

THE KITEFLIER

40 Years 1979 - 2019



Issue 160 July 2019 £2.50
Newsletter of the Kite Society of
Great Britain

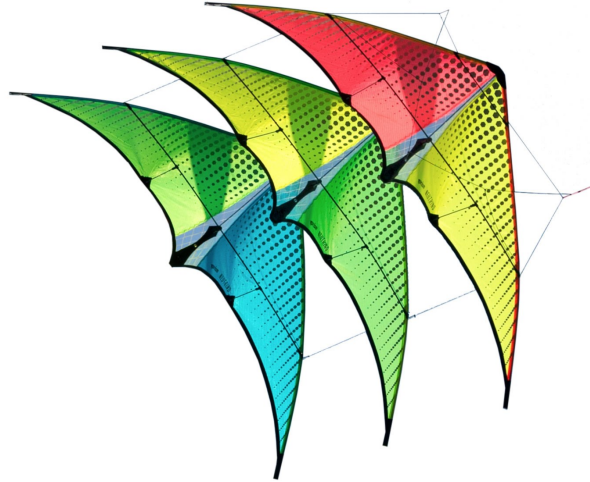
KITEWORLD

All The Fun Of The Air!

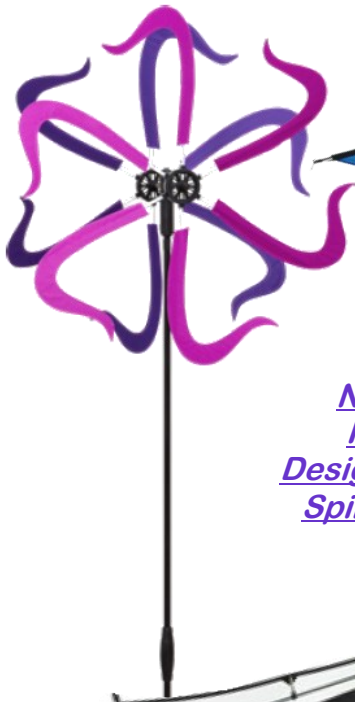


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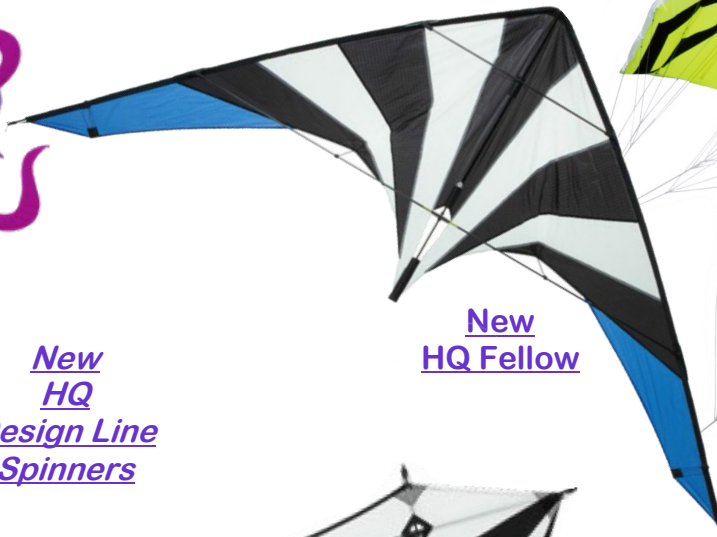
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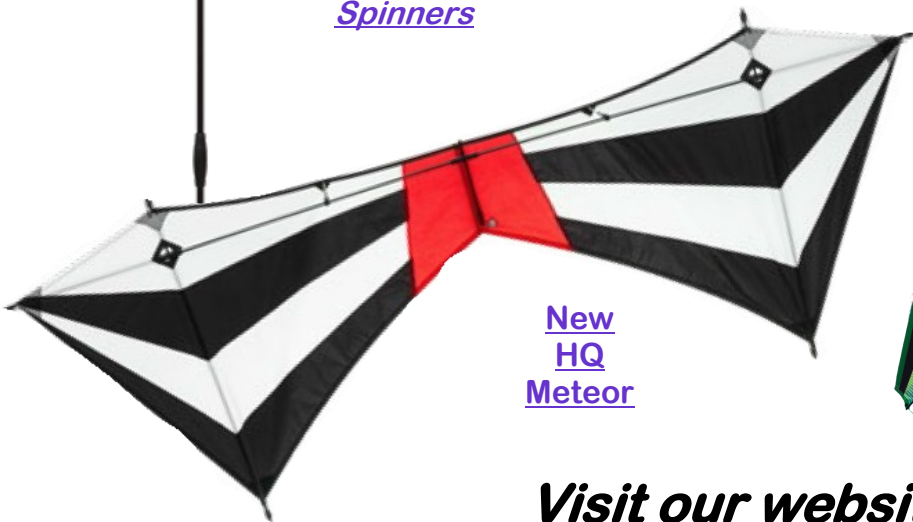
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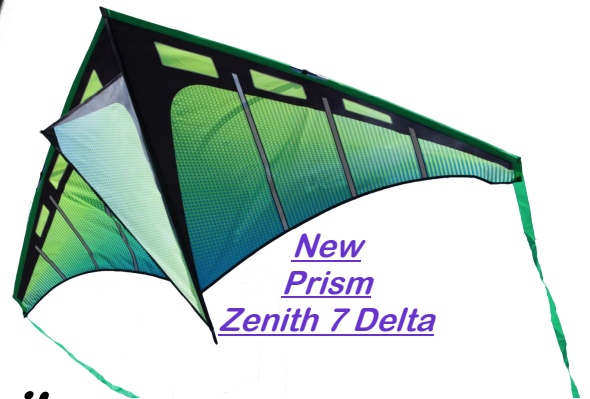
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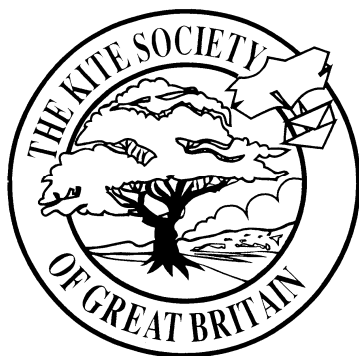


*New
Prism
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Editorial

Dear Readers

The year is progressing and events so far in the UK have had good weather and wind. Let us hope it continues for the rest of the year.

For those of us old enough to remember—Barry Pitman was editor of Kites Magazine back in the day. He was and still is a photographer and is in the process of transferring and archiving the photographs from the kite festivals he has attended over the years. These will appear on www.pixelsonapage.com.

Front Cover

George Peter's Cloud Kites at the exhibition in Cervia.
Photo
Gill Bloom

Below are a couple of shots he sent us—on the left, Ron Dell, Kiteability and founder of the Teston Kite Festival. On the right, co-founder of The Kiteflier, John Barker.

FORTY YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG
Well deserved congratulations to Gill and Jon on such an epic achievement in British Kite Flying. To have produced 'The Kiteflier' for forty years and remain relatively sane is one hell of an task. Congratulations -The Midlands Kite Fliers



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Electronic Subscription (Individual or Family)	£5.00
Household (Individual, Family, Senior)	£15.00
Overseas (Europe)	£25.00
Overseas (Rest of World Airmail)	£30.00

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Berck 2019—Hugh Blowers, Pictures—Lyn Blowers

Berck, come hell, high water or Brexit.

Not so much the weather or kite flying that pre-occupied us leading up the 33rd RICV, but whether we would make it at all? Britain leaves (*was due to*) the EU on 31st March, we cross on the 1st April. Tales of forty mile queues on the French side—true, news items about the M20 being closed for 11,000 trucks to park—true, it was closed but, false—no trucks. French customs officers working to rule—true. P&O offering to give us our money back—also true, so where did that leave us? Well, the late news that the date had been put back to the 12th of April was something of a double-edged sword as it meant we could get there, but could we get back? All in all, a somewhat apprehensive start for us.

In the event, Dover was the quietest we have seen for years, border control, customs and check in all accomplished within minutes and no delays the other side either—phew. Gill and Jon, who did get involved in some delays, can attest to the fact that the French customs were still flexing their collective muscles. Rashly, we assumed that all the roadwork approaching Berck would be over, but no, still digging a tunnel under the railway line, so diversions that must have caused total chaos later on? Driving into the town one immediately becomes aware that the building of apartments and holiday homes continues apace and that a huge amount of money is being spent on the infrastructure and the general appearance of the town.

One can appreciate the importance of the festival to the town when the fields down to the Chemin Anglais and what used to be the bulb fields towards the main road were given over to official parking. Each park had an identifying letter and a barrier installed to deter motor homes, which were parked on the archery range as usual and all along the verges of other roads.

The layout of the promenade was slightly different this year with the 'Espace Rose des Vents', which included two huge diamond screens, a TV studio as well as all the concession, tourism and exhibition tents that were concentrated towards the south end of the site. Where the motorhomes used to park is now a leisure area with the obligatory 'big wheel'. Never quite sure what the arrangement for registration is going to be, and just to confuse us, the bureau was open all day although the issue of cabin keys was chaos as usual. Postponed to 3pm, then 5pm, so nothing more to do than beers in the car park with the normal crew all gathered. It is a sign of the relative affluence that the motor homes are more numerous than ever and get bigger, as do trailers. Tractors transporting trailers on to the beach are now a main feature of day one, whilst the peasants still carry their bundles or exhaustedly drag Beach Rollys across the sand.

In age of face-tube, much of what follows will be old hat, but those of us that still look forward to the arrival of the quarterly printed newsletter it is a chance to fill in a few more details and observations. Being face-tube outcasts, we were not aware of Guy Reynolds' winter project, the Marvellous Bug Lady, another of his super hero series and one of his best yet. Every step in design and building is revealed on said social media, which does raise a certain level of expectation, both for the builder and spectators, and it has to be said, Guy delivered. He was a constant presence throughout the week in the big kite arena with Bug Lady, Yoshika Miyafuji, a Strike Witch and more of his super heroes, although he told us that Batman has now succumbed to severe fabric degradation.



New to Berck were the Twentse Kite Friends, with a huge trailer stuffed with inflatables in red and white, including a lovely horse and a selection of large sparred kites in the Dutch tradition. Down the far end were a large Dolphin and Shark from PLK but with personalised graphics, a feature of many of the PLK products flying during the week. In our arena we met up with Johnny and Maggie from Singapore Show Kites with their two huge Merlions. These are legendary beasts tied up with the discovery of the island in the 11thC where a lion was seen for the first time, giving the island the name Singapura, Sanskrit for Lion City. Even by this time, the wind was causing all sorts of problems as it was forecast to be set from over the town for almost the entire week, and so it proved. Lunches proved to be something of a marathon as queues stretched to the door every

Berck 2019—Hugh Blowers, Pictures—Lyn Blowers

day, although it has to be said that the food was a distinct improvement on the last couple of years. From banners at their facility it appears that there is some threat to the AFPA in Berck, which might be problematic in the future?



Being a non-competition year, Gerard had gathered together an impressive selection of two and four line flyers to provide the arena programme for the crowds that were as impressive as ever. Flying Squad with Gary, the two Steves, Daniel and augmented by Lisa Willoughby spent much of their time in the arena with two routines and the Rev megateam. Their routine was spot on and sharp until they ran out of wind, and arena. Later we were treated to the revival of 'The Frog Chorus', a bit like Marmite really? All of the teams struggled with the wind at times yet the Follies with their competition and then mega team line-ups were as entertaining as ever, as were Start Air who look serious contenders for backing up their 2018 win. The combined teams of Panam'air and Now'air with their mix of two and four line kites continues to impress me and their routine flown to Vangelis' 1492 was sublime. Remember Dreams of Flight that used to fly to that? I particularly liked the team landing where seven kites on a ground pass each rolled 270 degrees in succession to a perfect landing, a sublime manoeuvre.

A feature of the week was a tribute to Ray Bethell, who used to spend hours on the beach at Berck with just his denim waistcoat or bare chested, flying almost continuously. A display

board was set up in the flyers tent celebrating his life, whilst in the arena, one person flying three kites to 'Wind Beneath My Wings' evoked memories of Ray. The Revs joined in by spelling out his name in the sky. Sadly, times move on, and people asked why he was being celebrated in Berck, oh dear?

Another name intimately connected with Berck was Andre Cassagnes, and as well as the trophy that bears his name, rings were flown each day to commemorate his time there. Readers will remember that Michel Gressier was not involved at Dieppe last year, so Gerard was only too happy to welcome him to Berck with a display in the flyers tent and a large selection of colourful material set out. He and Gerard are putting on a kite exhibition in the main Marche area of Paris shortly after the festival, where they intend to have Cassagnes rings surrounding the entire course.

The sea end of our arena was definitely for the heavy metal with four large trailers evident for Jurgen and Ingrid, Uwe and Ellen, Dirk and Sonja and the Twentse group. Each had new and bigger kites, if that is possible, as well as large quantities of ripstop mentioned in previous reports. Jurgen's new line was based on 'lost in space' a huge spaceship with flames from the tail and attendant aliens going up the line. The largest alien was almost exactly half the width of the arena. A trailer now is not enough; one of them had an awning attached to one side and then a gazebo extending from that. With the 'toilet tent' close by it was almost a kite village.



Soggy Kite Sunday was an immediate contrast as it started with thick mist that obscured the sea and very little wind, not a lot to do, which was just as well as part two of the 'surprise present' was to be enacted. Again this will be known to the social media savvy, but a long and heartening tale that bears retelling. We were aware that

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a new Phoenix had been built as a present, but were kept guessing as to who it was destined for. What we had not appreciated, that it was a closed group on face-tube that had clubbed together and commissioned Karl to build the kite. The lucky recipient was to be Aud, a young Rev flyer from Berck, who had become enchanted with the kite over the last two years, but was in no position to buy one. The plan was to present her with the kite at a party in the tent early on Sunday morning, but how to disguise a Phoenix so as not to give the game away? Well, like hiding a tree in a forest, surround it with other Phoenix, so Karl and Sara carted five more over and rigged them in the tent with the sixth in amongst them. Certainly was a surprise for Aud who was made up and somewhat emotional, hardly able to separate herself from it for the rest of the week.



Down towards the hospital, now converted to apartments, something serious was afoot. The 2014 record breaking giant ray had been rebuilt since its Bristol accident and was being launched into the mist. After a few attempts, it flew as well as I have seen it and was still being deflated as we made our way to lunch. Only then do you get some idea of the scale, as it looks big when flying, even bigger when we arrived at the flyers tent only to realise that it was still a further arena away, totally humungous by any standards.

During the long queue for lunch, we were entertained by the French steam punk man who had a Skeletor manikin as a guitarist, sitting at a microphone, playing and singing heavy metal, whilst arms, head and mouth were manipulated. Each track drew applause, and then another track that was obviously a French standard was put on, which encouraged Christophe, the head man from AFPA, to do a serious session of 'air broom', including the vocals, which the French would join in with, quite mad.

That just left the problem of getting the five Phoenix back, so what better way than fly them up the beach? All going well until it started to rain. Luckily the hut doors opened downwind so

the five of us could fly in the warm and dry. All down the line, huts doors were open for the same purpose, team Phoenix all enjoying what was probably the best wind of the week for a good couple of hours showing that the Brits are made of stern stuff. Vulandra had bombed the area with a multitude of arches that added some colour to what was something of a dreary day. Eventually the rain stopped.

The weather does not put the French public off so a full arena display again but this time, Flying Squad had enough wind to complete the routine faultlessly including hitting the final landing perfectly. Rev stacks are not new, but there were a set and later a team flying skeletonised versions that were locked in to each other with nary a wobble, whatever they did.

The weather never deters Etienne Veyrez either, even though all his kites are paper and bamboo and he is quite happy to leave them on the beach whatever the conditions. It was somewhat ironic, that one French flyer who can usually be relied on to create havoc anchored their kites, which then flew perfectly in their absence.



It has to be said that the stars of the festival were Vulandra. They came mob handed, stayed all week and filled the sky every day with multiples of each type of kite as well as putting in several arena displays. Maurizio Cence was flying a gorgeous butterfly kite and later put up a large and somewhat unusual sky sculpture called 'Wind Man', which looked a bit like an Olympic athlete in full flight but covered in small feathers.

How many remember Pete Rondeau's Seven Gods of Good Fortune Edo that was a master class in appliqué? Jan from the Twentse team had produced his own version that took him two winters to stitch but he had made a fantastic job of it and it flew perfectly too.

There were several 'first flights' during the week, starting with Jan and his train of soldiers. These were built specifically for heavy weather, but flew

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equally well in next to nothing, each soldier having a different haircut and moustache.



Charlie made an appearance, although there was not enough wind for him to fly his kite yet he kept the public engaged, even at the cost of sand in his servos. Two figures in one day, one Radio Controlled, the other a marionette, no limit to what kiteflyers can produce, and there were more to come during the week.

Monday produced one of those magic kite flying moments and a couple of demonstrations as to the real lack of understanding of the power of Bols. In the arena, Bert from Belgium had a large, spiky version, big, but still much smaller than John Turner's that we remember from Brighton and festivals of days gone by. Experience has shown that seldom is an anchor big enough for a bol and sure enough, it was seen heading across the arena towing the anchor behind it, only being arrested by prompt action from Esteban and others. On the beach, two more and equally large bols proved irresistible to the public and children, yet when it was pointed out the danger of her kids hanging on to them, the mother took umbrage.

The day started with light wind and sun, and a slightly surreal moment. A team was practising with a very strident, female voice calling go for each action. This resounded over the whole site and before long, shouts of 'go' were coming from all and sundry.

Vulandra bombed the beach with their cup and ball kites while Dirk and Sonja were putting up their giant 'Jerry' for the first time. If that is the size of 'Jerry', then 'Tom' is going to be enormous (ho ho). With the light wind it was refreshing to see so many sparred kites in the air including a flight of five, large, angel kites. One kite was a fine example of how not to get carried away in an auction. Very nice, desirable but almost exactly three times what it would have cost new and complete. Therein lies the problem,

have you got it all, or in this case too much and has the previous owner wreaked their own personal havoc on the bridling as again they had done. Owning one such kite we were aware of the clever slip bridle that allows adjustment for different wind conditions but this had been tied off so that the kite would not fly. A helpful 'friend' then tied three knots in the top bridle in order to get it to fly, rather than reinstate the system that the designer and builder had fitted



The lunch queue was again huge, by far the longest we have seen for a weekday since the card system came into being. There were babies and children of flyers in abundance and an impromptu changing space in the corner. AWITA remarked that they had no more children, they were just taking up more space. An on going oddity in the arena was an incursion from a weirdly dressed female during a team routine who proceeded to run round waving a magic stick with a gnome's head on it and causing chaos. This resulted in calls for security and dire warning about safety, but it transpired that it was all staged and that she had carte blanche to act however she wanted throughout the week.

The day ended with one of those memorable moments that represents kite flying at its best. The plan was for a grand finale of nations in the main display arena, the only complication being the almost total lack of wind. Jurgen and his team mustered thirty plus Firebirds on poles, team Phoenix with thirteen kites, Vulandra with Sodes and a plethora of hearts from Renee Maier. It required a massive effort from all concerned to provide flyers and launchers for all these and it was great to have the sports kite teams, wind gardeners and flyers from all corners of the field joining in. With 'Ode to Joy' playing, the entire ensemble set off slowly down the arena, with the hearts following last of all. Beethoven segued into Elgar with Pomp and Circumstance until we all arrived at the far end with an impromptu celebration of last night of the Proms to Land Of Hope and Glory. Ironic in a way?

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Tuesday, a bore? A dank start, wind and rain for most of rest of the day. I have mixed feeling about helping the public with their kites that don't fly, especially sports kites as the sad fact is that most of them wont in the conditions and situation that pertain, and probably not safely anyway. My reticence overcame me as a very young girl was flying a sports kite close to the arena. It was wet, relatively windy but she kept at it with mother launching every time it came down. What was different was that she seemed to have an instinctive ability to react and keep it in the air, but no sense of steering so I duly wandered over. Mother appeared happy to let me give her a guiding hand and soon the arms were down by her side and the kite was being controlled. What is more, she persisted and after nearly three hours of continuous flying she had got it.

Some made the assumption that proceedings had been cancelled for the afternoon but with a goodly crowd on the promenade a full programme took place including excellent two and four line mega teams. The four-line grid fly produced a superb manoeuvre, which involved turning the entire grid through ninety degrees so that the right and left stacks became the top and bottom lines. The grid then slowly rotated back to normal and then rotated in the opposite direction, impressive kite control.

Outside the arena were a very large bear in a deckchair and a skeleton, both flying kites, courtesy of Garder le Gap, Berck flyers who also had trains of tiny butterflies darting about. Butterflies were the theme of the festival and Wendy and Peter Thomas had done a super doll mimicking the poster girl, along with loads of butterflies and



her usual assortment of dolls, figures and flowers from recycled items.



The artist who included our two RZ seahorses in the centre of his painting was again in attendance all week and he had used his original outline, still with the two seahorses, as a printed master for the public to paint over. A few flyers abandoned because of the conditions, yet it was a good show from the inflatables in the far arena who must have ended up with some very damp kites. Brits reigned supreme in arena four with the Mabons, Longbottoms, ourselves, the Goddards and Bob C all apparently impervious to the weather, must have been the copious intake of malt and sloe gin. Otherwise, it was Los Hermanos, the Shavits, Jan, Jos, and Dirke and Sonja and that was it. Odd that there were far fewer flyers on the field but the lunch queue was even longer? Michel Gressier was building a huge yakko in tent while Aufwind was stitching acres of rip stop to keep themselves amused.

Gerard called a halt around five after a brilliant routine from the Follies and mega team that went on forever. The black World Cup Revs continues to work on their routine after the rest of us had finished; apparently trying to get enough experienced and committed flyers to create a team. Oh yes, the boar, well a very happy and well behaved pig wandered around for much of the afternoon amongst the crowd, snuffling everywhere as it went with its little tail wagging madly all the time.

Mayhem Mcredi. Johnny and Maggie had decamped to the South arena where they put up a pair of Merlions and a cat train. You will have seen Peter Lynn's treatise of single skin kites in the last issue and his large octopus spent most of the week in the air, indeed, in terms of kite hours Peter must have had the highest score over the festival. It was easy to see the rear tape bridles working and it was well behaved, most of the time. The smaller version however was a bit unruly at times. The Decorators had Felix, Maggie and guest flying all week, augmented at the weekends by other members of the team. Felix flew a Rev stack in near ballistic wind but the

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skeleton stack remained perfectly balanced and absolutely under control, even in these conditions. Way out towards the fast receding sea, Sara Longbottom had a flock of Doves pegged out on the sand, whilst closer to home Maurizio Cenci had put up his 'Wind Man' again, which filled somewhat better in the fresh breeze. Sunny all day although general mayhem once the wind got up. Karl had to wander off three times to retrieve his heart. Jan got bridles of his pilot cut clean through, but that was back in the air within minutes. Michael Goddard had new kites built specifically for windy conditions that flew well and Jos Valcke had dug out lots of old stuff, Bols, fish etc.

Gerard made an announcement at lunchtime with a very thinly veiled message. It has been a concern of his for a while that few flyers have been turning up for the vol du nuit, which the town views as the focus of the week, despite contracts, pleas, and appeals to peoples better nature. He was quite open in saying that if you were not at the evening briefing for the night fly then 'you might not be there next year'. In addition, the meal tickets for Saturday would only be available at the briefing. Ironically, the wind was almost perfect by the time we had to pack up for the



briefing, yet many reckoned that the flying in the rain on Tuesday was better than that day?

The result of Gerard's exhortations was that the tent almost full instead of the usual 30, a fact that he was quick to remark on. No real changes in arrangements except that there was no space for sports kites and no large blimps, but there would be a parade along the promenade by large marionettes and figures.

Non-stop sun on Thursday but difficult winds. Stella Plage, a couple of miles up the coast, made it onto the national forecast as sunniest place in France.

Great display of dragons in the arena, both traditional and PL. The plan for Portsmouth could be spectacular if all the dragons turn up and have space to fly at the same time? Michael Goddard had moved to the 'dark side' with a pilot up for his pencil windsocks. Five Angels flying in close formation for much of the morning, although one was a Corbynista as it had a marked left bias. Shula has produced a kite and a bag that were works of art and infinite patience. Something like 1500 individual squares in the kite, but of varying sizes and colour gradations to give the impression of six 3D panels of different colours. Her bag was even more intricate with each square around 15mm with tiny embroidered shapes along each seam.

As usual, towards the second weekend there were mass arrivals and longest lunch queues ever. Bert went home to do his washing and collect more kites. Dick Toonen arrived with more drum boxes intending to do the wall again after deciding that Dieppe disaster was not going to put him off.

The octopus in all its guises is still one of the most visually attractive of kites and they are ever popular and now, seemingly breeding. There are some exceedingly large ones coming out of China yet the one flying in the north arena eclipsed even those for size, it was huge, high on 200ft long and beautifully languid in its movements as only scale can produce. Not sure what the collective noun for octopi is, but there was a veritable swarm in the south area, rigged in the 'octopile' fashion, one large at the top and ten smaller below, and all from one person. Stephen Versteegh has around twenty of the mid sized ones, all in the same muted shade, along with the 'larger mummy'. Carting around three small ones is enough, but twenty-one, no wonder the trailers are getting larger. AWITA added another large PL version to their collection with octopi vying with mantas for numerical superiority.

Hardly the most attractive of kites, but I have to say that the 'Potheary trilobites' are unbelievably stable as pilots, far more so than the Italian flow forms with tails that continually caused havoc. Tails on a pilot are bad news, especially if the

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are fluffy tails. Two large PL style flag kites were being flown, one sponsored by Radio 6 and a German one. Halfway through the day there was the most horrendous sound as a very solid, metal framed exhibition tent was blown down the beach, only stopping when it got to the wind garden. The sun had really brought the crowds out with the town absolutely crammed. The roads out were still gridlocked at 8-15 as we were headed back to our accommodation.

Even parking that far out was an adventure as every spare inch of space had a motorhome on it. The group had organised for the little road train to be based at the motel to ferry residents into town. Tatiana on the TF1 forecast suggested that the warm weather was on its way out, and so it proved as it was already cold and got colder when sun went in and worse, rubbish wind all day. News came in from Holland and Germany that it was snowing in both countries.

Eleven in the morning each day is the call to cement relationships with various home brewed portions and nibbles, but all was thrown into chaos just as everyone gathered, which took ages to sort out. Something of a surprise to see the giant manta going up, yet it seemed to fly better than ever with the larger single skin octopus on the nose as a pilot. Definitely brave flying in that wind, but it flew well and came down perfectly, brought about, as we later found out, through the Kuwait ambassador being in town and demanding to see it up. Despite the cold there was still a good crowd all day and we could fly into the evening, as the tent was closed, ready for the gala.

The tent was absolutely packed for the party; it took nearly twenty minutes to get checked in. Loads of food, meats, shellfish laid out as usual although with the heating going full blast?

Something of a tradition now are the short speeches, firstly from Bruno, the mayor, and in English, hoping that we would all come back last year and from Gerard saying how important kite flying was and how much he enjoyed having all his friends together. The traditional DVD started with a still of Ray Bethell before the cheers as each kite or flyer was recognised. A difficult choice this year but there was no doubt that Maurizio Cenci was a popular and worthy winner of the Cassagnes Trophy for his 'Wind Man'. He later told us that he hopes to build three to represent the three elements of kite flying. Only then did the bun fight start, some seriously full plates selected and devoured. Cheese arrived at 10.30, dessert, no idea as we headed for home after a fourteen plus hour day.

Always a slightly jaded start on Saturday and Sunday. Some people claim that Berck is a cold festival, yet we have spent far more days sweltering than shivering, especially last year, but the final three days set new lows in temperature, not



even getting into double figures and around freezing as we drove in each morning. Crystal clear skies and a bitter wind, but perfect flying down on the beach once you were out of the wind shadow of the town. I went for one of my traditional walkabouts down to the hospital with one of Karl's Angels, amazing to think that we used to decamp there on a Wednesday to fly and now the arenas are down to that area.

Vulandra filled the beach to such an extent that the organisers set out another arena where we joined them for a Phoenix fly, probably the best of the week. Lovely to see a woman who was deaf take up the offer of a fly with the Phoenix, and although we could not communicate, she was obviously made up with the experience.

The afternoon was firstly notable for the rollicking the field director gave to the four-line mega team, all in English. The gist was that if they can't fly then their spot is cancelled. The Decs were back up to strength and flew a full routine, still based on their well-proven method of flying but with much more complex and choreographed elements. Gill and Jon set up camp with a multitude of banners and flags with around 72 carp on her waves, lots to put and take down each day. The Drum Box wall created chaos from order as all instructions were either forgotten or overruled by the field director (s).

All the arenas had problems all day with the wind coming over the town, massive shifts as well plus huge gusts, not like forecast, although sunny through to lunch time. The afternoon was full of fun and frolics. No wind, lots of wind, routines disrupted. Then it got silly. Many of us were called over to do a combined display of flat kites. Dominique told us that it was raining in Calais and it certainly looked black over there, but no rain was forecast.

Time to introduce you to the French word 'ourage', the nearest translation being 'little hurricane'. We have experienced one of these in the past and they are not nice. Start'air delayed their routine as it approached but then it hit. Amazing-

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ly they carried on but changed the routine in order to survive, but with crowds there was no delay, and the order to get the flat kites into the air in a gale. Aud led the way with her new Phoenix, the wings almost touching. A young girl from the wind garden flew mine, hanging on for grim death, yet they all survived, flying well even without tails although Patrick managed to break his again before he even launched it. Normally you would never consider flying a sparred kite in such conditions, but that is the down side of being part of a festival, participation is expected.

It started to rain just as we pulled down, so it was a mad rush back into the huts before, not the anticipated deluge but sun. The unknown factors about an Ourage are how strong, how wet, how long? Well, in this case not too bad for any of them but the far arena was cleared of kites, not a single one left in the air.

Gathered ourselves together with a fortifying wine in the sun but with no wind. When it did come in it was from the north west, unlike the forecast, so the sky soon refilled as everyone sorted themselves out until another ourage, mid way through Now'air Panam'air routine hit, including a nigh on 180 wind shift, that caused more chaos. That they stayed up was incredible yet they sorted out the mess and carried on perfectly, superb flying.

Soon calmed down again for the Millennium Falcon with astronauts, Nautilus, drum boxes and mega teams. Flew angels in sunshine until time to pack up for tea, best flying of the day, as always.

An airline style meal in the tent so lots there preparing for the night fly. Forecast was for 8mph wind and no rain so almost perfect. Started flying from 9 in an absolutely clear dark sky with a perfect half moon. Managed to wind the Angels up 500 ft, noticeably more kites in the air and then the wind garden gnomes with their lanterns.

We could see and hear the parade along prom with bands and huge figures all lit up, but not too much idea of what was happening up there. The normal Vol de nuit introduction followed and then lovely choral music with spotlights on the kites, looking ethereal in the sky, super inflatables all illuminated and lit sports kites. Then boom, incredible fireworks went on for ages with us right in amongst them, but not with kites as the wind dropped completely just as the first flare went up, resulting in several huge birds nest of line to be untangled later.

Back to the tent for a beer and then walk home observing the traffic chaos. Queues right from centre of town down every road, never seen it so bad, many of the visitors not even attempting to escape and spending the night in their cars. Four people and a dog in a family car in a public car park all night, must be keen?

Sunday stated with frost on the ground but a beautiful, clear sky again. Disappointing to see a mass pull out of motor homes and trailers, leaving the beach very bare.

We know work and other commitments necessitate this as we had to do it ourselves for many years, but it does not help organisers with a huge Sunday crowd to entertain. The field director was looking round desperately for additions to the arena displays and even some of the teams had the odd gap in them.

Again a great fly way down on the beach early, really cold but with sun on our backs. Malcolm Goodman had his train up again until lunchtime where we saw the shortest queue of the week? The afternoon saw another massive wind shift, 90 plus degrees, kites flying down the beach, out to sea and then back again before settling down for the rest of the afternoon and a final fly until pull down time and then having to pack it all away and haul everything back to the car park. Where did that nine days go to?

The festival was brought to a close with three Cassagnes rings flying in the main arena in the sun and the news that 2020 was confirmed as World Cup year.

A last walk to the hospitality tent for a final beer and general mardle about the festival. The wind never really cooperated all week, although there was good flying to be had with a walk towards the sea. Vulandra had starred throughout the week with their arena displays arches and beach bombing. Many were off to Cervia but our sympathies went out to those who had to be up at silly o'clock as the bus left for airport at 3.30 in the morning.

Once again the town of Berck and all the officials and helpers had created a great event for us all to enjoy, which we duly did, thanks. All our fears about problems were unfounded, thankfully although the B***** situation is still unresolved, so a trouble free trip, well, nearly.

All was going well until we were on to the A2 when we were alerted to an accident on the other carriageway, which we passed and then stopped, for two hours. The diversion put in place for the M2/A2 junction was stopping our carriageway moving at all, so we waited.

Then we heard that the M20, M11 and A12 were all closed in the direction we wanted to go, and the final insult, the road from Norwich closed all afternoon following an incident. Welcome home.

A Tribute to Ray Bethell—Peter Metcalf & Franca Perletti

Cervia 2005, meeting Ray again after at least ten years was going to have a bigger effect on me, more that I could imagine.

Not only did it rekindle my friendship with him it started a love affair, not only with Cervia but also with Franca.

I first met Ray in 1992/3 when I collected him from the Swindon Kite Festival to bring him to Hereford before going to the Margam Park kite festival. From the beginning he was a kind, friendly and helpful man. Franca first met him in 2000 when she went to Cervia to take some photos. We both helped him, as ground crew, and were always amazed at his mastery of the kites and the pleasure he gave the spectators.

Following his death in December 2018, Artevento, the organisers of Cervia International Kite Festival in Italy, dedicated this year's festival to the memory of Ray. A number of red and black 'kestrals', Rays trademark kite, were brought over from Canada to be used in memory demonstrations. A screening of the video 'Good Stuff', produced by the Vancouver Film School, took place in the main square in Cervia, with Italian sub titles, to a packed crowd.

During the evening together with a demonstration of quad line flying by Connor Doran, a phenomenal young flyer from the States, the organisers were presented with one of the kites Ray used in his epic world record for flying three kites for over twelve yours.

Rest in peace dear Ray



Cirque Du Soleil

How a Londoner joined Cirque du Soleil, performing across the globe in TORUK

It started with a trip to the park. Multi-winning world champion kite-flyer Chris Goff was six years old the first time he flew a kite, writes Cara Cummings of the Weekender.

"It's all because Dad wanted to get us out of the house," he laughs. "He bought a kite to get the family outside. It was supposed to just be a way of us spending time together."

But a chance meeting during the Goff's first kite-flying excursion changed everything for Chris.

"We were in our local park and a kite shop owner happened to be there at the same time. He saw me flying, told my Dad I was a natural and asked how long I'd been doing it for. 'About 20 minutes!' was Dad's response; and things just went from there."

Since that fateful day, Chris has won the World Sport Kite Championships three times, the UK National Championships more than 20 times, and has spent the last two years travelling the world as Cirque du Soleil's kite expert-in-residence, performing across the globe in TORUK – The First Flight.

'Le Petite Phenom', as he was known on the circuit as a child, has come a long way.

"I feel so privileged – I can't describe how lucky I feel," says the 29 year old former Woolwich furniture designer of his latest adventure. "Although people normally think I'm making it up – it's quite a thing to say you ran off and joined the circus."

Inspired by James Cameron's Avatar, TORUK is a spectacular live reimaging of the alien land of Pandora and it's blue-hued Na'vi people. The theatrical odyssey is also the first show in the world to use kites as part of an indoor performance.

Chris' transition from world champion to international stage star is a tale of how creativity, grit and persistence can pay off extraordinarily. Even if the audition process was a little unorthodox.

"I had to send in videos of me running around my office, moving like a Na'vi," he chuckles. "I'm not sure my colleagues really knew what to make of it!"

For despite his prodigal success – Chris won his first competition at just 10 years old – the humble Londoner never thought his "lifelong addiction" could become a full-time career.

"I didn't realise you could do it every day," he explains. "When I was approached by Cirque du Soleil, it was like: 'Oh my god! – this is my dream job, and I didn't even realise was an option!'"

I was settled and comfortable at home, but I knew I had to do it. For the inner child in me – I couldn't let him down."

Chris left his job, packed up his flat and headed to Montreal for three weeks of intense training at Cirque du Soleil's Canadian headquarters.

Having never been onstage before in his life, he had to learn to act from scratch.

"I found it really nerve-wracking," admits Chris. "But it's a bit like kite-flying – it takes dedication. You have to keep pushing to get better. And as long as you're enjoying it, you will; I've learnt that from the acrobats here at Cirque."

Determination, coupled with his innate creativity – Chris studied at Central St. Martins and designs his own kite range – has built him a reputation as one of the most innovative and exciting flyers on the scene.



Portsmouth International Kite Festival 2019

Taking place Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th August at Southsea Common, Portsmouth. This is the 28th Festival.

The theme this year is "New Friends". As such we have a larger number of first time kite fliers to the festival.

First time visitors are: EX3 Kites (Eliana, Enrico and Ettore Mestri), Italy; Lara Munstermann, Germany; Hans Schneider, Germany; Jurgen Jansen, Germany; Ralf Bielau, Germany; Herman and Ina Plattje, Holland; Karin and Roger Stevens, Belgium; Ruud Kugel, Holland; Mateusz Chojnowski, Poland; Tony Jetland, USA; Bhavna and Shailesh Mehta, India; and Pair Votex (Xavi and Elisabet Garcia); Spain.

Other international guests—on the 2nd or more visit—are Bernard Dingwerth (Germany), Marcus Munstemann (Germany), Katja and Marcus Flenders (Germany), Rolf Zimmermann (Germany). Plus from the UK we also have Team Spectrum, Brighton Kite Fliers, Tony Cartwright, Dunstable Downs Old Gents, The Avon Kite Fliers, The Decorators, Guy Reynolds, Flying Fish, Nick James, Martin Lester, Bella Gough, Frances Anderson, and Tom Greenfield. Plus of course George Webster on commentary.

One special event we planning is to have up to 10 Zimmermann Dragons flying at the same time. It will be quite a sight.

The timetable will be published on the web site www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk when we create it!

As normal we will have several displays where you can bring your kite into the arena and join in. See the Portsmouth web site for details when the timetable is published.

Even if you do not have a suitable kite for the displays—there are often more kites than people to fly them, so why not come along and help—just ask.

There will be a selection of kite traders and caterers on site as well as a selection of non-kite stalls and a craft tent.

Festival Auction: There will be a short (hopefully) auction taking place Saturday evening around 8:30pm to raise funds for the festival. This will take place in one of the marquees on site.

Items for the auction gratefully received before or on the day. Everyone is welcome to attend the evening events.

Free parking is available for KSGB members on request from us IN ADVANCE as we cannot

issue passes on the day. Requests must be with us by 31st July. No passes will be available at the site. Send SAE or email us with your name and car registration number. Please note that each pass will be specific to you and NOT transferable. Your name and registration number will be printed on the pass. Also note that if you do not supply the registration number you will not get a pass.

Finally a CAR pass does not equal a CAMPING pass—a separate pass is required for CAMPING.

Camping is fully booked and we do not have any spaces left.

For details of local accommodation please contact the Portsmouth Tourist Centre on 023 9283 6722, www.visitportsmouth.co.uk. The University Halls of Residence, where the invited kitefliers stay, can be booked online at www.port.ac.uk/holidays or call 023 9284 4884.

We hope to see as many of you as possible to come and fly your kites. There will be a number of arena spots where anyone can show off their kites.

Finally we would like to thank Portsmouth City Council for their continued support of the event.



Circus themed kites from E3, Italy

Events News

North Hants Kiter's Jolly Up 25, August 3rd & 4th
Gate open from 12noon on the Friday.

Come and join us for another Jolly Up, and another **FUN** Weekend of Kite Flying for Kite Fliers! The site is located in the village of Cliddesden, just south of Basingstoke (not far from J6 of the M3).

On-site camping is available from Friday midday onwards (£15 per tent/camper for Fri and Sat night, there is a small extra charge for a Sunday night stop-over).

Food will be available in the Marquee on the Friday evening, please order and pay at the bar.

There will be a BBQ on the Saturday evening (£8.00 and please bring a plate and cutlery where possible!). As usual we will be doing Jacket Potatoes at lunchtimes over the weekend, and Bacon/Egg rolls will be available on both mornings.

The Auction will be held on the Saturday evening, and any donations gratefully received on the Saturday (*before 4pm please* to give us time to set it all up and Hayley to sit down for a while :-). There will be a silent Auction on the Sunday.

We will also run the Competition for Garden Produce, which can cover fruit, veg, plants, anything really. Show us what you've been growing, it may win a prize. Rules are minimal and made up on the day! There is the category for Home Made Hooch again!!

We hope to run the Beer Lift competition, wind permitting !! same rules as before.

Roy's Refreshment Tent will be open for Business, normal rules apply...

For further info, please either contact:

Roy on 07778 352825
Colin on 07770 338419
Or e-mail roy@kitesup.co.uk
For orders: hayley@kitesup.co.uk

You can pre-order your tee-shirt / poloshirt, etc. Please email Hayley if interested in doing so.

Please Note: this is NOT a Buggy/Boarding weekend, thank-you.

Festival of The Sky, Cleethorpes 7th—8th September.

Themed around discovery, sky and the environment, the festival will present a diverse and exciting programme of events, including bespoke

installations, unforgettable performances and much more – stretching across the seafront, promenade and into the town.

After an absence of many years Cleethorpes is once again proud to host a spectacular weekend of kite flying. The sky will be awash with unique and magnificent kites of all shapes and sizes from around the world. DFDS is delighted to be headline sponsor of the Kite Festival on Cleethorpes seafront this September.

The festival has attracted some of the best kite flyers from the UK who will breeze into Cleethorpes and provide a fantastic two day extravaganza. You will be amazed at the explosion of colour in the sky - from the beautiful to the bizarre. Expect kites of every shape and size - an extensive collection of giant inflatable kites, superheroes, sea creatures, giant lizards, birds, insects, bears, Chinese dragons, Japanese carp, artistic kites, fighting kites, wind socks, musical kites and lots, lots more.

Alongside the backdrop of kites we will have displays of four line synchronised team flying to music and an unbelievable display of one man flying 3 sports kites simultaneously, plus a jaw-dropping Rokkaku Kitefighting Challenge where flyers will attempt to cut each others kites out of the sky.

Supported by DFDS.

We have heard that this event is for invited kitefliers only, but have a look at the web site and maybe go along to watch.

<https://www.festivalofthesky.co.uk/attraction/look-up!-kite-festival-supported-by-dfds>

Brighton Kite Fliers Workshop—Dates TBC

BKF have been in discussion with Peter Lynn Kites about running a Micro Ray Workshop with some stipulation we have now got the OK and the plans etc. The date we are looking at are August 31st – September 1st and October 26th – 27th both 2019—contact BKF for exact dates.

The cost will be £47 if you want to make one kite and £70 if you want two (you should be able to finish 2 over the weekend).

One of the agreements is we buy the Fabric from a Peter Lynn supplier (TUG.com) so have a look at colours you want for the top and tips.

Another of the stipulation is that these can only be made I the workshop and you will not make for selling you will need to sign a form that you will not be selling them.

Contact Brighton Kite Fliers if you are interested. chairman@brightonkiteflyers.co.uk

Vliegerfeest Twente, Holland—Gill Bloom

A last minute invitation 'would we like to come to my festival at Twente and stay on site in a caravan?'. Looking at the ferry (Harwich to the Hook, it all seemed doable).

We left the UK on a very hot Friday, uneventful crossing and a drive later—we arrived in Twente. We thought we had gone to the Good Place, all the farmhouses were picture perfect and nature had been well tamed.

The flying field is adjacent to a restaurant and bar and all of the camping was around the flying field. We settled into the caravan—perfect except for no-shower (with none on site anywhere, we did yearn for one in the 35degree heat).



The two days were blessed with heat, no-wind, turbulent wind, too much wind, perfect wind, no rain (or cloud). There were 200+ kitefliers in attendance, but not a lot of kite flying. Most people seemed to be sitting around their campers and drinking.

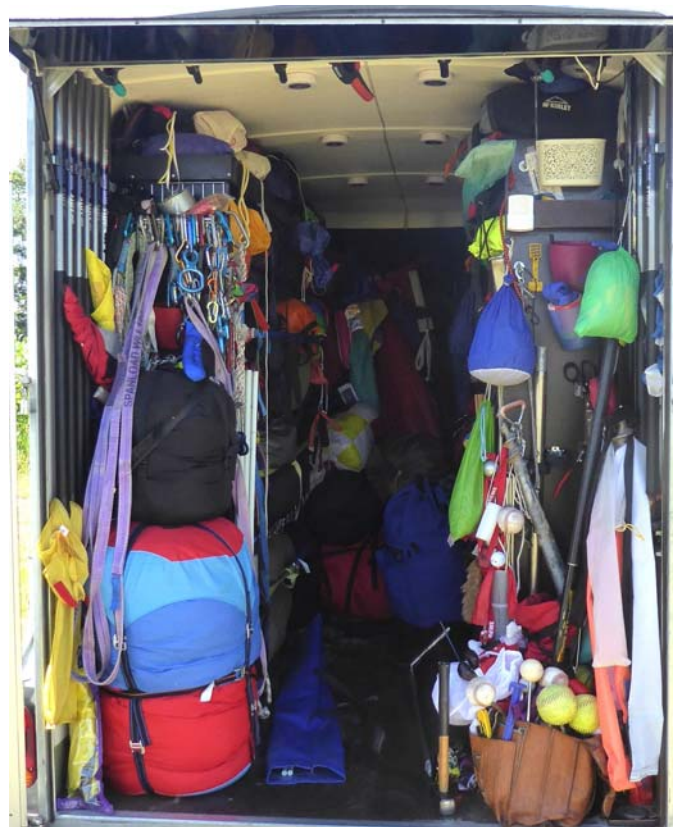
One of the highlights was the Saturday night 'Lichtroute' with nearly all of the camping areas lit up with a multitude of illuminations, from the simple string of LEDs to complex 3D creations. The public could walk round the whole area, with a lit pathway. Of course, the little bit things were also out :-)

Sunday was the netter day for flying, but a little turbulent and not ideal. This also meant that more people packed up early to go home leaving a vast area for just a few kitefliers.

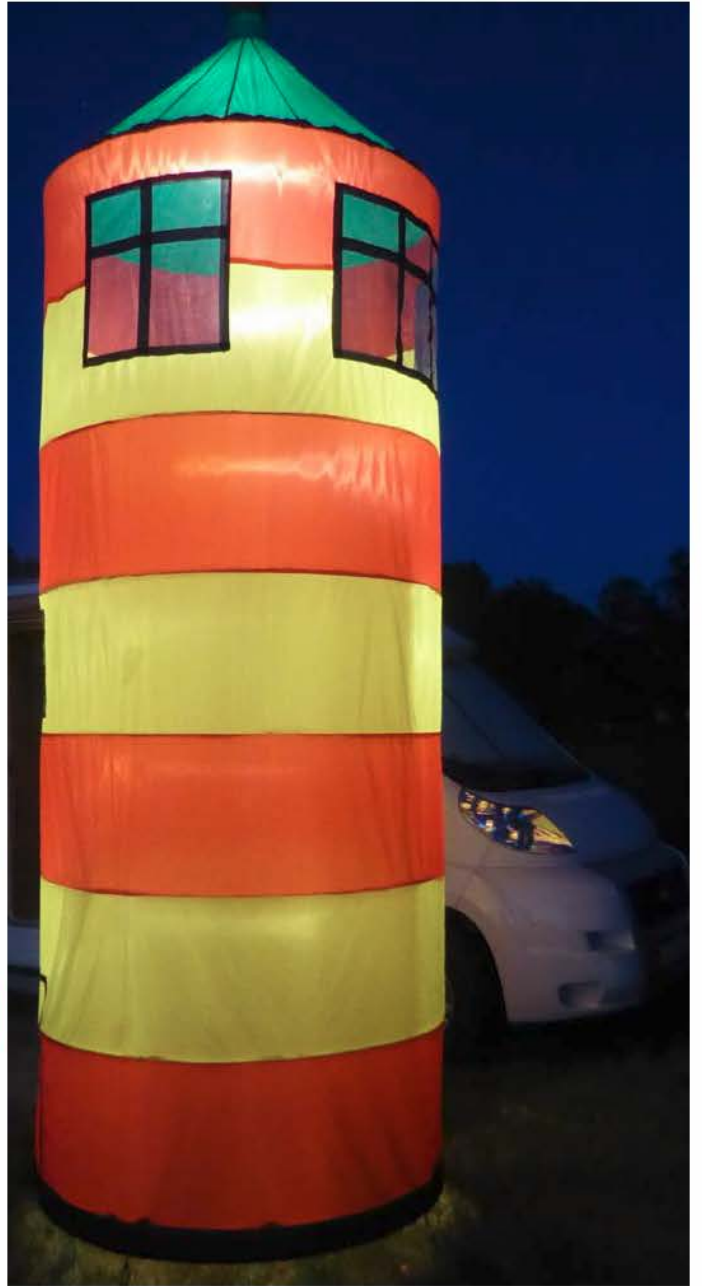
A nice laid back friendly event.



An added benefit was the visit to an Aceretum (an arboretum only of Acers) on the way back!



Vliegerfeest Twente, Holland—Gill Bloom



Single Line Flying Flexifoil Stackers—Tony Collins

In my article “**Re-purposing Flexifoil Stackers for displays – tethering a beast**”, published in the January 2019 edition of “The Kiteflier”, I showed how you could successfully tether Flexifoil stackers on 2 lines to make a great static kite display. However, try as I might I failed miserably to successfully fly one on a single line.

This was fully as expected from correspondence Ray Merry had previously written to me :

*“The FlexiFoil Stacker is a dynamic kite and is not inherently stable. It develops power at high air speed and so is best when flown steerable on 2 lines. We have tethered them on 2 lines but they are far from stable and tend to sway from side to side with only minor lifting power. **Flying a Flexi-Foil Stacker on a single line is virtually impossible.** The bridling from each wingtip has to be super accurate and a tail doesn’t create any stabilizing force as it would with a normal one line kite. We suggest trying either method to see the difficulties you may encounter. Smooth steady wind would be a must to have any success.”*

However, in the same edition of “The Kiteflier” there happened to be some kites for sale from the Beccles Bunch who were having a clear out.

A couple of Jilly Pelham kites (Flare and Roller) and a Peter Lynn Pilot caught my eye and in purchasing the kites I struck up an e-mail exchange with Hugh Blowers. He had read my article and mentioned that a number of years ago, at a Bedford kite festival, Peter Lynn had been handing out examples of his large ARC twin skin inflatable kite for participants to fly on single lines—the arc shape being very stable on a single line.

Armed with this germ of an idea (thanks Hugh!) I thought I would just have to try some Flexifoils on a single line again but using a softer spar in the wing to enable the kite to “ARC” over and hopefully develop more stabilising characteristics.

The standard Flexifoil spars are 8mm diameter solid rods (tapered at the ends) in all 3 types I have - Super 10, Pro Team 8 and Stacker 6. Checking my box of spare bits and pieces I found some lengths of 4 mm Carbon fibre tubing and rods and I set about making up spar sets for the Pro Team 8 and Super 10 kites.

On each spar end I had a 83.5 mm length of 4mm carbon fibre rod (with extra bendiness) and the central part of the spar was made up of slightly stiffer 4mm carbon tube. I tried this set up on both the Pro Team 8 and Super 10 kites using a 12 metre V line from each end of the spar to the main 300lb single line.

Flying in 12 mph wind the arching was good on both kites but the result was still the same as in previous experiments – once the kites reached the zenith they (much more steadily than with a standard spar) veered to the ground either left or right !

This was all rather disappointing and in desperation I took the spar from the ProTeam 8 and set it up in the Stacker 6 tensioning the kite along the spar as shown in the photo.



As you can see the spar is about 30cms longer at each end than a standard Stacker 6 spar.

I launched the kite into the air and SUCCESS!! - the kite arched nicely, rose up to the zenith and stabilised!!

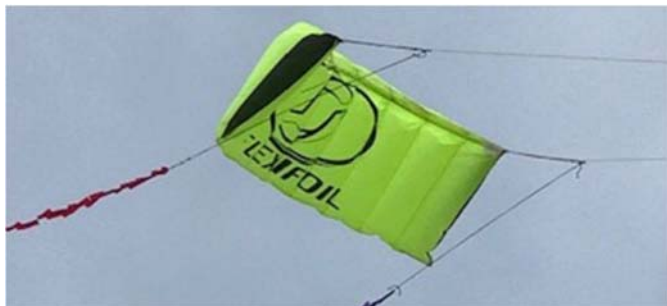


Why should this be? Initially I thought the extra length of spar at the ends tilts the kite back at a flatter angle increasing drag and helps to stabilise it. I also noted that the air intake vents at the ends of the kite are restricted due to the distortion caused in arching the kite – this turns out to be an advantage as after launching you can quickly let a length of line out, which flattens the kite and allows it to fully inflate along its length, then as the line tightens again and the kite arches, it traps the air in the end cells due to constricting the air vents. This all helps to maintain the aerodynamic shape in the foil.

I tried single line flying the Stacker 6 in varying

Single Line Flying Flexifoil Stackers—Tony Collins

wind conditions from 8 to 18mph. And on some quite blustery days and the kite flies very well in all conditions stabilising itself well even in gusts of wind. Additionally it also flew well with a looped fuzzy tail.



The extra length of spar was over 35% longer than the standard. Flexifoil Stacker 6 spar: Standard Spar 185cm (8mm tapered); New ARC spar: 250cm (4mm tube 83cm with 2 spar ends of 83.5cm x 4mm rod)

So next up was to try the same set up of a longer spar on the Super 10 and Pro Team 8 kites.

Super 10: Standard Spar 285cm (8mm tapered end + 8mm middle 100cm); New ARC spar – 392cm (2 x 4mm tube 112.5 cm with 2 spar ends of 83.5cm x 4mm rod)

Pro Team 8: Standard Spar 245cm (8mm tapered + 8mm middle 60cm); New ARC spar – 347cm (2 x 4mm tube 90cm with 2 spar ends of 83.5cm x 4mm rod)

Unfortunately I had jumped to the wrong conclusion, both the Pro Team 8 and the Super 10 with the 35% to 40% longer spars behaved just as they did with a standard length 4mm spar!

I then adjusted the 4mm diameter Stacker 6 spar to standard length and flew it again. And it behaved just as it had with the 35% longer spar – nice and stable.

So why was the Stacker 6 capable of flying with good stability on a single line but not the Pro Team 8 and Super 10?

I did a bit of reading up and noted this could have something to do with the aspect ratio of the kites (lower aspect ratio kites tend to be more stable):

Stacker 6	Aspect Ratio 3.03
Pro Team 8	Aspect Ratio 4.08
Super 10	Aspect Ratio 4.7

I also wrote to Peter Lynn who made the original ARC kites and he kindly replied and gave me his wise thoughts and detailed explanation on what was happening with these Flexi's flown on single lines with 4mm spars.

Paraphrasing his conclusions, the main reason for increased stability is that using a lighter spar moves the centre of gravity rearwards to put it

behind/below the centre of lift. Lift to drag ratio is also an important factor—lift forces driving instability offset by drag forces which provide stability. Regarding Aspect Ratio he noted with increased aspect ratio comes a slowing in the response time for a kite to correct from any perturbations.

I did find that the lower aspect ratio Stacker 6 definitely responds quickly to perturbations and corrects itself as wind speed changes on a blustery day, and if it does drift to the left or right side of the wind window it will again correct itself in time, does not crash, and flies back to the centre of the wind window .

It seems unfortunately the Pro Team 8 and Super 10 are just on the edge of the balance of forces to generate enough stability (they are probably generating proportionately more lift than the smaller Stacker 6 Flexi and have higher aspect ratio's) - with 4mm spars they steadily drift to the right or left side of the wind window and almost correct themselves before falling over and crashing.

I have flown the 6ft Flexi many times now on a single line and in winds from about 7 to 25mph and have found its very stable, adjusts its self to wind conditions and copes well with perturbations. As you may expect from a foil it can pull pretty hard and although it only flies at about a 45° to 50° angle it is capable of supporting windsocks and other line laundry.

So in conclusion thanks to some help from a chance e-mail exchange with Hugh Blowers and his fortuitous note taking from a Bedford Kite festival in the dim and distant past its job done, success - ***Flying a FlexiFoil Stacker on a single line is virtually impossible*** is no longer the case (at least for Stacker 6 Flexi's) - with a little bit of help from a spar modification—I hope no one thinks its cheating!! It certainly is fun!



Stop Press

I actually managed to fly a 2 stack of 6ft flexi's on a single line both using 4mm spars.

Bits & Pieces

Around the Auctions

Ebay Details about 19C Child's Nursery Ware Kite Flying Mug (damage)



The damage is very bad—but most is on the other side of the mug. Priced at £5.99 plus postage.

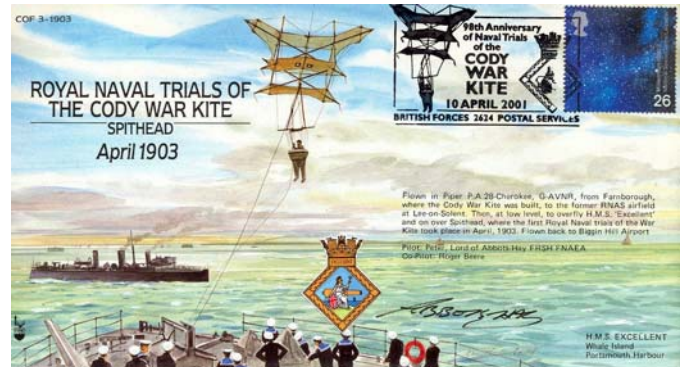
Ebay The Mane Lion FROG Pottery Plate Green Fleeing Kite Childhood is more fun...Italy



Some chipping around the feet. Resting Frog Flying his Kite! 8" Octagon Deep Plate. Hand Painted. Price £15.00 plus postage.

Ebay. COF 03-1903 Century of Flight - Naval Trials of The Cody War Kite - Signed by Lord Abbots-Hay.

The 'Century of Flight' Series is produced by the Veterans Charities Consortium to raise funds for Registered Charities (usually 'Forces' related).



Each cover produced commemorates an important event in the history of flight and many (but not 'all' of them) feature a painting of that event by well known artist Tony Theobald.

Priced at £4.99

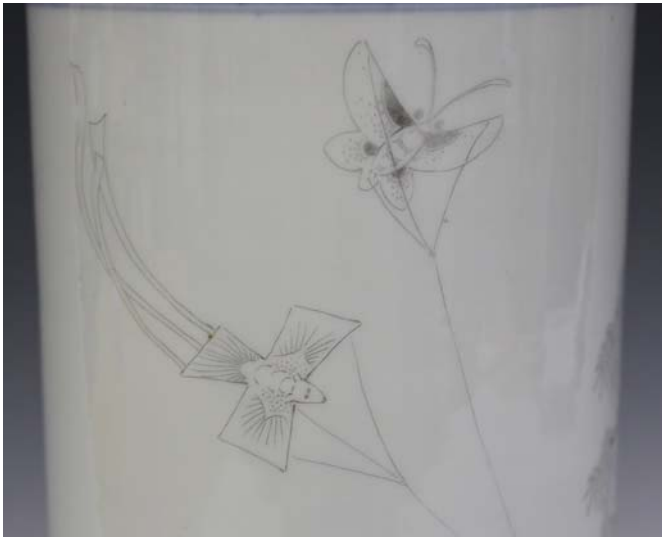
Ebay Selangor Pewter Boy with Kite



This is a 2.3ins tall beautifully detailed figure of a young boy with his kite by Selangor Pewter.

Price £4.99 plus postage.

The Saleroom Chinese incised and stained blue and white porcelain cylinder vase. A Chinese incised and stained blue and white porcelain cylinder vase, late Qing dynasty, the body finely incised with a group of seated children flying two kites from a garden terrace, as a female attendant and child look on, within underglaze blue borders, unmarked, height 28.5cm. Estimate £100-200.



The Saleroom Otto Strijensky signed. Around 1880. Children with grandparents with kite.



Oil on linen. Dimensions: 45 x 57 cm. In good condition. Reserve price €380.

VR Animation

Disney To Debut VR Animation A Kite's Tale At Siggraph 2019.

The company will debut A Kite's Tale at the event from July 28 – August 1 at the LA Convention Center. Little about the project is known right now, though a few months ago we reported that Disney was working on a 'top secret' new animation project that could use existing characters. It's very possible that this could be that project. If it's anything like its first VR animation, Cycles, expect a short but charming piece. It will be interesting to see if the app uses Disney's own in-VR animation software, PoseVR.

Star Kites

Maurizio Angeletti's book STAR KITES is now available. He writes:

"At long last. It has taken a few years but the book is ready and the first 100 copies will be delivered to me this week. I will email again within a couple of days with a link to my web site where information will be found about the book and how to order it. Meanwhile, I thought you might like to see a few photographs."

"Many thanks for the patience and support to all who reserved a copy of STAR KITES and kept on enquiring about it during the past few years."

The web link is: www.maurizioangelettikites.net



Bits & Pieces

From the web page.

A4 format; 520 pages; 488 photographs; 667 drawings and diagrams

Building plans for over 30 original kites with detailed description of building techniques.

- This is the only book ever written which focuses entirely on kites based on stellar configurations.
- Lavishly illustrated and printed on glossy paper, STAR KITES includes:
- My own approach to kite design and kite aesthetics and craftsmanship
- An extensive discussion of aerodynamics as specifically pertaining to kites, various types of aircraft and other natural or man-made flying objects
- Building plans for a wide range of kites including many original designs
- Many colour photographs showing the kites in flight and detailing steps in the construction process
- Original and unusual building techniques
- Advice on the best way to understand rip-stop spinnaker nylon and build efficiently with minimum waste
- Combined principles of framing and bridling kites extensively described
- How to set up a functional kite workshop
- How to build a kite making table
- How to make and use special kitemaking tools
- The background research that I carried out over the years on a century-old Western tradition of cellular kites
- Each copy is signed and numbered

Priced at €58 plus €18 p&p. Available through the web site.

Missing Kite

Jerry Swift writes:

"You were kind enough to publicise the missing Air Gallery Kite in The Kiteflier."

"Can I thank you for doing so and ask that maybe you thank everyone for the vigilance through your channels."

North East Kite Fliers are delighted to announce that the missing European Air Gallery kite, 'Yellow Thing With Feet' has been returned. Chairman Jerry Swift said "Thanks to everyone out there who kept their eyes open for our missing Air Gallery Kite. It has now been returned and we look forward to being able to fly it in the future at events around the country."

From Malay Mail

Malaysian jewellery designer receives international award for 'wau' pendant. It took Tina Winness Wong six months to bring her sketch of the Tribute Wau to life. And at last week's prestigious A'Design Award & Competition held in Como, Italy, all the hard work paid off.

The Malaysian jewellery designer received the Iron A'Design Award for her Tribute Wau Multi-function Pendant, a stunning piece made with 18k gold, sapphires and diamonds featuring a nephrite jade centre.

The Tribute Wau was created to pay homage to master kite-maker Shafie Jusoh who passed away just as Wong was about to pay him a visit to learn more about the traditional craft. She wanted to bring awareness to the fading tradition of wau-making and the piece was created to inspire future generations.

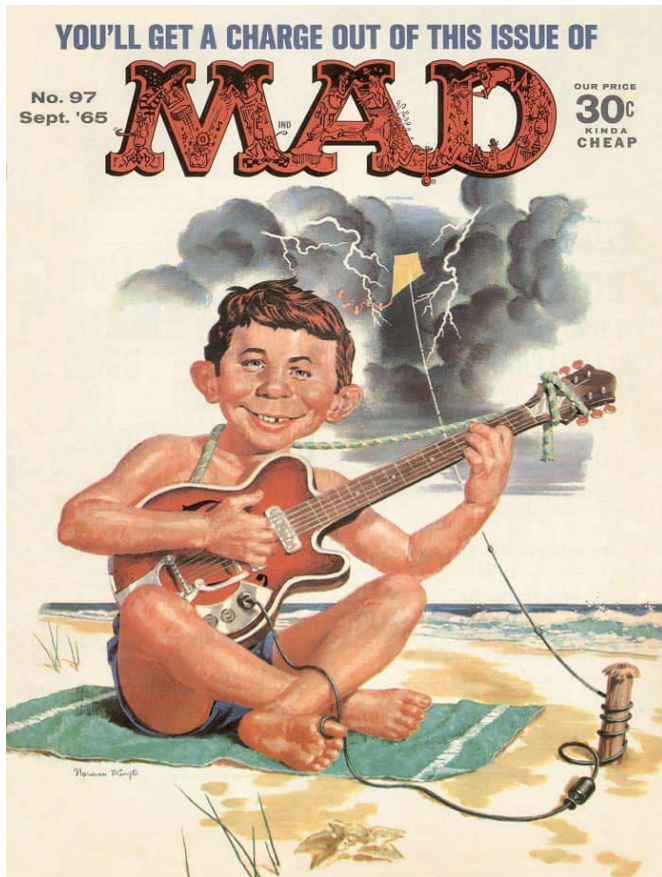
"The tails of Tribute Wau move as you do, representing the feel of wind flowing along the kite as it soars through the skies where it belongs, free of earthly bonds," Wong said of her design.



Bits & Pieces

MAD Magazine

Gary Mark wrote "After 67 years, Mad magazine will cease publication. Thanks for biting satire and hundreds of memorable covers including this one. Alfred E Neiman lives on."



Paris Fashion Week Men's



Need we say more!

But from the New York Post there is a bit more information. First, there were the invites that hinted at one of the many themes throughout the collection. A D.I.Y. kite that — of course — came in the classic LV monogram.

Then, the location was set at the famously picturesque streets of Place Dauphine in Paris, France, which held café-style and park bench seating for guests. The monochromatic red bouncy house was very #extra and guaranteed a social media frenzy.

But the runway show's standout looks refer back to the invites with budding bags strapped onto tops and kites, yes, kites in the matching white and LV monogram.

Kite Altitude Guinness World Record campaign for farmers

The Facebook fundraiser was run by Robert Moore. The story says:

I am raising money to help fund my team's efforts to break the Guinness World Record for the altitude of a single kite.

We broke the record in 2014 now we want to go even higher to bring attention to farmers during times of drought and hardship. Not only will we bring focus to the farmers in this region but environmental issues are also part of the kite altitude records. The Ion Power Group is investigating extracting Ionic charges from the atmosphere and conducting the electrical energy to ground batteries. One of the methods being used is high altitude kites.

We hope to learn how to improve the kites we use as stable platforms for Ion extraction. I am a voluntary consultant to the Ion Power Group in the USA. The farmer hosting our record attempts in 2020. is heavily committed to vegetation regeneration with the carbon credit scheme. We hope to highlight his efforts to help rejuvenate farming lands.

The page (<https://www.facebook.com/donate/307298369939345/10219704282056179/>) has information about the equipment he plans to use and how it is intended to be done. Worth a look.

Stunt Kite Party

This computer game features—Kites! From the web site: https://store.steampowered.com/app/960240/Stunt_Kite_Party/

Stunt Kite Party is a family-friendly single player and couch-coop multiplayer game with an exciting storyline and endless fun in numerous game modes .

Choose from eight playable characters and fly your kite in four scenic settings, where you can challenge your friends in either predefined matches or your own custom created tournament. You can also face off against AI controlled characters in the single-player experi-

Bits & Pieces

ence, framed by a light-hearted story mode that allows you to learn more about the joyful world of Stunt Kite Party.



Step into the shoes of a young and extraordinarily talented kiter, as he journeys through the colorful world of Stunt Kite Party. As you take your first steps to become a professional kiter, you learn that kiting has been outlawed in the Big City. How can that be! Fight for your right to kite while you experience lots of thrilling adventures, meet new friends and together, make kiting great again. Can you and your friends be able to convince the mayor to legalize kiting again?

You can see a Youtube video on the company web site <https://handy-games.com/en/games/stunt-kite-party/>

From Hong Kong Free Press

Hong Kong pro-democracy activists fly kites in Sai Kung to commemorate 1989 Tiananmen Massacre



Activists calling for democracy in mainland China flew kites in Sai Kung on Sunday to commemorate the victims of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. Around a dozen members of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements in China flew two kites, with "the people will not forget" and "vindicate June 4, justice will prevail" written on them.

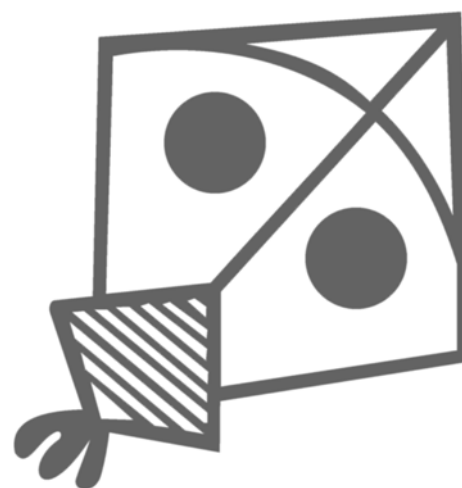
The annual activity is inspired by Beijing student protesters, who flew kites in May 1989 to obstruct military helicopters conducting surveillance from above.

The Alliance has been flying kites at the Clear Water Bay Country Park every year since 1993. The group also organises an annual vigil on June 4 in Causeway Bay's Victoria Park.

Tsoi called on the public to join the vigil, which drew 115,000 attendees last year according to organiser figures. However, some of Hong Kong's university student groups have expressed dissatisfaction with the Alliance and held their own separate events. On Sunday, one of the kites broke from its line in seconds due to heavy wind and rain. The other kite was flown briefly before being retrieved.

Indian Elections

India's Ballot Has Some Really Offbeat Symbols For Its Political Parties. When India's 900 million eligible voters go to the polling booths for this spring's general election, they might cast



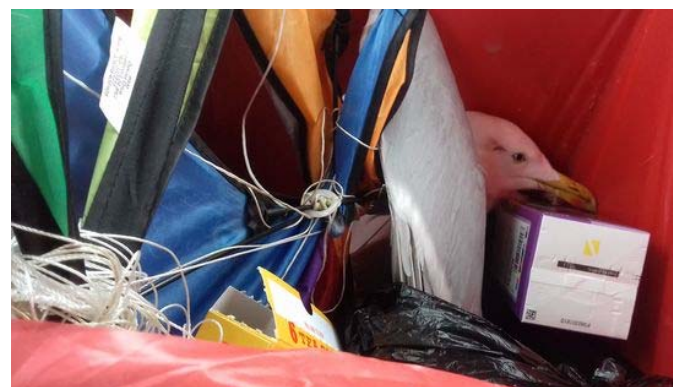
their vote for a kite. Or a comb. Or a mango.

These are three of the hundreds of symbols that appear on electronic voting machines in India, each representing one of the nearly 2,300 political parties

vying for more than 500 seats in the lower house of parliament in seven stages of voting through late May.

Gull wrapped in kite found in bin in Prestwick

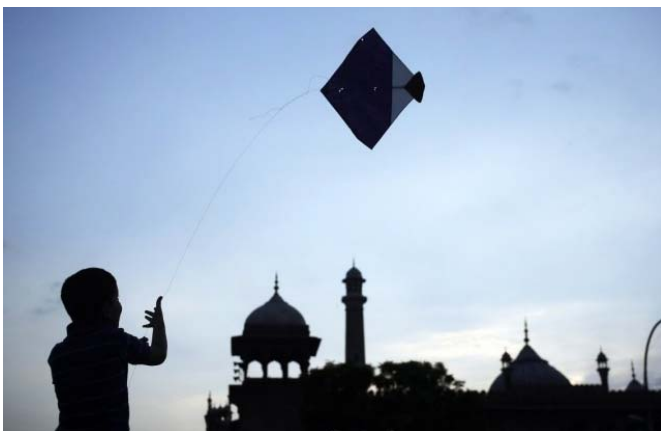
The Scottish SPCA is appealing for information after a gull was found in a bin in Prestwick.



The poor gull was found wrapped up in a kite in a bin on Semple Road on May 4. Scottish SPCA animal rescue officer Maria Atkinson said: "We were notified by a member of the public who heard rustling from inside the bin and saw the seagull in distress. The bird was tangled in a kite - we don't know if someone did this deliberately or if it was an accident. The kite was caught around the gull's neck, causing severe injury."

"It was clear he also had a broken wing, with the bone visibly protruding. Sadly, after veterinary examination, the seagull was put to sleep."

Drones take to the sky to nab kite flyers



Lahore police have tightened the noose around kite fliers by using drone cameras to locate and arrest them. The police started cracking down on rooftop kite flyers by locking in on them from camera-fitted drones which fly throughout the day and night. DIG Operations Ashfaq Khan told The Express Tribune that a complete crack-down was being conducted against the kite flyers in the provincial capital.

This year Lahore police have registered 2,976 cases against kite flyers during the crackdown so far. Around 3,195 suspects were arrested, while 36,939 kites and 3,866 string rolls were recovered from their possession. At the same time, during raids conducted on a tip-off, kite makers were also arrested from manufacturing units set up in their houses. These kite makers have revealed that they used to prepare kites and supply their product to Punjab.

For over a decade, the government banned the hobby after wires damaged by kites caused power breakdowns and there were reports of locals' throats being slit by strings. The injuries and fatalities started occurring when a new form of kite string, using metal and refined plastic coated with chemicals, was introduced in the market. The metal kite string, after coming into contact with electric wires, would cause sparks and lead to power outages. Also, kite string, using plastic coating, would act like a

clothesline and knock bikers off their two-wheelers.

We Fly Global Kite Challenge

This is part of Fortuna Found (<https://www.fortunafound.com>) the brain child of Nic O'Neill. The web site has a mixture of items—A Tribute to Ray Bethell (as part of the Long Beach Kite Festival in August), a Playground to publish ideas and thoughts, Project Space, and so on. It says about the global challenge.

Welcome to the inaugural WE FLY GLOBAL KITE CHALLENGE. We are so excited to bring this unique global kite event to you! There is an amazing worldwide community of kite fliers and this event is meant to bring us all together on a single day in a unified pursuit of our individual goals.



Anybody can participate in this event. It is open to everyone of all abilities.

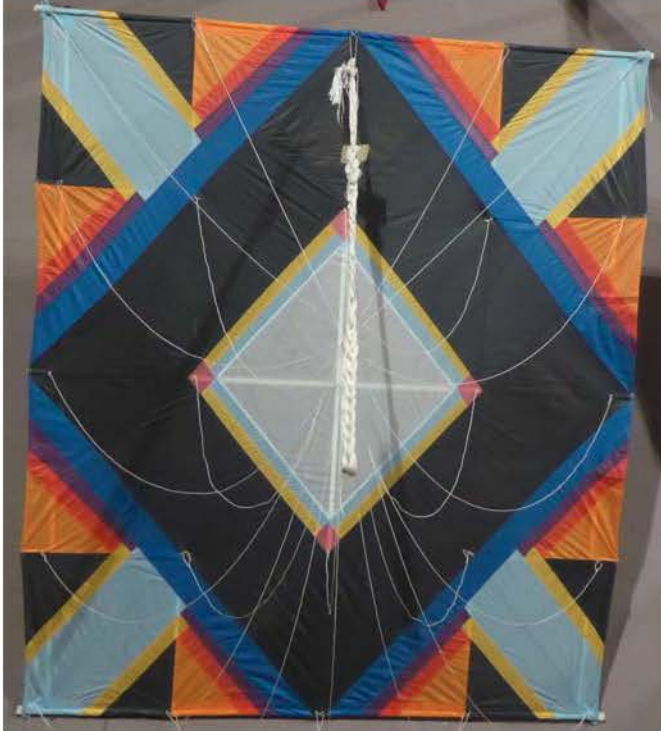
This global challenge is like a DIY festival. It is a one day event. You can do it by yourself, do it as a group, do it with strangers. There are no restrictions on how you complete it, but the goal is to at some point on August 24th, 2019, you do something kite related.

You register through the web page. There are a few levels of registration from free to prize pack level, you can upgrade at any point. By registering you are committing to doing something kite related and sharing what you are doing on the day.

Why Register? Imagine you are out flying knowing that at that very moment people from all over the world are doing the same exact thing and sharing the sky. That idea right there is part of what is behind the slogan 'We Fly'.

Flying Dreams—An Exhibition by George Peters and Melanie Walker

As part of the Cervia International Kite Festival earlier this year, an exhibition of kites was held in the town centre at the Magazzino del Sale



Flying Dreams—An Exhibition by George Peters and Melanie Walker



Events list

July		
14-15	Leominster and Hereford Kite Festival, The National Trust's Berrington Hall, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0DW	www.kitefestival.org.uk/
20-21	Mayo International Kite Festival Achill Island, Ireland	Facebook Page
20-21	The Shropshire Kite Festival , held at Cleobury Mortimer Sports Centre, Love Lane DY14 8PE	kites@skybums.com
August		
3-4	North Hants Kiter's Jolly Up 25, Cliddesden, Basingstoke	roy@kitesup.co.uk
10-11	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hampshire	www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk
10-11	Teston Bridge Country Park Kite Week-end,	Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com
10-11	St Annes International Kite Festival, St Annes on Sea.	www.discoverfylde.co.uk/kites-2
18	3rd Annual Wind and Kites Festival Betteshanger Country Park nr Deal Kent CT14 0BF	Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com
24 – 26	Bognor Regis Kite Festival, King George V Playing Fields, Felpham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex	www.brkf.org
September		
7-8	Festival of the Sky, Cleethorpes.	www.festivalofthesky.co.uk/attraction/look-up!-kite-festival-supported-by-dfds
8	Milton Creek Country Park, Saffron Way, Nr Sittingbourne. ME10 2EX	Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com
14-15	Burnham-On-Sea Kite Festival, Burnham Beach.	www.burnham-on-sea.com/whats-on
22	The Capstone Festival, Capstone Country Park, Capstone Road, Gillingham ME7 3JG	Malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com
2020		
April		
11-19	Berck International Kite Festival, Berck-sur-Mer, France	
24 – May 3 rd	40th Cervia International Kite Festival, Via Arenile Demaniale, 48015 Cervia RA, Italia	www.festivalinternazionaleaquilone.com

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

Heaven's Gate

I had seen these about before although don't exactly remember where, or even when, (I'm sure you know the feeling?) and, although they caught my attention at the time, I had considered that they were made by the flyer and therefore beyond me as I don't do fiddly (Got that in early this time). However, a philosophy I try to follow is not to let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.



Therefore, once I had found out that they were available for purchase commercially, I ordered a couple up from [Kiteworld](#) straightaway.

Read all about it

The 'Spider Kites' "Heaven's Gate" consists of twenty, individual diamond kites joined together to form an arch when flying. The impressive, widely visible arch is 18metres in length.

The instructions tell you which way around the kites should go - yes I read them because I could see a tangle might be imminent. This proved to be a complete waste of time because I still did it wrong!

Each 'kite' has a thin fibreglass spine and the cross member is the line that joins all of the kites and these should be at the back. Two colourful plastic stakes are supplied with each arch but BEWARE, don't knock them too far in to a dry football pitch because you'll have the Devil's own job of pulling them out again!



The storage bag is novel and a bit of a mystery until you pack the arch away and realise it's true purpose of keeping the tails from becoming a mass of knitting. There's a long sleeve in which you are supposed to drop the gathered, kites themselves first, and the tails follow before it's all folded back into a small case again.

I should have a video available by the time this is published which explains it better but, "Hey!" If I can work it out...

Get creative and use the arch to frame other kites in the sky as below.



I promise, it does get easier once you have developed the knack of putting them away and even this seems to create interest (if not amusement and good hearted banter) from the audience you will surely have.

Different ways to fly

Despite the 'included in the pack' warnings, I found the arch to have a surprisingly low pull. It's possible to join arches together if only one does not create enough visibility or, you can make a kind of tunnel as I did for the earlier photo.

There's a lot of fun to be had involving the kids or grandkids by taking one end each and playing with the wind, flicking it up in the air and moving around as the wind changes. I found it keeps them amused far longer than a single line and therefore great for the summer holidays - especially if trips away are planned because it will fit in any bag or suitcase.

At just over fifty quid I would recommend the Heaven's Gate as a nice show piece and great entertainment especially if you enjoy sharing the fun.

Medicinal Purposes

Those who use Facebook will be aware of the term 'meme' and seen many appear purporting to be funny or sometimes educational or even prophetic. This was my adaption of one I saw.

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

Eight Best Medicines in the World

1. Sunlight
2. Fresh Air
3. Exercise
4. Rest
5. Diet
6. Self confidence
7. Friends
8. Laughter

Flying kites will bring you all of these except number 5
(Bring you own food and water!)

We did find on several occasions when flying on Spanish beaches that number five works as well when local families have enjoyed our displays and brought over food and drink from their picnics to share - obviously we encourage them to fly our kites as well.

Percy Pelican

At one time I was in the privileged position of having one of only two in the world of the new version of the Brown Pelican designed by Joel Scholz.

When it arrived from HQ Invento, who now manufacture it under license, I had little idea of what it would look like (in terms of realism) so the first assembly was soon undertaken in the living room, ably assisted by Marilyn.

This is usually a good idea with a kite you don't know rather than battling against the wind (and possibly rain) outside.

Who's a big boy then?

The first surprise was how big Percy was. Now hold on there - I am still talking about the kite. An overall wing span of 290cm and 168cm in length, he soon filled the room.



Immediate impressions, and this has been confirmed by others who have seen Percy Pelican in real life, was that, with large connectors joining the 6 and 8mm rods that formed his frame he looked clunky and heavy and would struggle to give any permanence in the sky at all.

However, all this is a completely wrong assumption as the frame is not visible from be-

neath the sail and the kite has the same, perfect for flying, shape as the real life bird.



Percy does need about 7mph to fly with ease and he will glide toward you if the wind drops but, if that happens, to my own enjoyment (and others agree), you get a great sense of exciting reality which happens to be very hard to catch on a still camera - but I do have a rather nice, short [video](#) on our closeencounterskites YouTube channel.

I was pleased to have Joel say he liked the video too.

Different Frame

Joel tells me that he has several Pelican sails which he has framed in Skyshark, claiming that this gives the kite another 5mph above the manufacturers advertised 21mph top end. Although not mentioned and I must ask, I would imagine that this is likely to give another two or three below the claimed 7mph bottom end too?..



He says that he has tweaked the bridle too but it seemed fine to me as it was. Everything seems to work nicely about this kite the head and body effortlessly inflate and I wonder if that I flew this in America, real pelicans would come to investigate, such is how real it looks.

Percy Pelican is not cheap at around £180.00 but the first batch sold out straight off with another on its way with pre-orders already taking chunks out of it. Joels signed, numbered and limited edition versions will be a tad more expensive but you should contact him directly about that.

It's a permanent occupier of our bag at the moment and also a definite contender to be named as our kite of the year. If you fancy a fly - no problem, just give us a shout.

Neox Stacks

We had these kites for a while when we were doing our sport kite demonstrations. We made

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

them up in to stacks, Marilyn spent a few, soul destroying, hours making the colour coded tails and they really did look spectacular in the sky.

The problem was that they took quite a while to set up and have ready to fly. Not just the assembly of the kites, that wasn't too bad, but the running out of the lines and attaching the tails was very consuming when you were trying to please a waiting audience and fit as much in to a short, arena time slot often with a field director looming over you offering uneducated advice whilst looking at the watch.

If the wind should change just before take off there was much to do to reposition kites tails and lines and we needed experienced help to do that. As you might guess, it wasn't long before we decided against using them in the often restricted opportunities that came along.



I often get seller's remorse when we sell off any kites but then I remind myself of how often they were getting flown and how much somebody else will enjoy and bring joy to others.

I found one way to overcome the remorse was to make a video so, at least I could enjoy that!

Video duly made and put on closeencounterskites you tube with a link from Facebook and they were quickly snapped up. Thanks to Mick Bradley for putting up with my directorship whilst pointing our video camera and doing a great job of keeping it all in shot. Unfortunately, at the time of me writing this, Hermes have had them for over a week and appear to have lost them.

This is not the first time I have had trouble with this company although, on that occasion the package did, eventually, turn up, so please, let me advise anyone who might be thinking of shipping kites to take out the insurance - it ain't worth the worry or the gamble and I'm sure they'd look harder for it to save an insurance payout.

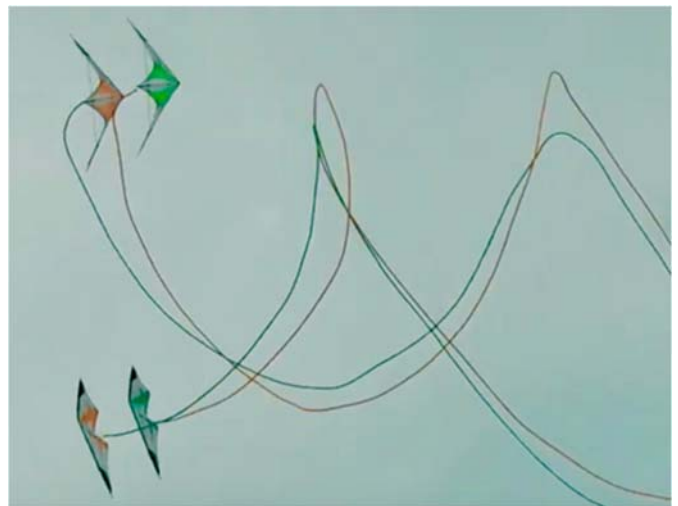
Be advised that you will have to show them a PayPal or other receipt, recording the purchase price so it's important to value the contents correctly.

Basingstoke

I expect that someone else will have covered the event here and I didn't get too involved due to my current lack of mobility.

I did note that this year, the event was very well attended with the Saturday crowd especially much more so than previous years - we've done about twenty six now.

We had a lot more enquiries than usual at our tent and once again I had the pleasure of showing lots of people how to fly their kites or, at least how to assemble them. I'd like to think that some of these people will go on from small beginnings, visit more festivals and take up on at least one of the aspects of our hobby in the future.



I really do get a buzz from improving people's skills, I was still there coaching with a new kiting buddy, Clive, after most people had left. I always encourage people to come back for more and am genuinely pleased when they do.

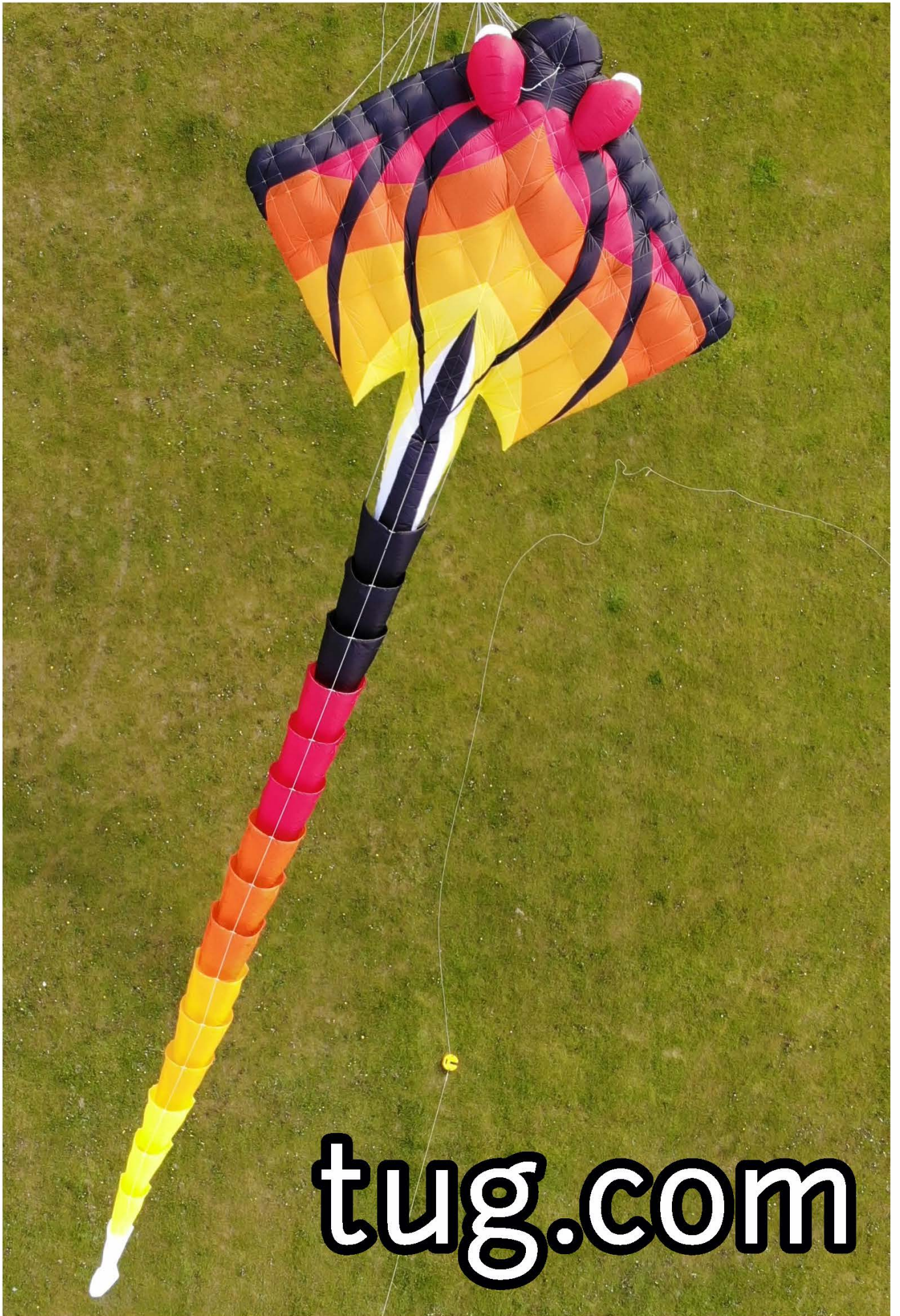
I know the organisers and the vendors were extremely pleased with the event this year let's hope the sponsors were too and they continue with their support.

...and finally!

I was hoping to bring a review on a couple of new, reasonably priced team kites and a new four line to this edition but promised deadlines have not been met. However, I am expecting them any day so hopefully, before the next issue, I should have videos up of these kites and I hope to have my reviews ready by September.

Allan and Marilyn Pothecary

Contact and kiting tips and info on our website at kitedisplays.co.uk and with all videos at closeencounterskitesyoutube (cut and paste).



tug.com