekites.co.uk
17-18	4th Annual Hereford Kite Festival, Kingstone High School, Kingstone.	karl@longbottom.org.uk
24	Whitley Bay Kite Festival	Malcolm Goodman
25	Petworth Kite Day, Petworth Park, West Sussex.	Simon Hennessey
24-25	Tewkesbury International Kite Festival, Glos.	<a href="http://www.gvkf.org.uk">www.gvkf.org.uk</a>
<b>August 2004</b>		
1	14th Royston Kite Festival, Therfield Heath, Royston	ken@mini-basketball.org.uk
1	Dorset Kite Festival, Bournemouth & Poole, Canford Arena, Poole	imtkitefestival@hotmail.com
7-8	Middle Wallop Kite Festival, Andover	Kites Up
14-15	High Force Kite Festival	Malcolm Goodman
14-15	Teston Kite Festival, Teston Bridge Picnic Site, Maidstone, Kent	ron@kiteability.co.uk
15	Hunstanton Kite Festival, Smithdon School Fields.	01223 242825
21-22	Northern Ireland Kite Festival, Port Stewart (Provisional)	Malcolm Goodman
22	Kites Over Capstone, Gillingham, Kent	01634 812196
28-30	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hampshire.	The Kite Society
<b>September 2004</b>		
4-5	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol.	Avril Baker
11-12	Hartlepool Kite Festival	Malcolm Goodman
11-19	Dieppe International Kite Festival, France	<a href="http://www.dieppe-cerf-volant.org">www.dieppe-cerf-volant.org</a>
12	Rockingham Kite Day.	White Horse Kite Fliers

## Events List

Contact	Address	Telephone	Email
<b>Kites Up</b>	Roy Broadley	01256 812487	kites@kitesup.co.uk
<b>The Kite Society</b>	P.O. Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY	01206 271489	Events@thekitesociety.org.uk
<b>Martin Corrie</b>	3 White Horse Road, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex CO7 6TU	01206 299560	martin@skfc.co.uk
<b>Simon Hennessey</b>		01273 582309	mailto:info@bkf.org.uk
<b>Joanna Mersey</b>	Bignor Park, Pulborough, Sussex RH20 1HG	01798 869214	
<b>Richard Nourse</b>	85 Bells Orchard Lane, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4HP	01929 554690	richard.nourse@virgin.net
<b>Peter Whitaker</b>	12 Littlefield, Quedgeley, Glos GL2 6GZ	01452 728521	Paul@gvkf.org.uk
<b>Great Ouse Kite Fliers</b>	Peter West	01733 269687	Gokf@btinternet.com
<b>Skybums</b>	7 Sunnyfields, Bell Lane, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 5EW	01743 244677	skybums@kites4.co.uk <a href="http://www.kites4.co.uk">http://www.kites4.co.uk</a>
<b>Michael Lowe</b>	44 Bellemoor Road, Shirley, Southampton, Hants SO15 7QU	023 8077 0788	
<b>Bryan Cattle</b>	21 Shepherds Close, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge CB1 4HP.		
<b>Kiteability</b>	45 Windsor Road, Welwyn, Herts, AL6 9JY		ron@kiteability.co.uk
<b>M.K.F.</b>	Alan Bill, 90 Weybourne Road, Great Barr, Birmingham B44 9DE	0121 360 1955	
<b>Dunstable Kites</b>		01582 662779	sales@dunstable-kites.co.uk
<b>White Horse Kite Fliers</b>	P O Box 585, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 4YR	01793 824208	Cowpat.ed@whkf.org.uk
<b>Al Cosgrove</b>			Alan.cosgrove@ntlworld.com
<b>Andrew Pidgen</b>		01234 344813	river.festival@bedford.btinternet.com
<b>Avril Baker</b>	5 Lilymead Avenue, Wells Road, Totterdown, Bristol BS4 2BY	0117 977 2002	info@abc-pr.co.uk
<b>Malcolm Goodman</b>	Bluebell House, Middleton in Teesdale, Co Durham, DL12 0QG	01833 640584	malcolm.goodman@virgin.net
<b>IMT! Promotions</b>	Des Poeling-Oer, Suite 363, 89 Commercial Road, Bournemouth, BH2 5RR	07966 676991	imtkitefestival@hotmail.com

## Close Encounters at Weymouth—Alan Pothecary

It was few years ago now that we first ventured in to Weymouth on a May bank holiday to see what all the fuss was about. As you drive down toward Radipole Lake you get your first assurance that the event is under way with some of the larger single lines appearing over the buildings.

You lose sight for a while and then, as you round the corner by the famous clock, the excitement of it all hits you at once. There are people and kites of every description everywhere and more, bustling down to the beach to join them – and it's still only ten o' clock with the whole day still in front. You have to concentrate very hard not to look beach-wards as you drive along to the pier car park – accept the fact that a closer parking space just will not happen at this time of the day and the kites will still be there when you return – get parked and back down in front of the bus in time for the altitude sprint. Our first time there was very much a learning experience of what festivals and kites were all about and the excitement and the calm sort of buzz had us hooked.

For anyone with even a slight interest in kiting there was something going on to take your interest and you were led to it by a gentle patter from the expert commentary team – from the many and varied traders to kites in the distance or out to sea, to what was happening in the demonstration arena. We were particularly keen on the sport kite and quad line demonstrations and oh what famous names have appeared there.

Who remembers that day when Bi-Dance did their routine just after starting out as pairs and, because of the lack of wind, finished waving back to the crowd from right out on the tide line having picked their way through the buckets and spades and picnics but still managed to keep it together. So, bearing in mind

the reputation of the wind at Weymouth, why oh why do we, as Close Encounters find ourselves doing a total of four demos on the Sunday and the Monday – and especially on our wedding anniversary (Sunday) this year?

Well we had a pretty good year last season winning the National pairs and individual Winter League titles and the STACK national championships at pairs and individuals novice, so we thought we get some arena experience and hopefully pass on the kiting bug to a few more people. That's another of the things we like to do – pass on what we have learned and encourage people on.

You may have read some of our articles in other magazines such as 'Sport Kite' or 'Powerkite' reviewing the kites that manufacturers have passed to us – well these will be available to try out for yourselves so just come over and see us – and, if you like what you see, then one of the traders will probably have one. Expect to find kites from Skyburner, Prism, Eolo Gayla, Andy Preston, Roger Tessa Gambassi and HQ among others in the collection.

Hopefully, we should have new team kites from Eolo Gayla to use for our demos – we will be doing a precision routine and a couple of ballets to music, one of which will be with stacks of five kites each (again provided by Eolo Gayla) so let's have some good winds please Weymouth!

Allan and Marilyn Pothecary are pairs display team "Close Encounters" and are sponsored by Kiteworld.co.uk with thanks to KTC, Woolmer Forest Composites and kite makers as above.

## Swindon Kite Festival—8th & 9th May

Science Museum, Wroughton, near Swindon

The White Horse Kite Flyers are pleased to announce that the Swindon Kite Festival is returning to Wroughton by kind permission of the Science Museum, it will be the usual relaxed atmosphere with the emphasis on kite flyers coming along to enjoy themselves. This year we have invited Mikio Toki from Japan, Mikio has accepted our invitation. If you haven't been to Wroughton before there are acres and acres of space for everyone. The British Buggy Club will be making an attempt on the world speed record, there will also be a gathering of "Gibson Girl" enthusiasts, if you own one bring it along, lets see how many we can have at one festival!

Last July when the Science Museum invited us there for an event called "Catching the Wind" Paul Chapman was given access to some old kites that the Science Museum thought were old Cody Kites, this wasn't the case; however, these were rarer kites than Paul ever expected to find there! Paul reported on this "Find" in the last "Kiteflier", this has created a great deal of interest amongst the Historic Kite Group of Europe, some of their members will be travelling to the festival to view these kites.

The Science Museum will have their exhibits on display. Camping is available on site; there will be a fee to camp. Entrance to the event is free to members of the W.H.K.F. For further information check the [www.swindonkitefestival.co.uk](http://www.swindonkitefestival.co.uk) website.

If you want accommodation for the weekend you will find a special deal, with Holiday Inn Express at junction 16 M4, on the website. If you have any questions that can't be answered on the website, you can contact David Robinson on [darjer2@aol.com](mailto:darjer2@aol.com)

## 7th Suffolk Kite Festival— 15th & 16th May

A few days ago we received the great news that the Kite World Champions, Carl and James Roberstshaw "Evolver" will be coming to this year's festival. Known throughout the world for their dazzling kite displays to music, this is sure to attract a large crowd at our 7th Suffolk International Kite Festival on 15/16th May 2004.

After the great success at last year's festival we are delighted once again to be hosting an

International Fighter Kite Competition. Last year flyers from the UK, France, Germany, Holland, and Belgium took part in a weekend of competitions organised by Graham Jackson, Mike Harrison and their fantastic support team. Herman Benjamins from Holland will be defending his title as last year's champion of the first "Fighters Over Rougham" competition. Let's see if we British can win the title this year. For full details of this year's competition see below and for a full excellent report written by Ed Koomans of last year's "Fighters Over Rougham" visit our detailed club web site [www.skfc.co.uk](http://www.skfc.co.uk) or email [events@skfc.co.uk](mailto:events@skfc.co.uk)

We are also delighted to be hosting for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running, a round of the UK National 'STACK'

Championships, this will include competitions in all the kite disciplines. STACK (Sports Team And Competitive Kiting) involves some of the best teams and individuals from around the UK. Judges will decide a winner in the various competitions and they in turn can eventual qualify for the UK, European and World Championships.

The following superb Display teams have also been booked and include Team Adrenalize (Power kiting display); The Beccle's Bunch (Large Inflatable kites); Brighton Kite Club (Large Inflatable kites); Dark Star (Brian Cattle – One-man three kites); Eastern Rocket Association (Model Rocket display); Team Spectrum (Colourful kite display team to music) and for the first time, our very own Suffolk Kite Flyers Display. There will also be displays from the best of the UK STACK teams and individuals and the finals of the International Fighter competition. The main arena will be filled with non-stop action for the two days of the festival.

Many of the kite clubs from the UK will also be attending, some of which are kite professionals, showing of their kiting skills. They are always willing to pass on their vast knowledge and give help to the general public in flying that never flown kite you purchased a few years ago.

The 7th Suffolk Kite Festival is the biggest kiting event held in East Anglia and is staged at the beautiful flying site of Rougham Airfield near Bury St Edmunds. The event is jointly organised by the Suffolk Kite Flyers Club and the Friends of Rougham Airfield and takes place on what must be one of the largest flying sites in the UK, Rougham Airfield is "West Suffolk's Premier Open Air Venue".

This is a festival for all kilters and a great family day out and will include a full range of chil-

dren's entertainment, fairground rides, kite workshops, sweetdrops, and competitions. Adults will enjoy a visit to the Rougham Tower Museum where they will be able to witness the history of this famous USAAF air base from which Blenheim Bombers, B-26 and B-17s aircraft flew during World War II.

A full range of catering facilities, beer and tea tent will be on the festival site. Craft Show and kite traders will be there for all your kiting needs, talk to the experts and pick up a bargain from the kite professionals.

Don't miss this fantastic FUN FAMILY DAY OUT in Suffolk. The festival will be fully sign posted off the A14 – Ipswich to Cambridge road. This will be an action packed event with one or two surprises; a sky full of color and the best flyers in the UK and Europe will be there to entertain you with their fantastic skills.

A private firework display will be staged on the Saturday night for kite clubs, campers and participating and guess kite flyers and for your further entertainment, a life band and folk music group.

For up to date information including camping arrangements, site layout, map location, events program etc. please visit our web site [www.skfc.co.uk](http://www.skfc.co.uk) or e-mail us at [events@skfc.co.uk](mailto:events@skfc.co.uk).

Details of all events to be held at Rougham are also available on [www.roughamairfield.org](http://www.roughamairfield.org). For all trade enquiries contact The Estate Office 01359 – 270238 or e-mail [info@roughamairfield.org](mailto:info@roughamairfield.org)

Finally we are grateful to all our sponsors and supporters including the East Anglian Daily Times newspaper.

## Fighters Over Rougham

2nd Rougham International Fighter Kite Competition

After the huge success of last year's competition, the enthusiasm and many comments made by all that attended, including the 17 International invited guests We have been encouraged to arrange another competition this year.

In conjunction with and help of the Suffolk Kite Flyers the 2nd Rougham International Fighter Competition will take place at this year's 7th Suffolk International Kite Festival on the 15 & 16th May 2004

Already competitors from around Europe including the UK, Belgium, France, Germany and Holland have confirmed that they will be taking part and even more flyers from around Europe and beyond have expressed their interest and support. Our aim as always, is to promote kite flying. The competition is open to everyone including novices, regardless of age, sex or experience.

This will be your chance to mix, fly, talk and learn from the best and experienced flyers in Europe. They are always willing to share their love of flying these marvellous fighter kites.

Help us to win back the title in the UK, last year's winner came from Holland!

Traders will be on site selling all types of Fighter Kites and accessories so it is also a good chance to stock up as well. Free camping is available on site. So all you pilots (or would be pilots) come and join in this action packed weekend.

It would be most helpful if you could let us know if you're coming in advance and pre-register. Please contact Graham Jackson. Email: [g.jackson4@ntlworld.com](mailto:g.jackson4@ntlworld.com). Tel: :- 01279 - 302816 (before 9pm please) or Martin Corrie including details about the Festival or visit [www.skfc.co.uk](http://www.skfc.co.uk) [martin@skfc.co.uk](mailto:martin@skfc.co.uk) Tel: 01206 - 299560 or Mobile 07775 - 744377.

## Shrewsbury Kite Festival—19th & 20th June

Shrewsbury Kite & Boomerang Festival will take place at Sundorne Playing fields on 19th & 20th June 2004. The usual mix of competitions and relaxed flying means fun for all the family.

There is camping on site at £3.50 per night and it is available from Friday night to Monday morning. Facilities include showers, toilets and drinking water. There is plenty of space for tents, caravans and camper vans. Breakfasts, hot food and drinks are available on site all day. We are arranging an evening 'do' and buffet. The price for this will be £5 per head. Please let us know if you wish to attend the evening do as we need to know numbers.

If you've never been to the Shrewsbury Kite Festival just ask someone who has and make a date for one of the more relaxed and fun festivals in the calendar. Now in its 21st year so come and celebrate with us.

The event is organised by Helene and Paul Morgan.

They can be contacted on 01743 244677 and [skybums@kites4.co.uk](mailto:skybums@kites4.co.uk)

## Southampton Kite Festival—19th & 20th June

Organised and run by Solent Kite Flyers.

This year sees the 9<sup>th</sup>. Southampton Kite Festival, organised by Solent Kite Flyers and sponsored by Southampton City Council, C. Coles Fun Fair and Advance Foster Care which will be held at Lordshill Sports Ground (5 Acre Field) just off the M27/M271, over the weekend of the 19th. & 20th. June 2004; just follow the yellow AA 'Kite Festival' signs. This year's event will again be bigger and better than on previous years with a greater emphasis on different types of kites and flying displays, kite competitions and general activities around the Festival Site. The event opens to the public from 10.00am on both Saturday and Sunday and runs until approx. 17.30pm on Saturday and approx. 17.00pm on Sunday.

Each day will see Kite Flying Displays from the UK's best Individuals, Pairs and Teams in National Sport Kite Competitions as well as general entertainment and display flying to music, along with a few very special arena displays from local groups. The Festival site has plenty of open space available for public flying and there is no excuse for not joining in with the fun. C.Coles Fun Fair will be on-site and open all weekend for those thrilling rides and side stalls. There will be a Kite Making Workshop, in which you will be able to make your own simple kite, as well as several Kite Traders selling a range of Kites and Accessories to all price levels. Craft Stalls, Refreshment Traders, Live Music, Street Theatre, Arena Displays, Marching Majorettes, Face Painting and Punch & Judy will also be there to keep all ages entertained all day. There will also be 'Parachuting Teddy Bears' so don't forget to bring along your own 'Cuddly Toys' so they can join in the Fun!

Weather permitting, there will be a 'Night Fly' on Saturday Evening from Dusk. This is open to all fliers to join in, with the kites having lights attached or using reflective tapes etc. Some of the food traders will stay open so why not come along to see what it is all about.

If you would like any further information on this event please do not hesitate to contact Michael Lowe on 02380 770788 or email mklo2@yahoo.com. or look at the Solent Kite Flyers web site. – [www.solentkiteflyers.org.uk](http://www.solentkiteflyers.org.uk)

## Sunderland Festival of the Air—3rd & 4th July

Northern Area Playing Fields, District 12, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE37 3HR.

The Sunderland International Kite Festival is now recognised as one of the major Kite Events in Europe attracting specialist kitemakers from throughout the World. The Festival also features a variety of music, dance, visual arts etc and is well known for its hospitality and friendliness and attracts over 60,000 spectators each year!

We will host some of the Worlds best kite makers from Japan, China, Cambodia, India, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Holland, France, Belgium, USA and others who have yet to confirm – plus of course the best of British!

The Festival is a wonderful opportunity to see kites you have only seen and read about and to meet their makers - plus great displays of single, two and multi line kites, the European Air Gallery, the latest creations in soft kites, many having been made specifically for the Festival.

Besides seeing beautiful kites from all over the World we will have as usual a fabulous entertainment programme throughout the two days including - international street theatre and music – marquees with arts and crafts, visual arts, international cuisine, kite trade stands, a childrens village and lots more.

Following the success of last years spectacular 'Chinese Dragon Kite Display' (we managed 11 in the sky at once) we will be repeating the event on both days - so if you have a Dragon please bring it along.

On Saturday evening you are invited to a buffet (on site) 7:00pm to 10:30pm - no liquor license - please bring your own!

Once again due to the rising cost of accommodation, marquees, site fees, catering and reduced a budget we plan to hold an auction on the Saturday evening to help boost our funds. I want to thank all those who contributed and to the generosity of everyone who made last years auction such a success – this has enabled us to invite some 'long distance' kitefliers to this years event.

We will be using the Campanile Hotel again this year. Anyone requiring accommodation - please contact me direct.

Free on site camping/parking places are limited and will be issued on 'first come first served basis'. Public car parking is £3 per car.

For those camping – please arrive no earlier than Thursday afternoon on the 1<sup>st</sup> July.

For maps, car/camping passes, accommodation at the Campanile and other enquiries, please send a LARGE S.A.E. WITH YOUR CAR DETAILS - make and registration and telephone number to:-

(No e-mail requests for car passes please).  
Malcolm Goodman, Bluebell House, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Co Durham DL12 0QG. Tel: 01833 640584 (please not after 8:00pm).

Email—[malcolm.goodman@virgin.net](mailto:malcolm.goodman@virgin.net)  
web site [www.kiteman.co.uk](http://www.kiteman.co.uk)  
[www.sunderland.gov.uk/kitefestival](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/kitefestival)

## Festival of Air Creation—10th & 11th July

I missed Bristol last September, due to illness. I have used all my time off work to start up a charity. (The Anne Harris Children Fund).

I am hoping to go for a Guinness record on 6<sup>th</sup> July, with everything I've ever made – yet to be agreed. This as part of the launch of the first section of 'Anne's Amazing Coral Reef' a project now in aid of the charity. This will be followed by a festival at Ashton Court, Bristol on 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> July. Avril Baker is helping me to organise what will be 'The Festival of Air Creation'.

This is to be a big celebration and I am hoping a lot of kiteflyers might come and support me – those who are not going to Brighton. The reef will then be in Bristol in September.

My last email address got overtaken by junk mail so I lost everyone's address, but I would be delighted to hear from any kiting friends – new email [anne@anneharris.org](mailto:anne@anneharris.org). Web site [www.anneharris.org](http://www.anneharris.org)

Anne Harris

## Hereford Kite Festival—17th & 18th July

The 4th Annual Hereford Kite Festival is to be held the Weekend of 17th & 18th July 2004. As last year the venue is Kingstone High School, Kingstone, HR2 9HJ, about 5 miles south west of Hereford City. Camping available from 4pm on Friday night, but not before as the pupils will still be there and the access gates will be locked. Saturday night BBQ and Auction.

For further details call 01981 550326 or email [Karl@longbottom.org.uk](mailto:Karl@longbottom.org.uk)

## Kites Over Capstone—22nd August

Kites Over Capstone Sunday 22 August 12pm - 5pm At Capstone Farm Country Park, Capstone Road, Gillingham, Kent. ME7 3JG.

A fun event for all the family with kites displays, children's activities, beer tent and live music. Come and join in with the fun - if you don't have a kite there will be plenty of opportunity to buy or make one during the day. Tickets £1 per person. For further details telephone 01634 812196 or email [capstonefarmcp@medway.gov.uk](mailto:capstonefarmcp@medway.gov.uk) There will also be a Kite Flying Day on Saturday 21 August, 12pm - 5pm—this is a free day for kite flyers to meet up, fly together and generally have some fun. This is the second year Medway Council have held this event. Last years event was a great day for all with approximately 2,500 visitors.

Nikki Scott Interpretive Ranger Riverside Country Park, Lower Rainham Road, Gillingham, Kent. ME7 2XH Telephone: 01634 378987 Fax: 01634 263827.

## Car Parking/Camping at Sunderland

As you all know Anne & Eddie Megrath have for many years done a wonderful job in supervising the car parking/camping at Sunderland for which I am very grateful to them both. They have now decided to call it a day and I am now looking for any volunteers to take over this year. If anyone is interested can you please get in touch – I will be able to provide travelling expenses.

Malcolm Goodman, Bluebell House, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Co Durham DL12 0QG. Tel: 01833 640584 (please not after 8:00pm). Email—[malcolm.goodman@virgin.net](mailto:malcolm.goodman@virgin.net)

## Basingstoke Kite Festival—5th & 6th June

At Down Grange Sports Complex, Pack Lane, Basingstoke.  
10 am to 5 pm both days.

Come along to our 12<sup>th</sup> Festival and join in the fun!

The Theme for the weekend is Aztec and a prize will be awarded for the best themed kite, so you can let your imagination get carried away!

Guests will be from Home and abroad and apart from the display arena there will be the usual Children's Kite Workshop, parachuting teddy bears and lots of various Kite & Food traders.

There will also be a raffle over the weekend with lots of donated kite related prizes, Kite traders please take note!

On Saturday evening we will be having a get together in the marquee and everyone is welcome.

Camping is available on the Friday and Saturday evenings @ £5 for the weekend, showers included.

So come along and have a laugh and we look forward to seeing you there!!!

Contact:

Alan Cosgrove 01256 421800  
Roy Broadley (Kites Up) 01256 812487

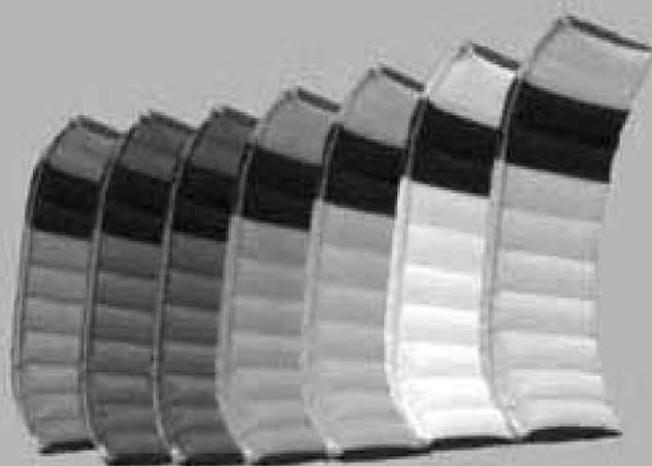
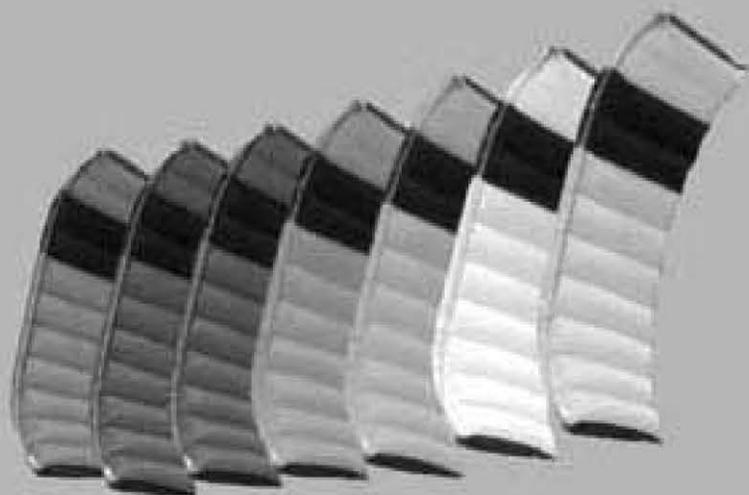
# BRIGHTON

# KITE FESTIVAL

# 10-11 JULY

Organised by the  
Brighton Kite Flyers

11.00am - 5.00pm



Free Public Festival  
UK & International Fliers  
Free Childrens Kite Workshop  
Kite and Food Stalls  
Parachute your Teddy Bear!  
3000ft Height Clearance

brighton  
**Kite**  
flyer

Sponsored by Brighton & Hove City Council

# Stanmer Park

[www.brightonkitefestival.co.uk](http://www.brightonkitefestival.co.uk)



"We'll have to find a way to cover him up some how" says Marla to the group.

THE NEWS LETTER FOR THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

WHAT A STICK UP

Well what I thought was only a few years ago was turned out to be almost 4, so when I heard that the



WHKF were inviting Sam Huston over to do another no sew kite, I put my name down for the workshop pretty quick, and along with Alan Outram and Keith Boxall set off early in the morning on 6th of March to Swindon.

We arrived at Headland's School just in time for a cup of coffee before the workshop. Once there we found two other members of BKF had put their names down Mick and Norma House, great to see them again after their move to Cornwall.

The kite this time was a Tri-D box kite. As with all these workshops the kits

are all prepared and Sam as always produced a wonderful crib sheet to help along the way. We all picked up our packs and swapped around colour to produce the colour kite we wanted. Then work began, marking up the fabric for position on the kite, where the holes needed to be for connectors etc.. The hemming came next and, I for one, find it hard to use a sewing machine. I love this no sew kite where all the hems are produced using .02mm thick double sided tape and folding the fabric. After the best part of the 1st day most people had finished the hems and started to assemble all the parts together, again this was done using the double sided tape.

Marla Miller was there and cleaned most of us out for Raffle tickets, how does she do it and why do we keep taking money with us when we know she will be there. The class finished at around 5.30pm on the first day and we headed back to the digs for a quick rest and wash up before we went out for a meal in the evening with the group. This was at the local Toby and the food and service were well up to standard.

The second day arrived and we had an early start at the school (8.30am), work soon commenced and the kite panels connected together, then ironed (yes we ironed ripstop nylon) to make the glue melt into the weave of the cloth. Once this was done the spars were glued and assembled and

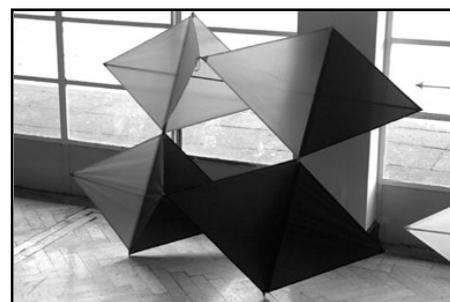
the finished kites started to appear just before lunch.

The Raffle was drawn at around 3.00pm, by which time most people had finished off their kites.

Almost every other ticket pulled out had a house on it with either the chimney on the left or the right (ask Mick and Norma which is which) Well done to them.

Thank you again to the WHKF and Sam for a great weekend and I look forward to many a happy hour flying my new kite.

Simon Hennessey



# APRIL 2004 APRIL 2004 APRIL 2004 APRIL 2004

## 7TH FREJUS INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL OF THE AIR

This was an awesome way to finish off my 2003 kite season, this was also my 5th year of being invited to participate in this World Class kite festival, especially this year as they were holding the European Sport Kite Championships.

There were over 300 kite flyers participating at this event, flyers from England, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Switzerland, Canada, USA and from every corner of France, the food and beverage bill alone must have been enormous with out all the travelling expenses for the flyers that came from far and wide and as always the European kite festivals are always family orientated. It is so wonderful to see all the families enjoying themselves just as much or some times, more than the kite flyers do. I just love the way all the flyers and families get together after the days flying, every one contributes food of every description Meats, cheeses, bread, home made cakes and pies wine and beer, it is a terrific way of getting to know one another, meeting old friends and making new ones. It is also amazing all that single line kite flyers are so willing, not just to show off their unique creations, but to share with whoever their ideas and know how, it is a huge learning school. Everyone leaves the festival a lot happier and wiser than when they arrived with their heads so full of new ideas that they can't wait to get home to put them to work. What a great environment to bring children up in, I am very proud of the fact that I am known by children from all nationalities as Uncle Ray, as I have mentioned before I have travelled to kite festivals around the world and I know for sure, as it has been proven to me so many times, that Kite flying somehow brings the best out of people. Wouldn't it be great if we could get all our politicians involved in our sport: Wow!

Every year that I have attended this kite festival the weather has been fantastic, but alas this year throughout the 3 day competitions the weather was rain and strong winds,

but somehow this did not bother the European Sport Kite flyers. They all did their thing just as if they were flying in 15 mph winds, all the events went like clock work, there were no postponements. The only people the weather really bothered, I think, was



the judges and lines people but they also did their thing with no complaints. My hats off to all these guys. The awards dinner was something else, great food, great company and enough wine to sink a battle ship, man, these guys sure know how to party. As in other years no speeches, raffles or kites to distract any one just a huge gathering of kite flyers enjoying each other's company and surely a night to remember for a long time.

The following day was the 1st day of the kite festival and what a great way to start it off, sunshine and a brilliant blue sky (the rain and strong winds had gone, in fact the organizer told me that it was especially laid on for the Sport kite championships, to sort out the men from the boys):

By 10 am the festival site was jam packed with kite flyers and all the equipment, everything was set up ready to go, the spectators were arriving in there hundreds" but where was the wind"? There was not a kite in the air, there was not even a breath of wind, the event coordinator came over to me and said Ray is it possible for you to start the festival with a multiple kite ballet? I said if you give me some help to set up I will give it a go, before I knew it there were a dozen kite flyers there to help me, I was set up in no time. Susan Thonstad from the USA who now lives in France was there to tap me on my shoulder at the first note of my music, Gimmy Segre from Italy said Ray this is impossible there is no

wind, I said I am going to fly a tribute to my wife and daughter, at that moment I felt a very slight breeze on my bare back I told Susan to tell them to start the music at the same time. I said to my inner self, come on Lesley and Sonia you got to help me out on this one, I felt Sue tap me on my shoulder, up went the first kite then came down in a dive turning up at the last minute between the other two kites a signal to launch, which they did right into a refuel mode, from that moment my routine went like clockwork right up to the 1-2-3 landing as the music faded away, Susan told me later that it was a shame that I could not hear the roar and applause of the spectators and flyers as it was unbelievable. Gimmy Segre came running over to me and said with tears in his eyes, "your wife and daughter was for sure with you all the way", then gave me a big hug, 10 minutes later the wind came up to a nice steady 10mph and the sky over this huge festival site became full of kites of every description. What a magnificent sight, but not only the sky but to see all the kite flyers enjoying themselves to the very up most flying ability and showing off



their very own unique creations, one person in particular I always get a kick out of is Thijo (pronounced Tie O) van Beek the designer and maker of the Red Baron kite, he looks more like a wrestler than a kite flyer (I can get away with saying this as over the years we have become good friends). Well any way up until now, to look up and see his kite just swaying gently in the air as if it was really flying, then to travel down the kite line to see this big gentle giant hanging on to the end of this line with a huge ear to ear smile on his face, is priceless.

Once again as other years the

**B R A I N T E A S E R W H A T I S I T L I K E**

The following puzzle when it was presented by Einstein in the early 1900s was solvable by approximately 3% of the secondary level student population at that time

Limited tests with the puzzle at current secondary level schools, indicate that the average numbers of students who are able to solve the puzzle today has increased to around 10%

The average time to solve the puzzle appears to be around 20 minutes, this is regardless of age. It seems that if you spend very much longer on the puzzle at any one time, you will ~ probably find that you have decreased your chances of solving it because you have missed the logical path

One 13 year old "bright boy" at Lanfranc school in South London worked out the answer almost as quickly as it took him to read and understand the question, which for reference was about 9 minutes

There is no need to publish the answer because it is a straight forward logical progression and if you resolve the problem you will know you have the correct answer and will be able to prove it to yourself using a similar logical path

The Puzzle

In a street, there are five houses in a row, painted five different colours. In each house lives a person of different

nationality  
These five people each drink a different kind of beverage, smoke a different brand of cigar and keep a different pet

The questions is, who owns the fish and specify the nationality, house colour, brand of cigar and preferred beverage?

- The Brit lives in the red house
- The Swede keeps dogs for pets
- The Dane drinks tea
- The green house is on the left of the white house
- The owner of the green house drinks coffee
- The person who smokes Pall Mall rears birds
- The owner of the yellow house smokes Dunhill
- The man living in the centre house drinks milk
- The Norwegian lives in the first house
- The man who smokes Blends lives next to the one who keeps cats
- The man who keeps horses lives next to the man who smokes Dunhill
- The man who smokes Blue Master drinks beer
- The German smokes Prince
- The Norwegian lives next to the blue house
- The man who smokes blends has a neighbour who drinks water

John Dimmock

**WHAT IS IT LIKE**

With the kite season about to go in to full swing I thought you might like some thoughts on various festivals attended in the past. It is always useful to know a little about the site before you arrive and if you need to bring a picnic. I know a lot of you may be old hands at this kite flying lark but there is always someone who asks WHAT'S IT LIKE?

WEYMOUTH

This has become the first big kite festival of the season since Blackheath died a death a few years ago now. The kite flying takes place on a large sandy beach with the traders setting out their wares on the prom. Most of the flyers stay in the many Bed and Breakfast's that are scattered along the seafront opposite the flying site. Alternatively there is out of town camping or the camper vans use the festival car park. (Passes available from the KSGB) Food is plentyful as there are many café's and restaurants within walking distance and for lunch there is a great pasty shop in the shopping area. Weymouth Council put a get together on one of the evenings for flyers followed by a great firework display. A great family weekend and you will go home with a car full of sand which you will spend the rest of the season trying to get rid of!

Corinne Hennessey

**7TH FREJUS INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL & THE EUROPEAN SPORT KITE CHAMPIONSHIPS CONTINUED**

demonstration arena was never empty flyers from all over Europe, teams, Pair and Individuals demonstrating their skills to the joy and utter amazement to the of thousand of spectators.

Each evening after the festival we were all wined and dined just like a big family gathering, great food and wine, sometimes I wonder how we ever made it to the festival site the next morning. But everyone is there bright and early to give everything they have to give, to make the festival once again a huge success which indeed it certainly was in every respect, for the sponsors, organizers,

spectators and kite flyers.  
After the festival Isabelle and Gabriel Specht owners of the Hotel L' OASIS who were the sponsors and have had my staying for the last 4 years, invited me to stay as their guest for as long as I wished, this was indeed an offer I could not refuse, I spent a very fantastic and relaxing extra week with them, talk about being made a fuss of they wined, dined and toured me, it would be impossible to have been treated any better. I felt like I had won the Lotto, this was yet another amazing adventure and a perfect way to finish off this years International kite festival season. It is now time to

go home and relax a little before getting all my gear in shape again ready for 2004, as I have already been invited back again to Berck, Marseille, Dieppe and Frejus also to Cervia Italy. So once again I like to thank the Office du tourism de la Culture et de l' Animation of Frejus, Jose Vicent the organizer and his super team of volunteers. A very special thanks to my hosts the owners of the L'OASIS Hotel Isabelle and Gabriel Specht for your hospitality and friendship, looking forward to seeing you all in 2004.

Thanks for Listening Ray.

# APRIL 2004 APRIL 2004 APRIL 2004 APRIL 2004

## M A R S E I L L E I N T E R N A T I O N A L F E S T I V A L O F T H E W I N D

Wow!! What a great way to close off my kite season with two awesome world class International kite festivals ,it was a great pleasure for me to be once again fully sponsored to Marseille for the Fete du Vent festival. 28 countries were participating from every corner of this planet, most I had met at other festivals around the world. It was great once again to share the flying fields with these unique flyers who are so willing to share their knowledge and expertise to whoever, plus giving their all to help make this festival a huge success which indeed it was from the very start to the very last minute. As always it was held at the Plage du Prado which is an ideal location, a huge grass area which runs parallel with the beach, is more than enough to accommodate all the flyers in doing their thing. Consequently the sky was always packed with kites of every color and description. There was also a 400x400 arena for demonstrations, in which some of the worlds finest fighter kites showed off their skills, plus sport kite teams and individual sgiving demonstrations throughout each and every day. In the mornings the wind is very light and comes from inland but at 11.30 am the wind changes and comes off the ocean, there is never a shortage of spectators, they are there in there tens of thousands, and are as always



a very appreciating audience, and are not a bit shy in calling you over after completing a demonstration to thank you personally with a kiss on

both cheeks (I just love this French custom):

It is such a charming spot a nice



beach, the sand is a mixture of very powdered and coarse sand and each day brings literary hundreds of sun worshipers to the beach. The South of France is well noted for its topless bathers which I was not aware of and did not even notice until a certain kite notable pointed them out to me. As I was to busy looking at all the beautiful French girls in they're awesome summer outfits and I still can't figure out if they are inside trying to get out! Or outside trying to get in.: What I enjoyed also at this festival was the way they arranged all the booths in a kind of little village with them all in a large circle, and the opening facing on the inside, it was always packed especially when the festival was open for schools, the kite making booths were always packed with children of all ages, and to see these children flying their own individual works of art everywhere on the festival site was very heart warming to behold.

One very interesting booth was a historical kite museum some of the kites dating to the early 1900's put on by Christian Kolz from Hamburg Germany, he was also at the Frejus International Kite festival in Nov along with his partner Christian Jsemer their display was enjoyed by kite flyers and spectators alike.

They had a great sound system, with commentators keeping the spectators

who were standing shoulder to shoulder around the huge flying arena well informed of what was going on at all times throughout the day. As always the days passed so quickly and before you realised it is time to pack up and return to the hotel for that well earned shower and a couple of cold ones before the evening dinner. (Or it a couple of cold ones and then a shower): all the flyers were lodged at the Maeva Hotel, which is within walking distance to the beach, and festival we were all well wine and dined.

As I have mentioned before in my other articles Marseille is a very beautiful and romantic 2,600 year old City with its exceptional setting between the mountains and blue Mediterranean. Some parts of the city it is like going back in time before the automobile, very narrow winding streets, and there's one thing I did learn was that never again will I complain about the traffic in Vancouver.

As always I could go on for hours but I have a deadline. Thank you Jose Vicent, Frederque Riquier, the organizers and all the wonderful volunteers and I must not forget to thank to all the sponsors who make it possible to invite all of us to this great world class kite festival. Thank you again and I will see you at the Frejus International Kite festival in November.



Thank you for listening.

Ray.

**For Sale industrial  
singer pro sewing  
machine for sale at  
£450.00 Contact:  
simon@bkf.org.uk**

APRIL 2004 APRIL 2004 APRIL 2004 APRIL 2004

# K I T E T A L K N E W Y E A R S D A Y F L Y - I N A T D E V I L ' S D Y K E

A long time ago when I was still teaching, I was asked to run a week long kite workshop during a summer term for three hundred 13 year olds. Previous to that I also had to do a year assembly for the same year, so I decided that some advance publicity was called for and I planned an assembly around the theme of kites. I took about an hour to put together all the kites and arrange for a large Cody to hang from the ceiling of the sports hall. I started off with the development of single line kites in chronological order to the present day and then went on to multi line kites, soft and hard framed kites and modern materials before explaining some of the weird things that we do with kites - you know what I mean - buggying, kite surfing, kite fighting, Teddy dropping, beer lifting etc. The grand finale was to fly a delta kite around the hall attached to a roach pole. I was amazed that so many 13 year olds sat so still and entranced for a good half hour, because they normally develop very itchy bums after ten minutes. I was even more amazed at the spontaneous round of applause when I finished!

Having polished up my performance in later assemblies, I decided that I was qualified to take to the road and visit other schools and I started with my local primary school, but three hours talking and keeping the youngsters interested made me realise that I was out of the teaching mode now I was retired and I ended up with a sore throat and tired feet!

Later in the year I had a phone call from a school in Richmond, asking if I could take part in a science week and talk about kites to the whole school, to which I replied positively and asked how they had heard of me, but no one seemed to know who it was they asked. Months later I was having a pub meal with Pat and Ron Dell and

they mentioned just by chance that someone asked them to talk to the school, but they recommended yours truly. Well, after that one it seems that word got around the primary schools in Richmond and Kew and I now seem to be invited once a year. The format has not changed very much, but one has to be aware of the age range, because the attention span of a reception class is much shorter than a class of eight year olds. I usually start off with asking how many of the youngsters have kites and eliciting information on the number of lines and where they fly them and does Dad take over or do they get a chance to fly. My finale has also changed to flying a miniature kite (thanks to Harry Douglas) on the end of the roach pole. This they find highly amusing and I point out that we don't always fly huge kites. It is also much more under control than a larger delta and can be flown within a lower ceiling height.

Finally, I thought a list of kites and equipment might be useful to anyone else who is considering talking about kites to school children. It is not in any particular order.

Manja, silk kite, paper dragon, Indian fighter, Rokkaku, Cody, tri-d box kite, multisled, flowform, Peter Powell, TOTL team kite, Revolution, plastic delta, miniature delta, Flexifoil Blade, roach pole, windsocks, parachuting bears, photos of BKF inflatable kites, kite gloves, line samples, shackle.

I hope that any of you who are considering doing a similar thing will take the plunge, because it is extremely rewarding, though exhausting and the questions just go on and on. If you want to talk to me about any aspect of it please don't hesitate to telephone me.

Ray Oakhill  
Hon President BKF

It was the morning after the night before - maybe something to do with the night before being New years Eve. Looked out at the weather - it was damp & misty. As we are 1½ hours drive from Brighton we phoned Simon to find out what the weather was doing there - was just the same as here (Yateley, Hampshire). Anyway we decided to chance it and made our way to Devil's Dyke. En-route the sun tried to shine and we thought that we were in for a good day but as we neared the coast the mist came in and by the time we arrived at Devil's Dyke visibility was quite limited.

We parked the car and walked around the pub looking for familiar faces, eventually Victoria spotted Simon Hennessey and Paul Hill. We then spotted Alan Outram and a couple we had not met before, this was Alan and Dorothy Cragg.

Alan and Dorothy were the only people to have had kites for Christmas, we looked at Dorothy's kite - a black cat - but as we couldn't figure out exactly how it was sparred, it was decided not to fly it.

It was cold and damp and as the pub had just opened we decided to have a hot drink. By this time we were joined by Mark and Michelle Smith and their children as well as Robert Bramley and Jo and also Darren Smith. After warming up with coffees, teas & hot chocolate, it was decided to go back outside and fly some kites, mainly flying single line kites.

There was a non-BKF person and his family flying a large white box kite made from garden canes, white plastic and sticky tape. It looked impressive and flew well. The same people also tried to fly a sled-like kite, with no success until they got a piece of rag from their car and used it as a tail. This proved that it not necessary to spend a fortune to enjoy kite flying. After a while it was decided to go back into the warm and get something to eat and then return home.

We had a lovely day with our new kite friends and are sure we will attend many more fly-ins.

Margaret, Malcolm & Victoria Bradly

**A kite in the air  
is better than  
Two in your hand**

**Useful Contacts: Merchandise**

**Coordinator/Chairperson:**

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

**T-Shirts/Sweatshirts:**

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

**Events coordinators:**

Ray Oakhill  
 ☎ 01273 306842  
 ✉ ray@BKF.org.uk  
 Simon Hennessey  
 ☎ 01273 582309  
 ✉ simon@BKF.org.uk

**Pins/Badges/Pens:**

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  
 ✉ paul@BKF.org.uk

**Club Kites:**

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

**Membership Secretary:**

Peter Jackson  
 ☎ 01444 451076  
 ✉ 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 at Stanmer Park 6pm. Remember that during the summer members may well be attending kites festivals, but the fly-ins are still on.

See you there



**Thank you**

I would like to say thank you to all those who made this issue of Aerodyne possible Ray Bethall, Ray Oakhill, The Bradly's, John Dimmock for articles, and Simon for articles, design. 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**

The new committee after the AGM. Kite festivals you've been too or what ever you would you like to see in the next issue, as long as you write something.

We have a range of sizes in all club t-shirts and hooded tops for sale T-shirts £10 hooded tops £25.00

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

**This Years Festival 10th & 11th July 2004**

Not long to go now. By the time you read this we should have the poster and flyers designed (I hope), let me know if you want some to put up, We have not heard from many of you about what you would like, but there is still time so let us know what you want.

As mentioned last issue Paul Hill has kindly offered to take over the children's kite workshop and as usual we will need your suport on the day to help in the kite workshop please let us know if you are willing to help.

It's our festival so lets make it a good one.

Fun fair and Circus workshop have confirmed

Simon Hennessey



**Povisional Poster design**

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 72.



The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad. The International Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna, and the U.K. Ted Devils. Not yer average Happy Clappy Right On load of Brain Softening Bilge, just good old Mindless Drivel.

## Tales of the unexpected



Arfa at the controls preparing for liftoff.

UNEXPECTED? WE CERTAINLY THOUGHT SO WHEN, AFTER REPEATED DEMANDS THAT "THOSE BUMS SHOULD JUSTIFY THEIR EXISTENCE" the bums in question being the BMISS espionage section, they suddenly came with this, and its a pretty good this.

Ever wondered what Electric Arfa gets up to during those long winter months of "Official Kip"? No, we didn't either, Ahem,

It appears that Arfa is not content to rest on his laurels as regards Fauna hoisting gear, and is permanently striving to improve on what has gone before

We are reliably informed by our tame spies that what purports to be an 1891 Ransomes 1½hp lawn mower, is in actual fact the top secret Dibble MkXVII\*Gasolene and Newcastle Brown powered Gentlemans Model portable Parafauna Hoister, un-going secret trials at Cowpat Hill.

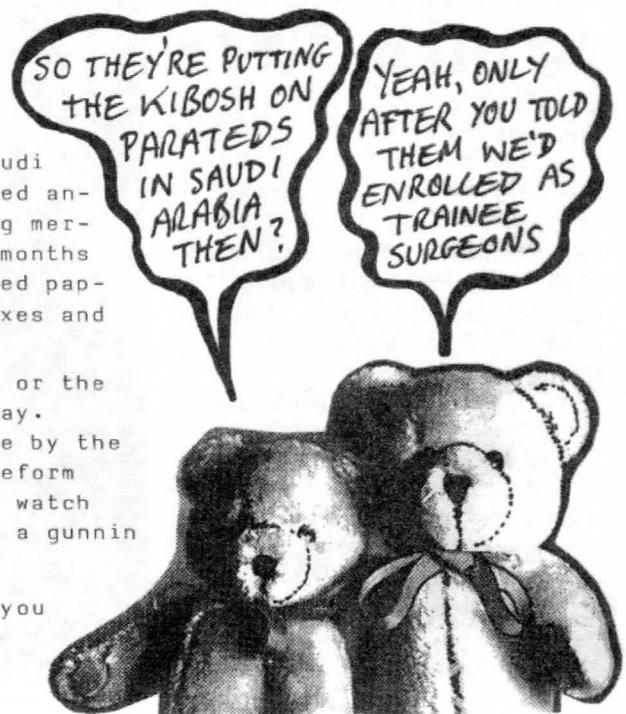
Why, you may ask would anyone in their right mind wish to disguise a prototype fauna hoister as as a lawnmower, which only goes to show that you are not up to speed with the current state of play in the cut throat world of Parafauna hoisting gear. If Arfa did not resort to such subterfuge, why, within a week there would be fifty clones of his design on sale ate every Boot Fair. Suffice it to say that even before the Mk XVII\*goes into full production, Arfa is already working on the MkXVIII, however until that model appears you can find what you require in powered hoisting gear at [www.ger@choocowson.com](http://www.ger@choocowson.com). or your local branch of the flying queerthing emporium, yes, this old established firm is still going strong

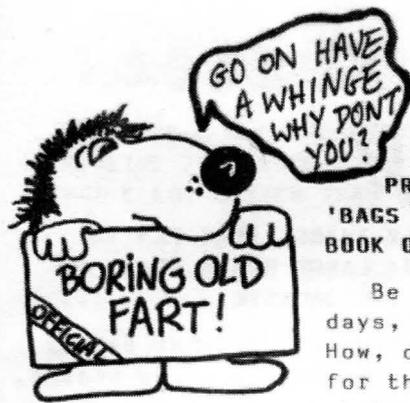
## The writing's on the wall

It certainly is for Teddy Bears and Dolls in Saudi Arabia as the importation of such things as stuffed animal toys and female Dolls has been banned, giving merchants holding stocks of such things, just three months to dispose of them. The Saudi Government controlled paper Al-Riyadh said the ban also applied to crucifixes and models of Buddha.

Whether or not the ban was simply protectionist or the state had gone of its rocker, the paper did not say. This begs the question as to has the reported move by the heavily criticised state towards moderation and reform been halted by government hard liners or what, So watch out all you Teddys and Dollies, Thaym varmint is a gunnin for yers. Gordon Bennett, whatever next?

**STOP PRESS.** A report in THE LANCET says that if you are completly up your own fundamental, you can be removed via a tricky and expensive operation with complete success, so thres no problem there then.





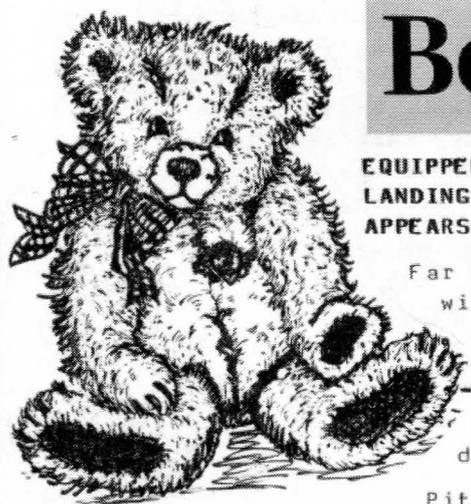
# Natural selection?

THOSE DAYS WHEN RAGGED ARSED ANKLEBITERS STOOD WITH NOSES PRESSED AGAINST FREEZING COLD TOYSHOP WINDOWS, WHILST SCREAMING 'BAGS 'DI' THAT' ARE A DIM AND DISTANT MEMORY, AS IS THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS. WOTCHA GOT NOW IS GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS, ALRIGHT!

Be that as it may one does wonder if like every other thing these days, Guinness is in the process of dumbing down its amazing book. How, do you think one P. Lynn Esq feels about holding the record for the worlds largest Kite ever flown? Pretty good I guess, but at the same time pretty miffed to discover that the same Kite, the one and only MEGABITE is listed in the section headed Toys. Yoo wot, come on Guinness get real, how on earth do you class something that in a good wind could alter the spin rate of planet Earth as a toy? Even in this day and age, the Megabite is hardly a play-thing for todays version of a ragged arsed anklebiter.

O.k., the cynics among you may think that we've got the 'ump 'cos theres no parafauna records in Guinness, so think what you like, though actually we could not give a toss as to wether or not any of our records are in there, its just that compared to say the 1962 Guinness Book of Records, the 2004 version seems to be very pale in comparison.

## Bouncy parachute



EQUIPPED MARTIAN LANDER, BEAGLE 2, WHICH IT WAS HOPED WOULD MAKE A LANDING ON THE RED PLANET, GENTLY CUSHIONED BY ITS BOUNCY CHUTE APPEARS TO BE A TOTAL LOSS.

Far be it from us to say we told you so (we did'nt) no contact with the craft has been made since its scheduled landing on Chrimbo Day in 2003. Its a racing cert that the so called bouncy chute failed bigtime and the £30,000,000 craft self destructed on impact, unlike the American lander Mars Express which landed A,O,K and has been sending back picture and data info from the moment it landed.

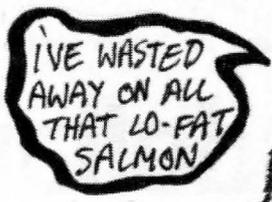
Pity really, as the earthly remains of the 10 gun brig in which Charles Darwin made his landmark voyage, HMS Beagle have been found buried in the mud of the Thames estuary and there is a connection between the ship and the lander apart from the name. Prof Colin Pilger, the man behind the lander is also part of the team who believe they have discovered the remains of the ship. Parachuting, here or there some 35,000,000 million miles away is always fraught with danger, though yer average Parafauna Total always works out somewhat cheaper. Better luck next time Prof.

### DID THE ALASKAN BROWN BEAR GO MAD ON THE ATKINS

Funny enough, having a further trawl through the 1962 Guinness Book of records we saw that the Alaskan Brown Bear (*Ursus gyas*) was listed as the largest land carnivore weighing in at 1,600 lbs or 728 kg, and standing around 9ft or 2.77m tall.

However, a quick shufti at the 2004 Guinness World Records finds the worlds largest land carnivore is now the polar Bear (*Thalarchos maritimus*) which weighs up to 1,320 lbs or 600kg and has a nose to tail length of about 8ft6in or about 2.6m

So what happened in the interveaning 42 years? Did the Brown one go mad on the Atkins Diet and waste away or did science type guys back in 62, have a rubber tape measure and a dodgy set of scales?. Mind you, anyone from the local trading standards who wanted to check up on Brownny or Whitey, would have to be right out of their tiny mind, or dosed up on Nandrolone for a quick getaway if they was barmv enough to try.





IT SORTA LOOKS LIKE A TREE MATE

# In seventh heaven Sparks will fly

AND SPARKS ARE NOT THE ONLY THINGS THAT FLY IN NEW MEXICO. IT APPEARS THAT LARGE BLACK BEARS DO TOO, ESPECIALLY AFTER A 7.2 kva KICK UP THE JACKSIE .....

Titter ye not dear readers, its all true, if somewhat rather shocking, though for all that this tale did have a happy ending.

Picture the scene in balmy New Mexico, long regarded by its inhabitants as a sunny seventh heaven. Momma bear enters stage left, calling for her lost cub. she knows just what to do, get up a tree for a better view of the surrounding area. Of course the poor bear does not know that her chosen tree is actually a power pole.

A large crowd quickly gathers, attracted by the distraught bears calling for her lost cub, and of course its not long before the inevitable happens. One minute the bear was up the pole and suddenly there is a massive bang, an enormous flash and a huge shower of sparks from which emerges a flying bear which crashes to the ground, with as one eyewitness says a sickening thud. Needless to say, that as this was the real world and not la-la land the poor bear was not wearing a parachute, All together now, Ahhhhhh.

Mind you, its a moot point as to wether or not a chute would have had time to deploy, but that is neither here nor there, because after the police and animal welfare officials had given the bear a severe prodding with various sticks etcetera, the unconcious beast revived with nothing more serious than badly singed fur and a super kingsizes headache.

Momma bear was eventually reunited with her lost cub and released from police custody back into the wild blue yonder, where hopefully there will be no weird looking trees that give you a 7,200 volt kick up the jacksie.

We bears aint too hot on geography, but aint Noo Mexico somewhere near Californhyay, the biggest open air loony bin on the planet? maybe some some of them bunny

huggers thereabouts could start a campaign to provide all the wild bears with parachutes just in case they mistake any more power poles for treess(they're coming to take us away



OUCH! HOW WRONG CAN YOU GET?

# Million dollar babes ?

WE'RE NOT SURE IF THEY ARE ALL BABES AS SUCH, PROBABLY A FEW GEEZERS IN THERE TOO.

But whatever, they all sound like a million dollars to us. Who we talking about? why, the 'RED HAT ASSOCIATION' A group of seniors in a retirement complex in Florida, who have formed their own Kite group, and whats more having decided to grow old disgracefully, have also taken up Bear bombing, yes, they have seen the light.

Electric Arfa was introduced to the leader of the gang, one Barbara Hall, by the one and only 'MARLA'. Babs is quite a girl and wishes to raise parachuting merry hell in Florida. Well on her way to flying a Kite in every country in yoorup, Babs can be contacted at bahkiter@thevillages.net which is no prob for you Babbagers out there. so

# Once bitten...

THOSE R.C. READERS WHO AS OF YET HAVE 'NT GOTTEN INTO THE PARABOMBING LARK, SHOULD REALISE THAT ONCE BITTEN BY THE BUG, THEY WILL BE HOOKED FOR LIFE, MIND YOU, THATS A WHOLE LOT BETTER THAN BEING PO-FACED FOR LIFE. PARACHUTING EASY O.K.

So, you've aquired a Teddy Bear by fair means or foul and the next thing you need is a parachute and the assorted bits and pieces that go with it. The following sketches will give you a start. For the chute its best to

unproofed or loomstate Ripstop, or failing that, the lightest material you can find.

Remember there is no correct way to do this, whatever works for you is correct, this is just arough guide.

A Template fothe chute gores can be cut from card the sides of which should be curved (f/glas rod) otherwise the chute will be distorted.

How to equalise both sides of template? cut half template, flip it over and Bingo. the size given include a 1/4" hem and 14 of will give a chute of about 1m dia. 14 shroud lines, each

about 1m in length are needed, seven to each shoulder riser.

Make Chute first and then make a paper chute pack adjusting given dims to your chute. The Pack is made from a couple of layers of proofed ripstop the centr being stiffened with a piece of wash-up liquid bottle. Three flaps of the pack are fitted with eyelets, the fourth has a 1/2" loop of line sewn to it. The loop goes through the eyelets when the chute is packed and the pin on the static line goes thru the free end end of the loop. Four eylets are fitted to the centre of the pack and a piece of elastic is threaded through, this secures the shrouds.

Packing the chute at first seems complicated but its not. Lay out chute with static line inside, roughlyfold to one gore size, concertina chute, likewise the shrouds, but tuck these under the elastic, place chute on top, close flaps with loop thru eylets and secure with the static line pin. A couple of goes at this, you'll do it in yer kip. The harness size varies according to size of fauna. Make from Ripstop or what have you, same with shoulder risers and suspension strap, strap sewn to pack, risers to shoulders of harness.

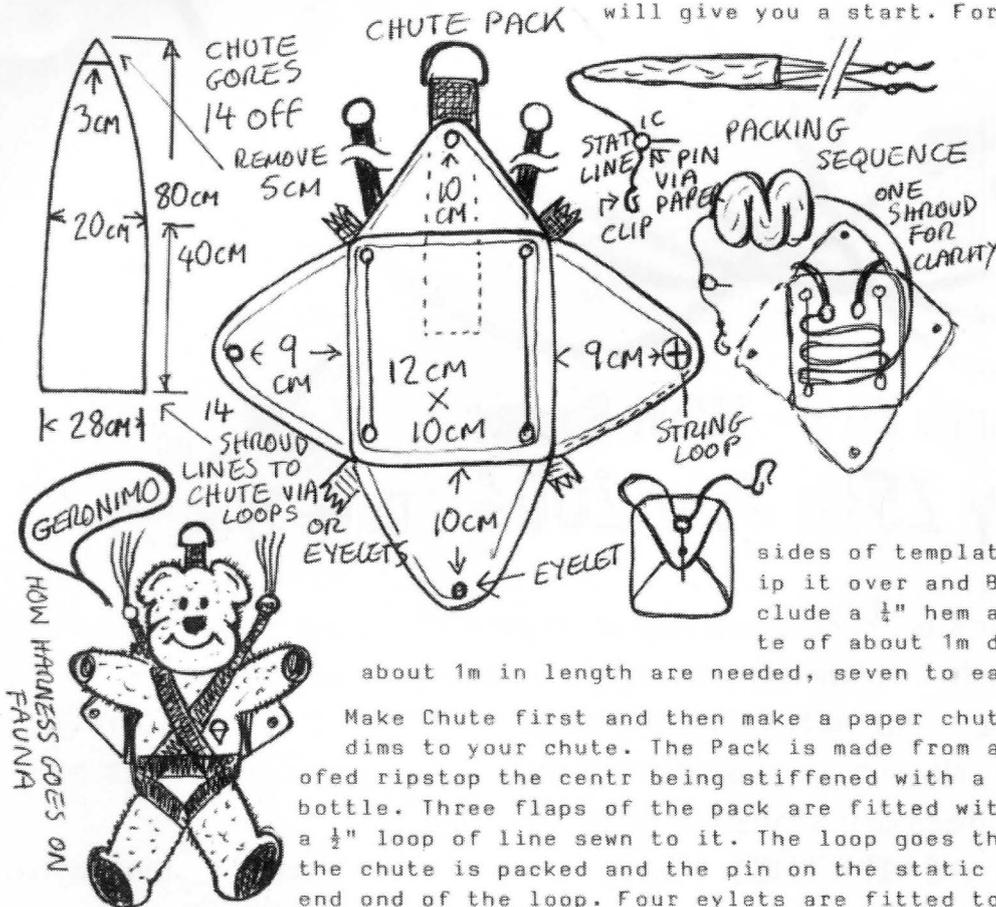
Loads a scope here for bags of suck it and see, thats half the fun and theres loads a that, A pipecleaner is the easiest way to attach fauna to Kite line. Fix one end securely to line a few feet down from kite, free end goes thru suspension strap and is loosly looped over Kite line (experiment) attach static line, Delay in pipecleaner letting go enable you to long launch and if the fauna is reluctant to jump give it a few hard jerks. Above all have fun.

## One final question

HOW COME THOSE WHO HATE OUR GUTS AND PROFESS NOT TO READ THIS LOAD OF MINDLESS DRIVEL ARE AWARE OF ITS CONTENTS? DO WE HAVE CLOSET R.C. READERS, YOU BETCHA.

Bit like the SUN really, where nthe chattering classes deny that they read it, whereas we know in reality they they're telling porkies, they are the most avid readers cos they wish to find out who the SUN is having a go at. likewise with R.C. Come out of that closet you silly sods, we know you're in there.....

As ever, its the usual to the whatnot, c/o The Boring Old Fart ( at least he's honest ) 48. Larel Lane, West Drayton. UB7. 7TY in what will be forever Beautiful ENGLAND, yoo dig.



# PETWORTH FESTIVAL

# KITES

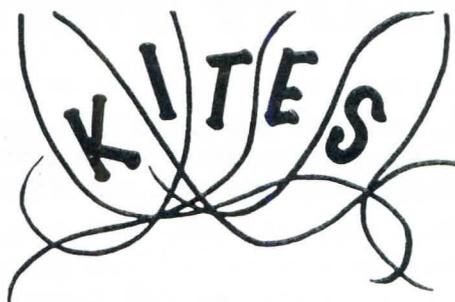
in Petworth Park - West Sussex

**Sunday 25th July 2004 11am-5pm**

Saturday 26 July '03 was a horrendous day with pouring rain and leaking canvas. What a miracle to wake the following morning to a good wind and sunshine for our Kite Festival. Thank you to our kiting friends from far and wide for supporting us yet again. We had over six thousand visitors in 2003 and over £6000 was raised from carparking money, teas and stalls for local charities.

**PLEASE SUPPORT US AGAIN THIS YEAR.** Bring your exciting, innovative, eccentric, colourful and unusual kites. Height clearance 1,000 ft. Its on - wet or fine, with kite stalls, workshop, Petworth Town Band, Model Power Boats, food, beer tent, charity stalls. Lots for children. Giant slide, trampolines, little bus rides, Punch and Judy **AND MORE!**

For more information contact: Simon Hennessey ☎ [simon@BKF.org.uk](mailto:simon@BKF.org.uk) OR  
Joanna Mersey 01798 869214



**Petworth Festival**

**Demonstrator's car & van pass**

**Sunday 25th July 2004**

**Petworth Park - West Sussex 11am-5pm**

**A272 Midhurst Road entrance**

**In aid of The National Trust and local charities**