

THE KITEFLIER

www.thekitesociety.org.uk



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**Newsletter of the Kite Society of
Great Britain**

New
From
HQ Kites
2022



All The Fun Of The Air!



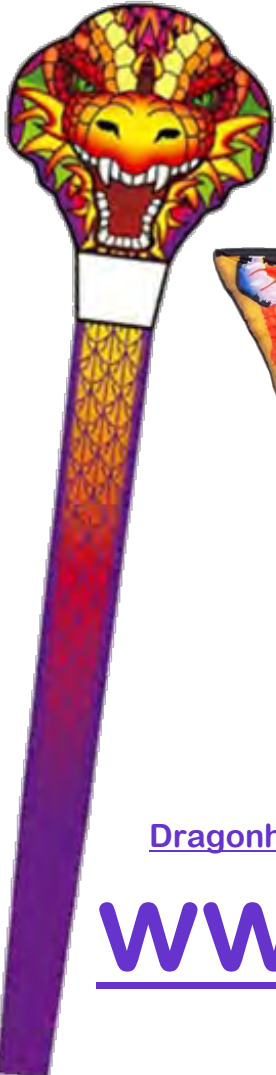
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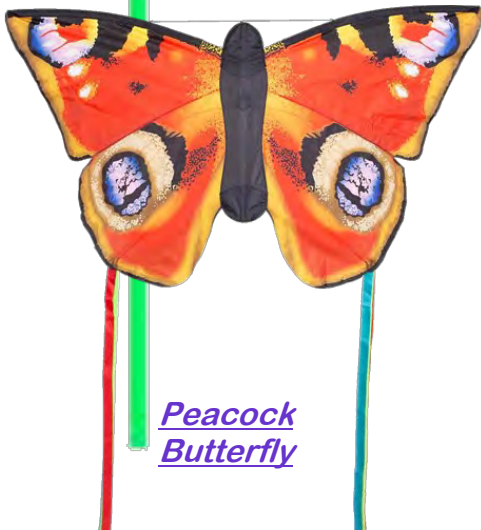
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Delta
Rainbow
Checker



Dragonhead



Peacock
Butterfly



Bebop
Vibe

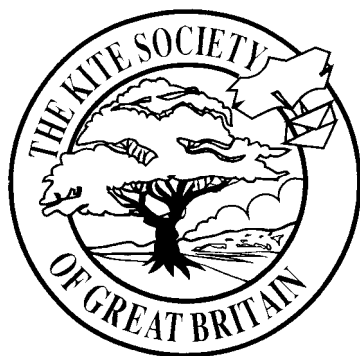


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Front Cover

One of the Dieppe competition kites.

Photo: Gill Bloom

Editorial

Dear Reader

The end of another long (and hot) summer is here and we hope that you have had plenty of time to enjoy the winds and events that have been held around the country.

Events for 2023 are starting to come along and let us hope that the weather gods are good to all of them.

There are some empty spaces in the sky—Nicolas Wadsworth best known for the flying gearbox. He was also known as the Kite Professor and his highly technical conversations will be missed.

Sad passing of Daryl Smith (Dazz) who was a stalwart of the Northern Kite scene and involved with the St Anne's kite festival as part of Smile Factor 10.

As you can see there are not many events listed below for 2023—but they are sure to pick up as plans are confirmed for 2023.

Finally, Happy Holidays and New Year—see you in 2023.

Gill and Jon

2023		
April		
15-23	Berck International Kite Festival, France	www.cerf-volant-berck.com
21 – 01/05	Cervia International Kite Festival, Italy	artevento.com
June		
17-18	Seal Bay Kite Festival (in association with the Bognor Regis Kite Fliers), Warners Lane, Selsey, West Sussex PO20 9EL	sealbaykf@brkf.org
July		
1-2	Barmouth Kite Festival, on the beach opposite the Lifeboat Station, Barmouth, Mid Wales	kitesbarmouth@gmail.com
8-9	Leominster and Hereford Kite Festival, The National Trust's Berrington Hall, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0DW	www.kitefestival.org.uk
29-30	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Portsmouth (Provisional)	portsmouth@thekitesociety.org.uk www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk
August		
7	Royston Kite Festival, The Heath, Baldock Road, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 5BG - PROVISIONAL	kites@roystonrotary.com

Membership Type	Fee
Electronic Subscription (Individual or Family)	£5.00
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Overseas (Rest of World Airmail)	£30.00

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Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

Jolly Up

August 5th and just time before the 5.00 pm deadline for the hosepipe ban, soak the garden then load the car for tomorrow's Jolly Up at Cliddesden near Basingstoke.

It's looking hot and experience tells me there'll be thermals coming through instead of the constant breeze the forecast wants me to believe. I have a number of kites to test, video and review from different manufacturers (there's a range of winds between them), then there's the new festival tent and a banner in case anyone wants to find or avoid us or a clue as to who we are before they stop and chat.

The wind direction is blowing from the top of the field, so that's where we'll be then.

This turned out one of the more eventful Jollies for us, not so much in what we were experimenting with but for our interest in some of the other kites making an awesome showing.

I'll talk about the others later but AG Bell's Replica Octagonal Box is the one I will get to first.



I took photos from where we were staked out on the other side of the field (as you do) and got more interested (too late) when I got home and downloaded the day on to my computer.

Facebook Rescue

I used mine and Marilyn's footage to put together a short video of the event to post on FB and YouTube. I had questions in my mind like who owned this one and what were the specs?

A subsequent question on one of the Facebook kite forums put me in touch with the current owner Stephen Sunderland - and then the guy who made it, Bruce Comfort, came through from our website "Contacts" page, after seeing it on YouTube at home in New Zealand.

Bruce was keen to make contact with the owner but there's where I had to be careful about releasing personal details in contravention of privacy laws.

Happy People

Short of all that is it's all sorted and everyone is incommunicado and I can mention names including Bill Souten from the Midland Kite Flyers, who sent me everything I was looking for and more, including how it got from New Zealand to here and at what cost?

If anyone is interested I can email them the full details including plans and assembly instructions.

Bruce's Story

Bruce was happy to make contact with everyone and sent out the following, round robin, letter.

Good morning everyone.....

Kite flying as a modern community/enthusiast activity was first re-awakened in Wellington, the Capital City of New Zealand, when a local modern commercial radio station, Radio Windy, organised a competition and open Kite Day in about 1976.??

Wellington is renowned as a windy city, however the wind can be handled at a few semi sheltered public parks, and on that kite day, possibly 100 home made kites appeared with families and individuals at the bottom of bits of string to which a variety of semi-airworthy contraptions were attached. Clearly most of the people there had built a kite for the day for their kids although a few "bought ones" were prominent.

It was a great and unique day - repeated occasionally years later by the same and other radio-stations.

I made a standard rectangular box kite from brown paper and bamboo, and to a good construction standard. Once the NZ Police had visited the venue on behalf of the Civil Aviation Authority advising that it was flying too high, and I pulled it down and gave it away to a man and kids who looked very envious, our family was awarded "the highest flyer" prize of a lovely bright orange Phillips record player of a turntable with a built-in amplifier and a pair of speakers - a great prize that my kids used for years.

Other than the abuse I received from an aggrieved parent who stomped over and accused me of "stealing prizes off children" it was a special day.

NZKFA

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

Subsequent kite days saw the formation, in Wellington, of The New Zealand Kite Flyers Association, a group that has lasted and created fun and friendships for more than four decades now.

<https://www.nzka.org.nz/>

Donated to the cause

It was at a Kite Day some 30 years ago I think that I donated my Bell Hexagonal Box Kite to the Association to auction off (a regular kite day feature when everyone had had enough good food and wine to open their wallets) I haven't thought about it since though I treasure the few photos I have. I made it over a fortnight when I was at home with a broken leg from off-road motorcycle riding.

I have the Penguin Book of Kites and a decent big sewing machine.

The kite is made from Parka Nylon, NOT rip-stop as they would be now, and the frame was wooden dowels.! The construction was as you see it now, however the wooden frame was not up to the task and it broke.

Replacing the Dowel

A year later I plucked up courage to purchase the fibreglass tubing it has (not carbon fibre) and devoted time to remaking all the joints and attachments and stays etc, without any substantial modifications to the body of the kite.

From then on, if you were brave enough (erecting it is a challenge on a windy day and is best done indoors if there is such a luxury!) it was a spectacular flyer but dangerous if it decided to fly horizontally at ground level skimming the grass and careering around in a semi-circle. It also lands badly coming down the arc of the flying line like a locomotive until it crashes on its rear end. It needs a secondary line or radio controlled "detacher" to release the rear bridle lines near the ground to allow it to alight elegantly instead of at 50 mph onto its arse.



It is a powerful lifter and it has hoisted my daughter who hung on deliberately, until she was 6 feet in the air when she let go and dropped to the ground.

I still own kites but I must pass them on to others!! So nice to see it again and communicate with you all.

How did it get here?

Tony Lewis of The Great Ouse Kite Flyers visited the New Zealand International Kite Festival at Napier in March 1995 with his wife as part of a holiday trip. He bought the kite at the end of festival auction and, thanks to festival sponsors Air NZ providing unlimited baggage allowance to participants, was able to bring it back.

The right day

A few attempts were made to fly the kite but, unfortunately with little success due to not being able to combine a suitable anchor, strong enough line and a strong, steady wind all at the same time.



Eventually Tony stopped kite flying and, later, the GOKF disbanded (not his fault) then, after many years in his loft, in August 2020, the kite was passed on to the Midland Kite Flyers.

Jolly Up contd.

Driving on to the field there was a guy I thought I recognised (turns out I didn't know him) set up at the beginning giving himself plenty of space upwind of the other flyers. We parked up halfway between him and the main throng of flyers so as to keep out of everyone's way.

This means we could people-watch him as he constantly relaunched after each of the thermals made their way through whilst we watched the gliders making the most of the conditions as they glistened and flashed in the

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary



sky over toward Lasham airfield some four and a half miles away as the cut kite flies.

After he had packed away his quite beautiful, homemade tails and sled lifter, out came a rather interesting diamond kite with inclusive, extended tail.

I went over and introduced myself.

We'd met before but not exchanged names although he remembered me as "The guy who doesn't do fiddly". Andy Nelson is his name and he was pleased to tell me how he had made this kite from an idea in his head.

He'd had enquiries from interested flyers about if he was able to sell any of this design and said he felt as though he wouldn't upset anyone's copyright as he had not followed a specific plan and just designed and modified as he went along. Good luck if you do Andy; not many will make much of a fortune from kite sales but if it covers your R&D and enables you to make more for people to enjoy, then more power to your sewing machine.

SKY BUMS

Next on the list was Paul Morgan.

Paul was enjoying a couple of days just chilling away from the office, seminars, workshops, special build projects, selling kites at events from his and Helene's travelling shop and all the other stuff he gets up to.

SkyBums always seem to have a busy workload fired by their ingenuity, quality, experience and reliability but they are a team that will always have time to stop and chat - even to me! I have always admired the Karma of those two, Helene, the quiet, astute one and Paul with his unmistakable calm, booming, voice that I have often likened to quite delicious, thick, rich brown gravy on a Sunday roast - if you've not met him before you will be able to pick him out now J

We got to talking about one of the latest creations from the Sky Bums studio. A customer wanted an Ohashi style kite with the sail made



from a screen-print of, shall we say, a less than scantily dressed lady. Now this was never going to look right with the spine of the kite running through the middle and the idea of a double spine was born!



Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

Time to Fly

Prototype number three was brought out from the back of the van.

As said further back in my ramblings, the day was littered with spells of no wind and I resolved that if I were to get any kind of photo with the kite airborne then Paul would need to hike it up in to the sky whilst I snapped away trying to get something useful.

But then, as if by magic, the wind gods smiled, a gentle breeze was upon our backs and the "Tall Postcard", as Paul was calling it, rose majestically above the field and stuck to the sky. Very nice! Shh, secret - I might have ordered one right there and then. (Don't tell Marilyn).

The relatively simple design affords itself to appliquéd design or screen-print to the customer's desire. I was happy to be at the launch of this kite (pun intended).

What did we learn?

We've been doing this kiting lark for more than thirty years now; no two days are ever the same and there's always something new or a different experience comes along every time out.

So what knowledge was gained from today?

For starters, we learned that when there's been no rain for weeks, stalks of thick weeds from the cut field can poke a hole through the floor of your new tent - Marilyn wasn't pleased!

We learned that people are still creating new designs based on variations of designs centuries old.

And I also didn't know that Penguins wrote books about making kites!

A sure sign of low wind and/or thermals spotted from a distance are gliders and hot air balloons and we saw several of the latter as we made our way home on that very warm summer evening.

There may not be a beer called Pothecary but there was certainly one in the fridge at home with my name on it.

Give us a Swirl!

A few issues back I did a review of the HQ 6 metre Rainbow Swirls.

I didn't know at the time but that version was about to be superseded by another, the same length (inches short of twenty feet). But this time it comes in eight colours instead of six!

This one is not quite as big in circumference but seems to be the same weight and has no

trouble filling with air and spinning. I had a guy from the USA come back me for advice on the spinners occasionally sticking, but mind you, he did admit that sand had probably got in them.



He hadn't thought of what I usually do with anything that might sometimes stick and connect another spinner to the first. He had already queried the issue with HQ, asking what type of spinner they used and, apparently, the only reason a big one is used is to thread the line through more quickly in assembly.

Go figure!

Flexifoil Sting

Two editions back I wrote in complimentary manner about the Flexifoil Buzz, two line, power kite although it seems much further back from that on the cold winter days that we tested it.

Now comes the four line Sting.

This company never seem to skimp on what they give you when you make your purchase, they want you to come back again!

In the strong, professional, looking bag comes Kite, four lines, (two on each winder) flying/control handles, a comprehensive instruction book and elasticated safety straps. I neither directly compared nor looked up the measurements but if anyone told me that the Flexifoil



Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

Sting is the same kite except bridled in a four line set up and a different name printed on it then I think I could be forgiven for believing them.

The livery is, otherwise, the same, and package arrives with just as much fun attached to it.



Having the four-line controllability to angle the sail more aggressively in to the wind more power can be generated and, therefore, I was not asking Marilyn to fly it whilst I did the photos and videography.

I believe Flexifoil are happy to recommend this as a training quad kite due to the ease of getting it in the sky and the supplied safety straps. I was a little worried about the elasticity of the straps to begin with thinking that the handles would flyback in to my face, but nothing like this happened in all tests proving me to be unduly concerned.

How do they work?

Braking, steering, slowing or stopping a quad kite is done by pushing the top of the handles forward thus rotating them to a horizontal position with the flyer's knuckles then pointing toward the ground.

This action changes the angle of attack so that the bottom of the kite moves toward the flyer and the top moves away, letting the wind fly over the top and push it toward the ground. Imagine holding a sheet of A4 card vertically in front of a fan,

By holding it at different angles to the fan you can feel upward, downward or sideways movement. I show in the video how easy it is to launch The Sting from upside down.

The safety straps are velcro'd around the flyer's wrists with bungee cords attached to the bottoms of the handles so that, if the pull gets too strong, the flyer can let go of the handles and the kite will pull forward until it feels tension on the lines again. Because the handles are now only anchored by the bottom of the handles (the brakes) it will collapse.



The flyer will need to walk forward a few paces for the kite to come to rest on the ground.

The bungee connectors of the mechanism take away the shock of when the kite re-tensions during this action and the small amount of pull remaining is enough to stop them coming back at the pilot.

This is, of course all shown on the video with some trick stuff at the end not to be tried at home!

We were quite impressed at how well this worked - a bit of a game to set up but well worth it because the kite can power up more quickly than the pilot might expect at times and he or she will get stung! I gave the sting to a couple of friends of mine to try, one, Mick, could, already just about manage a typical Revolution type four line and one of them, Aditya, announced that he had never flown a quad kite before just as I passed the handles to him.

The thing is that The Sting can be flown like a two line kite by holding the handles nearer the top and so get the flyer gets used it and made coaching so much easier because I could gradually get the Aditya to make little tugs on the bottom ends to feel the effects on the steering of the kite.



Good Trainer.

In fact I found this a much simpler way of teaching quad because things happened more slowly and recovery was easy before the kite crashed because I was so easy to maintain or-

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

der by reverting to control by using only the top two lines.

It wasn't long before both Mick and Aditya were able to steer, spin on the spot, slow, stop and hold the kite in any position in the sky. Next time out I'm going to take a black marker pen. The flying lines are colour coded for left and right but I will ink the bottom ones each side to save a bit of a kafuffle in setting up. I appreciated having two winders for the lines but they catch when unwinding and will be filed down before the next outing. Perhaps I'm being a bit picky now but only telling how it is, otherwise what's the point of a review?

Opinion?

Overall, this is a well made, strong kite that will take a beating - and if it doesn't for any reason, then Flexifoil offer an excellent guarantee. We all came to love The Sting after only a few minutes of flying and I'm sure many others will too!

Portsmouth

I won't be going on about the annual international kite festival held on Southsea Common, in Portsmouth, too much as I am sure others will have written in - at least I hope so!

I know I was sitting there, pining and wishing that we were practiced up and able to give some two line sport kite displays on precision flying and a routine with tails. Fractured, Flying Fish and the amazing Carl Wright did an excellent job with their displays but I had a feeling the crowds wanted more.

We were pitched next to these guys by the arena and noticed a fairly constant procession of people asking when the sport kites were going back on.

Experience Counts

There was lots to see though, so much art work of single lines each one with their stories to be told and field director, Tony Cartwright, did his usual excellent, expert job of squeezing in everyone, including some unlisted flyers like Bill and Graham, the Dunstable Old Gents.

Nice to see also so many stalls and the kite traders, all reporting good business.

As usual we had a few people come over to ask for assistance with the kites they had bought and wouldn't fly for all the

usual silly reasons like trying to fly up wind or have assembled it incorrectly.

One such lady had paid five or six pounds for something that had about the strength of a Christmas decoration but would have fluttered about in just the right wind had she not tried her own adjustments of the bridle.

My fiddling with the thing didn't last long but she was determined that she could take it home, mend all the damage and replace the parts which had now gone missing. So I struck a deal - as long as she promised to throw it in the bin, I rummaged through our bag and gave her a much better made butterfly kite. Hopefully her kids will be happy although I think she had more interest in kites and they, on the nearby ice cream van.

The Dragon



I make no apologies to those who spent so many hours on preparation for the festival either researching plans, sitting behind the sewing machine or out in the field practicing only to be outdone by someone making a purchase, bringing it along and stealing the show.

We it did for me anyway.

At first, from a distance, I thought "Ok just another Chinese dragon being got out. Had one of those I bought from Peter Taylor - gave it away!" Then I got closer and saw how much better it was than the one's I had seen before - and how much bigger.



Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

I was corrected by Lex who informed me that it was a Balinese dragon and I found out later that it belonged to Malcolm Goodman. There were quite a few willing hands along the length of the kite and LOOK! It stretches back about 100 yards for goodness sake!

It was securely anchored because this one was sure to pull like crazy. It took a couple of attempts and then it rose powerfully in to the air drawing gasps of astonishment from all round the packed arena - fantastic!

I had my decent camera with me so I moved around, trying for a different angle than the normal looking back over its head shots - I still took some of those just in case J

I was pleased with some of the shots, in fact I was very happy with most of the photos and video Marilyn and I took that Saturday especially the one here for which I entered in a photo competition and won an award - no prize other than Kudos.

I know, from experience, how hard it is to organise festivals and how much more frustrating it gets when you have to do it in conjunction with some councils. I hope Gill and Jon Bloom know that my thanks and appreciation is genuine for the work put in organising this event.

Thanks guys, much appreciated.

2m Delta Rainbow Checker

I mentioned this in the last magazine I know but we've flown it a few times since then and that can only be because we like it!

It has a surprisingly good pull when the wind picks up and, so much so, that we used it for our video lifting both of our eight colour, 3 metre Swirls - yes, there are 6 and 3 metre lengths and the rainbow theme looked rather smart.



We didn't want to trust the thin line that was supplied so we doubled up on the breaking strain. The delta had little trouble holding one



spinner aloft but a stiffer breeze was needed when we put two on the line and that was the reason we decided to stack two kites. Rigging up and attaching a line between the Checkers was easy, even for me.

When I've stacked sport kites before there are certain rules of thumb to be followed to get the best from the kites especially when there are three or more.

I did find, by trial and error, that too little distance between the kites meant that the behaviour of one sometimes adversely affected the other and then back again so that they both fell from the sky.

Experiment

If you try this then I have no guidelines, it may not work the same with different kites, it should work with most deltas and more but you have to see what suits you the best if you want to try this.

As with everything I write it's only the way we do things, that doesn't mean to say it's the correct way - or even safe! With a bigger distance, if one of the kites got a wobble on then the other seemed to bring it back in to line and everyone was happy. All of the pulling is done by the bottom kite so only a light line was required to join them.

I just took a length of line from one of my reels (probably around 4 metres worked best in the end) and made a loop on both ends. One loop was larks headed to the top kite's

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary



tow point and the other attached to a carabiner which itself clipped over the cross spreader of the first kite and through the loop for added strength and to keep things central.

You're definitely gonna need heavier flying line now!

This worked well when we did it and looked absolutely awesome, drawing several compliments from the passing audience. We'll definitely be doing this again but if you try this, break your kite or cause damage, don't blame us - see earlier disclaimer!

Write in - Please!

I continue to have people berate my waffle either from here but, unfortunately, not on here, on internet forums, YouTube or our website.

Mostly it's just banter or well intended - those that know me well know that I thrive on someone having a go at me.

Choosing to get upset by someone just because they have a different opinion to yours is like choosing to walk through a dog poo rather than around it!

I am often pulled up when I say that we always have red to the right when flying sport kites - that's the colour of the sleeving on the flying lines and, sometimes, the handles too.

One such guy, Alex, narrated the usual story of how, in nautical terms, the red should always be left and that 'R' and 'R' (red is right) may not work worldwide.

This was my reply

Ahem!

Thank you for your kind words Alex. I understand what you say and the fact that the two

words may not begin with the same two consonants in other languages.

When we started flying more than thirty years ago there was no internet from which to learn and we found it easier to remember "Rrr" and "Rrr".

It is also easier for us to get people we coach to remember or for volunteers who help us at events.

We discovered that many other flyers use the same mantra as us so we are not entirely responsible for causing confusion in the world of kites.

The good thing about kiting is there are no rules (apart from common sense safety) and we are all free to enjoy.

Happy flying buddy.

Fiddly?

Another time I was admonished for keep using the phrase "I don't do fiddly" - Do I say that a lot then?

We went back and forth several times before the guy realised I wasn't giving up.

He said that if I were to slowly follow instructions or look at things a little longer, then life would be easier, not everything had to be "fiddly" if I were only to give it a try, in fact some things that looked complicated could be very simple tasks to complete.

"Follow instructions" ?? What was he talking about?

Obviously not a kite flyer then!

My final remark was that I could do fiddly if I really wanted - However, I choose not to!

See you next time people - Lots more where that came from.

Allan and Marilyn Pothecary
Close Encounters Kite Displays

Cuckoo Land—Bob Cruickshanks



For a long time now, even living in the depths of Zummerst, I have not heard the call of the Cuckoo and certainly not in the last two years. So, when I do hear the distance call it generally means that I am either north of Spaghetti Junction or somewhere in Europe ie, over the Channel not within Great Brexit.

What led to the call of Cuckoo land? Earlier in the year I received an email from Saša Iskrič, secretary of the KAP Jasa (kite team Slovenia) and a kite flier that I have met previously. The team were organising the first kite festival in Slovenia in the Prekmurje region. It was being held at the Murska Sobota airport and one of the supporters/sponsors was the Indian Embassy in Slovenia; just to name a couple of things that caught my attention, not to mention it could be an opportunity to give my colourful attire an airing.



Murska Sobota airport

Fliers attending were predominately from bordering countries namely Italy, Hungary and Austria but there were many travelling in campervans and cars from further afield and making a holiday of the time plus allowing additional kites, particularly large softies or pudding kites.

The festival was 3 days long but was due to finish on the Saturday to enable those driving to return home, if required, on the Sunday.

EasyJet was my preference but one UK resident, Derek Kuhn, elected to drive the 1200 miles in his camper, albeit he did stop off to visit friends/family in Germany going outbound but had a hasty journey home, phew more him than me!

The month of May came around and trying to remember after two years of non-air travel what I usually packed was strange, not to mention routines at the airport and queues. Needless to say that I got to my departure gate with 5 minutes to spare but that's another story over a beer!

Met at Ljubljana airport by Janez Vizjak, another member of the 3-man organising team and also a familiar face. His first question "do you want a beer or some food"? He obviously knows me well but given a two-hour drive I was conscious of my aging bladder plus being up since 2:00am, which was 9 hours ago so we cracked on.

We duly arrived at the airfield in Murska Sobota and were met by many old and new kite flier faces; now it was time for a beer and something to eat. The airfield was a large expanse of grass, with several hangars, a control tower and a well frequented restaurant and bar. After several hours 'rest' my designated apartment roommate Rene Maier arrived and offered a lift to the hotel complex.

Once we had checked in and found our apartment, which was also being shared with Axel Kostros, we freshened up and returned to the airfield for the evening welcome dinner. During dinner the program was outlined and the final member of the organising trio Gregor Mramor briefed the airfield management's concern regarding ground anchors, which was understandable and reiterated daily if not hourly.

Cuckoo Land—Bob Cruickshanks

Breakfast was taken in the hotel complex dining room where social distancing was not a consideration, well not if you wanted anything to eat/drink from the buffet. Clearly the pandemic was not something that appeared to have affected Slovenians; thank goodness for the triple vaccine!

Thursday, the first day's festival was bright and sunny; bugger I thought, forgot the sun cream! Many of the pudding fliers were trying in vain to get it up but with little success. Adopting the Bob C mantra 'It's never the wrong wind just the wrong kite' a few of us stick fliers had the correct gear in our bags and duly entertained the Cuckoos.



Jan Grutterink's symbolic kite

Word obviously hadn't got around that there was a festival at the airfield but we were advised that it was early. Midday and the call for pre-lunch 'nibbles' was announced by the Italian fliers, which was rude to ignore and an opportunity to re-acquaint one's self with the kite family that I haven't met for two years or more.

The rest of the day was light to nothing wind but there's always something in the Bob C bag to pull. During the day several other fliers arrived including the one Indian representative, Abdullah Maliyekkal, which brought the number of fliers to 80+.

Day two was a repeat of Thursday, albeit my red face was not from embarrassment but better late than never I scrounged some sun cream from my roommate. Again the stick fliers were

working hard, some with long launches but I was having fun free-flying my low/no wind collection. My old Martin Lawrence Buzzard is always a firm favourite of mine and occasionally attracts real birds as it soars. It was whilst flying the Buzzard that I met Katerina Bytko and her mother Larisa Bytko from Ukraine. Katerina, a member of the Ukrainian Kite Beauties team, was interested in the Buzzard so it was a great opportunity for me to spend time passing on some low wind flying techniques.

Jan Grutterink from the Netherlands, a master of appliqué, presented Katerina, Larisa and the Ukrainian Kite Association with a very symbolic designed kite.

During the afternoon several pudding kites were hauled aloft across the back of the airfield behind vehicles, one doing an extended 360° with a mega Octopus.

Overnight there was a prolonged downpour and more was forecast for Saturday so, sadly, the organisers felt it best to cancel the day's festival. Some took the opportunity to begin their journey home and others, including yours truly, went off in groups to do some sightseeing.

With an improvement in the afternoon weather and wind Herman Plattje and a few others took advantage and closed the festival with a display of big stuff and the 'We ♥ Slovenia' streamer.

With the power of social media, the local radio and TV the numbers attending the festival particularly in the afternoons was a great acknowledgement for the efforts of the 3-man organising team of Saša, Gregor and Janez who had convinced the local authorities, the Indian Embassy, and several other sponsors to provide accommodation, beer and many other things required to hold Slovenia's first kite festival.

Yes, there were things that may have been better but overall for a first event by a group of fliers who have only been active for circa 5 years it was a success.



Dieppe Competition Entries 2022



Some of the competition entries for Dieppe 2022. The theme was "My Dream, my planet".

There were some interesting interpretations of the theme and quite a few needed a written sheet stating how the entry related!



Dieppe Competition Entries 2022



Kadek Armika—Winner



Robert Brasington
Ne Dites Pas Adieu

Bits & Pieces

Hundreds miss out on Platt Fields Park kite display following 'argument' between 15 men

Things didn't quite go to plan at a kite festival held at Platt Fields Park when a group of 15 men began 'arguing' and 'shouting' at each other. A kite display that was set to take place at the event August 20 didn't go ahead after an argument broke out and festival goers were asked to go home.

Organisers of the event, Manchester International Festival (MIF) say the display was not cancelled but did not go ahead because the event 'overran' for a number of reasons. MEN journalist, Ethan Davies, who was at the event spoke about the fracas that broke out on what was a fun filled day of music, food and poetry.

He said: "Initially it seems like people were with this man but after a minute or so more of this, people started shouting at him. So that then lead to an argument between around 15 men, there was some pushing and pointing at each other like you'd see when footballers have a fight on the pitch.

"After that, someone with a handheld microphone then told people to get back on the coaches and loads of people left. We were supposed to have a kite flying display but that was cancelled."

A spokesperson for MIF said: "Hundreds of people turned out for the community day of kite flying, music and poetry at Platt Fields today as part of Fly With Me, a national event organised by Good Chance Theatre which took place across 16 locations in the UK and Europe celebrating Afghan culture one year on from the fall of the country to the Taliban.

Google Doodle

In August one of the Google Doodle graphics in India celebrated the 75th anniversary of independence for the nation.



Kerala-based artist Neethi, drew this doodle with a kite. His theory, in the last 75 years, India has gradually risen to new heights. He said he used the kite symbol to define that height. Of course, it's one-line. While explaining the matter in detail, he also discussed the cultural connection of India with the kite, the variety of

kites, the excitement of the kite industry, etc. This kite is one of the experiences of local craft. Kites are not merely a means of leisure, but various manifestations and consonances of kites in Indian culture and folk life. So to make such a memorable moment more memorable he brought the topic of kites Google Doodles.

Plea in Delhi High Court seeks direction to ban flying & making of kites

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Delhi High Court seeking directions to the Centre and Delhi government to impose a ban on flying, making, sale-purchase, storage, and transportation of kites.

The plea filed by the petitioner, Sanser Pal Singh, a practicing advocate, states that many people and birds have been killed or injured due to accidents caused by kite strings, and such incidents occur regularly. Kite flying endangers the lives and safety of Delhi residents and birds, it reads. The plea also states that the only solution is a complete ban on flying, making, selling, purchasing, storing, and transporting kites and kite-related objects, as it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to catch the culprit or assign responsibility when an accident occurs due to kite string.

"The Centre and the State failed to take appropriate action as kite flying is already prohibited under Section 94 of the Delhi Police Act, 1978, which states that 'No person shall fly a kite or any other thing to cause danger, injury, or alarm to persons, animals, or property'...", the plea reads. The plea further states that every time competition between kite players takes place, it's never-ending, and that on every occasion, each kite flier tries to take down the other kite flyers' by cutting the competitors' kite string.

The plea adds that as a result, each kite flier attempts to use a better and more "potent thread" than the competitor and every kite flyer tries to source and uses a string that is "glass coated" or "metallic", which are popularly known as "Chinese manjha," which are more dangerous, and because of this kite manjha, the life and safety of humans and birds are endangered.

Singh, in the plea further states that the recent accident was caused by a kite string, in which a 30-year-old man died on the Haiderpur Flyover in Delhi on July 25 and following that, on August 13, 2021, the police issued an advisory and published it in the newspaper to warn people not to use metallic powder-coated threads.

"Kite strings have caused several accidents in Delhi, in which many people have been injured or have died", Singh adds in the plea.

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I was involved in an accident in 2006 when a kite string became entangled around my body, and in an attempt to stop it from reaching my throat, I took it on my finger and cut it', Singh's plea reads.

Update on the above.

Delhi high court refuses to ban kite flying, says it's 'cultural and religious'

Disposing of a plea seeking a complete ban on flying, sale, purchase, storage, and transportation of kites, a bench of chief justice Satish Chandra Sharma and justice Subramonium noted that the NGT has already imposed a complete ban on Chinese synthetic "manjha".

Terming kite flying "a cultural and religious activity", the Delhi high court on Friday refused to ban the activity in the national capital and instead directed the Delhi government and the police to ensure strict compliance with the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) order banning sale of Chinese synthetic "manjha" (strings coated with powdered glass) used for kite flying.

Additional solicitor general Chetan Sharma, appearing for the Union government, submitted that the prayer for banning kite flying cannot be allowed as cultural and religious values are attached to the activity and it is only the use of Chinese "manjha" that needs to be banned.

"This is a festival in India. It is also connected to religion. You need to be careful while making (such) a prayer," Sharma said.

The court agreed with the contentions of the ASG and directed the Delhi government and the police to ensure strict compliance with the NGT order banning use and sale of Chinese 'manjha'.

Old Dutch Papers

Frits Sauv  posted:

From 1600 printing on paper started to increase very much. The need to entertain and give some education to people became more common and because, in those days, most people could not read or write, information was given in prints.

In the Netherlands this was done in the so called "centsprenten". The sheets in enclosed publications, were cut out and sold for 1 cent per piece, which explains the name. I have been able to download the ones with a kite on it from the Dutch Rijksmuseum. These I share with you, reader.

A number of these can be found in the book "De Vliegerende Hollander", a scientific study to explain Dutch prints and documents from 1600.

Here are some of the kite images on the papers. More can be found by searching the Rijksmuseum collection.



Uw Vlieger die staat hoog, maar, Ferdinand uw pogen, Kan, als de hoogmoed, nooit geen dwarrelwind gedogen.



Vlieger op laten. -- jeu du cerf-volant.



Dat gy uw Kolder hoog ziet zweeven, Waer, Gerritje, u vermaak te geeven. Verhef dus ook uw Geest met vreugd Naar hoven, door Verstand en Deugd.

Museum of Kites in South Jakarta

Several tourist destinations offer myriad options for families and school students to spend their school holidays. Apart from shopping centres, which are very common, museums can also be a choice. Jakarta is the city, with the most number of museums in Indonesia, reaching over 70, which can be visited by the public, according to the Statistics Indonesia (BPS) official website.

One of the many museums in Jakarta is the Museum Layang-Layang, or the Kites Museum of Indonesia, located on H Kamang Street, Pondok Labu, South Jakarta. This museum offers several activities, such as painting and making kites, painting umbrellas, and watching the history of kites.

The Museum of Kites showcases several types of kites originating from Indonesia and also overseas.

By paying an entrance ticket the museum will invite them to try out new things that are not commonly done at home or at school.

"By paying for tickets, visitors will be able to enjoy three activities: firstly, it is watching a historical film about kites; then there is a museum tour to get to know more about kites, and finally, they will be taught to make kites from paper," the tour guide of the Kites Museum, Asep Irawan, explained. The paper kites can also be decorated and taken home.

The museum building, built with Balinese and Javanese architectural styles, stands on an area of 2,750 sq. m. and is filled with several lush

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trees. The relaxing atmosphere makes visitors feel that they are not in the south of the capital city, which is usually bustling.

The museum, which was inaugurated by the former minister of culture and tourism, I Gede Ardhika, on March 21, 2003, made it the first kite museum in Indonesia. "The presence of the kite museum is to preserve the characteristics of Indonesian culture through kite art," Irawan noted.

Before it was established as a museum, the owner, Endang W. Puspoyo, initially focused on the beauty industry sector. At first, Puspoyo opened a kite gallery, and she was quite fond and happy with the world of kites. In the 1990s, Puspoyo often invited kite artists from various regions to participate in festivals to enliven the art of kites in Indonesia.

It was from these artists that Puspoyo obtained several kites, as those coming to the festival donated a lot of their works to be displayed in the museum and some even sold their artworks after the festival ended. "In the festival, not all the kites were taken home, as some were sold for (the artists') return fare, and some were donated to be displayed in the gallery," Irawan remarked. "As the number of kites (donated to the museum) increased, Puspoyo then had the idea to open this museum," he added.

The Kites Museum of Indonesia not only stores artworks from artists throughout regions of Indonesia, but there are several kites coming from world artists in this pendhapa-shaped building. This pendhapa, or pavilion, keeps unique kites from the smallest size measuring two centimetres to the largest reaching 5x3 meters (m). "This museum also has a kite that has a length of 100 m, but it does not fit on display," Irawan said.

Irawan, who also works as a kite artist, explained that this museum has a large collection of kites as souvenirs while visiting kite festivals abroad. "Usually, if we go there or they come here, some are donated to the museum as well," he said. The wooden-floor museum

building has at least 20 collections of kites from foreign countries on display.

Irawan said, the showcasing aims to emphasize that kites are not only popular in Indonesia but also in the global community. "This kites museum also stores kites from abroad, such as Turkey, the Netherlands, South Korea, the Philippines, Cambodia, India, Japan, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, and France," he pointed out.

Furthermore, the museum has a replica of the first kite in Indonesia. In the past, Irawan explained, kites were made of natural materials, such as kolope (tuber) leaves. The shape of the kite was diamond and came from the Muna Island area, Southeast Sulawesi. The making of the kites took three to seven days, and they are used by ancient humans to seek God.

"The first history (of kites is) in Indonesia. There is even research that (states) this kite is the first in the world. There is only the replica here. Historically, ancient humans flew the kite to seek God, but they failed to find (God)," he stated.

Around the Auctions—Invaluable

David Boyd. Girl flying the kite. Oil on board. Signed lower right. H 46cm, W 60cm



AUD 10,000—15,000

Lenox Treasure Box, Flying High with Donald



Glossy porcelain ivory box with matte flower reliefs, and gilt accents. Donald Duck on top holding a kite. Hinged lid. Box opens perfectly and reveals a Donald Duck relief inside.

Estimate was \$20-\$40. Sold for just \$20.

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YOSL BERGNER (1920-2017) Flying a Kite bronze, ed. 2/9

Accompanied by a leather bound certificate of authenticity.

Estimate AUD10,000—15,000

Auction News—Ebay
Mughal Badshah Flying Kite with His Damsels
Mughal Handmade Miniature Painting

Subject: Mughal Miniature Painting
Paint Material: Stone color
Base Material: Paper
Size: 7.75 in.(19.3 cm) wide and 12 in.(30 cm) tall

A modern reproduction on traditional fenugreek paper.



Reduced from £152.24 to £106.56. (Also available for £68.24)

Michael Rothenstein Girl with Kites

On offer is a vintage limited edition art print -

woodcut print with hand colouring titled "Girl with kites / Japanese kites". Measures approx



65cm x 50cm hand signed and numbered from edition of 75 prints
£395 with free postage.

Hamamatsu Festival

From in Hamamatsu.com

The Hamamatsu festival normally held May 3-5 is independent of shinto and buddhist temple observations. It is a festival to celebrate the birth of a child. Various events are held at two main venues each with their main attraction "a kite-flying battle" at Nakatajima beach and "a parade of palace floats" downtown. It is Hamamatsu 's most bustling time of year as the city population swells to 1.5 million people.

The history of kite-flying in Hamamatsu dates back to the Eiroku era year (1558-1569) more than 450 years ago. According to "Hamamatsu Castle history" written in the Edo era, a large kite was flown for Yoshihiro the oldest son of the Prince of Hikuma castle (Hamamatsu Castle) of boasting the most important and oldest kite-flying history. Thereafter firstborn son's births have been celebrated in the Hamamatsu district as "Boy's Festival", and a custom to fly "the first kite" on which family coat of arms and the names of the baby (Hatsuko) are hand drawn and written with ink in hope of future growth. (not only the eldest son, even the second son and a girl partake in kite-flying to celebrate birth now.)

The event grounds are suitable climatically due to the wind "the strong, dry wind of Enshu" often blowing allowing the large kites a successful lift off to long and high flights then repeated annually as children (Hatsuko) grow up.

The kite-flier battle is fought in the kite-flier meeting place of middle Tajima dune facing the rough Enshu sea. Large kites of 170 towns are flown after the fireworks signal high in the sky all at once as the kite-flier battle commences

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with several hundred people jumbling together in a swirling melee. Kite strings which coil themselves and others are called "quarrel kites" their threads cut by friction. The friction creates a cloud of smoke and dust which rises up wrapping all into the heat and excitement of the moment.

Kite Beer

Maybe only available in the USA, but if you are ever over there!

Light bodied and refreshing this beer is based on the Cream Ale Style...an original American beer modeled after the light lagers of its time. A subtle tartness adds to the crisp finish of the beer and makes it a good summer quencher.

Kite Tail Summer Ale O'Fallon Brewery.



Brookite

Paul Chapman recently posted the following, which many may not have seen.

After the disastrous fire of April 1938, Brookite joined forces with The London Magical Company and reformed at Francis Terrace in north London. At about this time an 'interest' film was made and this photo shows one of the stills where Tommy Brooke demonstrates the kites. The film must have been about kites in general since a large Chinese (Japanese?) dragon kite appears. These films would be shown in the London news theatres. I remember going to one of these 24/7 cinemas to while away the time before catching the train from St Pancras station in the 1950s. They would show news clips, cartoons and 'interest' films such as this.



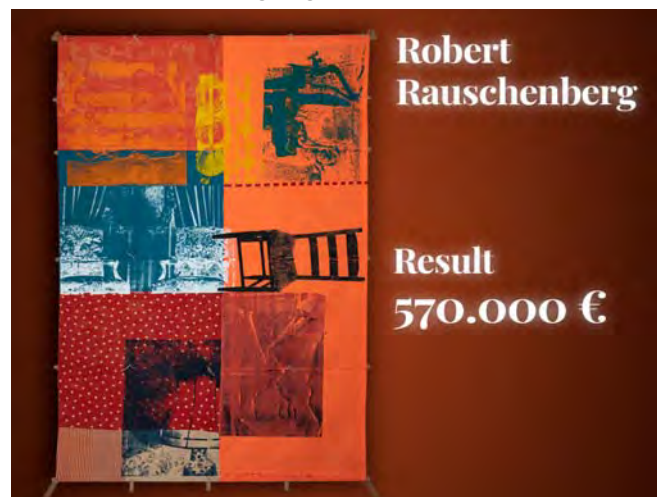
Insurance

QuoteMonkey (www.quotemonkey.co.uk) is looking to launch a specialist scheme that would cover activities such as kite flying for public liability. They are asking for people to register their interest in such an insurance.

GfO to their website and look under Liability insurance to register your interest.

Nagel Auctions—The Art Kite Collection

For those of an enquiring mind you can find out the complete final prices of the top kites that were auctioned in February at https://www.auction.de/highlights_802_result_e.php



We stayed dry! Portsmouth 2022—Hugh Blowers

Well, almost, until the hovercraft started sailing along the beach covering the entire site in a fine mist every trip. An evening walk along the sea front gave a stark illustration of the reason for the change in the festival dates. Work was continuing night and day to build up the sea wall and put in huge boulders to keep the water in the Solent, unlike earlier in the year when the whole Common was flooded. The gently sloping stone banks of the Hilsea Lagoon and Portsbridge Creek have now also been replaced by massive concrete walls to keep the sea at bay. What is not always appreciated is that the whole of Portsmouth is an Island so needs protecting all the way round, a massively expensive task in order to protect businesses and 10,000 homes.

All this work meant that many of the sea front restaurants were closed, but one great advantage of the change in dates was the lack of the Victorious stage and compound, providing much more arena space and one less hazard. I for one would not be unhappy to see the earlier date made a permanent change.

After last year's entirely domestic festival, the relaxation of restrictions allowed Gill and Jon to invite a raft of flyers and makers from Europe. The focus of the event was to be the entire European Air Gallery of Edos, along with the original Hague Gallery, rescued from almost certain destruction by Stephan Versteeg, who had rebuilt all of them to flying condition. Thirty three giant Edos to be flown at once would be a tall order and a spectacular sight. The second featured element was to be a display of kites from the late Jørgen Møller Hansen, now under the care of the Decorators.

Saturday was one of those days that was as good as it gets for kite flying with the refectory at Rees Hall almost empty by 8.30am as the flyers established themselves on site and got quantities of ripstop into the air. One of the early pieces into the blue sky was one of the many offspring that Jake, Wolfgang Schimmelpfennig's snake, has spawned. Noticeably missing was Andrew Beattie, having had to re-join the ranks of the working population, so preventing him making the trip. Another very obvious absence was George Webster, so Alan Poxon stepped in as a substitute, doing a super job for the two days. The morning briefing introduced most of the flyers and then concentrated on the volunteer flyers for the air galleries. Sixty six people was a bit ambitious, and to be fair there were just not enough willing and experienced hands available to achieve what had been planned.

Even though George was missing, it would not be Portsmouth without an altitude sprint, with all the professional sprinters dutifully lined up. Many of the competitors were using Karl Longbottom kites, and as we are now so used to, it



was one of these in the hands of Bob Cruickshanks that came out the winner. A candidate showing promise was Karl with a new triangular, cruciform design that uses just a single, Y bridle. It was only confusion over the difference between Northern and Southern rules that stopped him winning as he had a huge loop of line at the end of the time. So impressed was one fellow competitor that he immediately bought one for the Sunday round, which would have a remarkable result 24 hours later.

Much of the morning in the art kite arena was devoted to building up all the Edos with Pauline Taylor, Jerry Swift and David Ellison then having the unenviable task of untangling the mass of lines. Several, that had been put away carefully, popped out with minimal effort, whilst others took the combined efforts of a number of us to unravel the knitting before laying them out to show the public.

Oh my goodness, if last year was crowded, then the superb weather this year had brought out the crowd in their thousands. At one point, the overflow car park had nearly joined up with the kite flyers car park, which at £12 a pop must have gone a little way towards the cost of the festival? [*ed.—if only*] The food stalls were doing a roaring trade, even at the seemingly agreed price of £6.00 for whatever they were selling, a bacon roll and a drink and very little change from a tenner. The kite traders were equally flat out and by Sunday afternoon their stalls were decimated, with Tony reckoning that he had no more stock to sell, making up in some way for last year's debacle.

In the display arena, Flying Fish's Lex and Irma, Spectrum's Carl, and two thirds of Fracture, Josh and Harry, were on hand to present their well established, two line routines to an appreciative audience, whilst the ever present Decorators continue to do the apparently impossible with Revs. It is significant that this team is the longest established by a country mile, and still with the three original flyers, augmented over the years by some regulars and other, more peripatetic flyers. Of the other sports kite and four line teams and flyers from the past, most have retired although some have even seen the light and found the pleasure of flying with just one line in their hand. Is it just me though, or is

We stayed dry! Portsmouth 2022—Hugh Blowers

there still something special about a well drilled team routine that makes it such a spectacle?



The subject of art on kites has caused hours of debate in the pages of magazines and over a few ales over the years, but in some ways it is an all encompassing category, which mirrors art in real life in dividing opinion. I was so impressed with Dave Ellison's almost monochrome 'jack in the green' last year, but now he has surpassed himself with a full colour version that is nothing short of spectacular, both in the quality of the image and the amount of stitching. Dave has obviously taken to complex patterns as Paul and Natalie had another of his Edo's that was a riot of colour. Michael Goddard is still exploring the possibilities of dye sublimation printing allied to photographic images that takes the themes of his appliquéd kites even further. I am not a great fan of printing an existing image on a piece of ripstop, but Michael's are as far removed from this as possible, to the extent that he will walk around a city with a camera on a time exposure so that his cityscapes gain an entirely ethereal quality. Inevitably, much of what was in the sky I have described at length before but the work of Capelli, father and daughter, George Peters, Frances Anderson and Pauline Taylor provide wide variations on the theme.

Any of you that take note of my regular ramblings will be well aware of my disquiet at the 'who's that' question when the name of some very well known or even famous maker from the past is mentioned only to garner blank looks. Books and magazines from the 90s are littered with mention and photos of kites and makers, now sadly forgotten, yet much of the work they produced is still visually stunning and deserves to be seen by a new generation of festival goers.

It is to their credit that the Decorators have become the custodians of a large quantity of kites from the collection of the late Jørgen Møller Hansen. Already well known for the use of his graphics on their Revs, they have undertaken the care, restoration and display of his work. In a way, his graphics were very much in line with the flying style and tracks favoured by the Decs. He was also an enthusiast for multiple kites flown as trains or interconnected so that the strong lines of colour interact to create a larger image. He also was a fan of tails, which means assembling and launching some of these creations is no easy task. The two parafoils are 'ready to fly' so to speak, as long as you are feeling strong. The multiples required the use of bars and 'bum straps', especially in the stronger winds. Lovely though to see these older pieces back in the sky.

From where we were at the east end of the site and with the almost perfect wind off the sea, the large kite arena was stuffed full of the immediately recognisable and the more obscure. As with most things, some look and fly better than others, due in the main to the correct degree of inflation and pressurisation. Of two identical kites by the same maker, one inflates and flies perfectly, the other never fills, even in a gale, all down to the porosity of the material I am told. Some of the inflatables are fun, like the line up of pigs and others just masterpieces of design and building.



'Pegasus' remains a remarkable creation, although much copied and now of course, there are an almost unlimited selection of odd inflatable 'thingys' emanating from China in a variety of sizes. How galling it must be to have built an

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exceedingly life like serpent or snake like creature that has taken many hours of designing and stitching only to find that a bigger one from the far east would have cost just a few quid?

David Gomberg once remarked that the arrival of the cheap Chinese kites meant that people who should not be flying large inflatables are now able to, an interesting take but not entirely inaccurate given the antics of 'Clouseau' in Berck a few years ago. Again, much of what was flying was familiar but Bernhard Dingwerth had come up with a quite amazing likeness of Charlie Chaplin, that was awarded the 'kite of the festival' trophy.

For a very long while the output of designers and builders from abroad has been favoured at the expense of kitemakers from the UK. We have had many talented artist, designers and builders over the years whose work was far more popular elsewhere in the world than here.

The lunchtime slot each day was to feature 'The Brits', kites from British makers, past and present. Karl Longbottom's Phoenix was well to the fore with an entire flock of these being flown. What started as a single commission has just grown as the visual impact and sheer flyability of these kites is appreciated by more and more flyers. Dave Ellison's 'dazzle kites' are also appearing from other kite bags, although it was pointed out by one well known kite couple that whilst Dave's kite is black and white, theirs was white and black? For those into antique furniture Boulle work always came in pairs one of brass and tortoiseshell and the other a reverse image in tortoiseshell and brass, two for nearly the price of one and no scrap? Raindrop, Sky Bums, Martin Lester and more of Mike Goddard's images kept Alan Poxon on his toes as he walked round the arena identifying the kites, and of course there were plenty of Guy's super heroes to be seen further down the field.

Post lunch and the first session with the Edos. We had been asked to 'adopt' a kite for the weekend to fly and look after it, so 'Leda and the Swan' became ours for the weekend. I have a very personal attachment to this kite as I was the first person to fly it after Joel Thieze and Martine Chantel had finished the painting. Indeed it was still a bit tacky on its maiden flight, but it flies so beautifully, even in the strongest of winds. Getting thirty three Edos in the air was never going to happen through lack of space, flyers and holders. They are not difficult to fly, but very strict preparation and understanding of the kites is essential. The kite and lines must be exactly downwind, checked that there are no lines round spar ends and then flown off the ground, never launched, as they will then head in whatever direction they are pointed until they stabilise, probably creating chaos along the way. More than one flyer did insist on using the two handles like a sports kite



with the inevitable disaster. The Claudio Capelli self portrait was being flown appropriately by Caterina Capelli after a bit of untangling, but what became apparent to many of the flyers was that these could be a handful at times, leading to some retirements from the field of play. Leda sat on top of the wind happily through to the end of the session until flown back down to the ground again before the long, braiding process to ensure that it was ready to go again. It is a regret of mine that I lost out to TC in a bidding war at Sunderland for the original artwork, although Joel did have a whole panel of studies for the kite at Dieppe four years ago.

The afternoon programme repeated many of the earlier slots, with the addition of a public session flying Chinese deltas and then Reptiles, Snakes and Dragons, the star being Malcolm Goodman's huge modern take on a traditional Chinese dragon. This magnificent train was not far off vertical in the sky having occupied the whole arena when being laid out.



On site throughout the day had been the acclaimed artist Louise Griffin Kimber who was doing lightning pictures of kites in pastels and produced several images of the dragon in double quick time. There were numerous other kites that fitted the snake and reptile category

We stayed dry! Portsmouth 2022—Hugh Blowers



flying in the large kite area, including Wolfgang's, 'sons of Jake', numerous turtles and one of Rolf's magnificent dragons hovering in the background. Particularly attractive amongst the smaller kites were a pair of sparred, flat, turtles in ripstop and mylar. Time constraints kept the original George Peters Turtle in its bag throughout the weekend.

A great day of flying and wonderful to see so many people enjoying the festival, both flyers and the public. For the evening, Gil and Jon had arranged for the university to put on a barbecue in the courtyard, followed by an auction, all on a lovely, balmy summer evening, a stark contrast to some of the August nights on the common that were far from that. Rees Hall has been having something of a makeover with painters busy everywhere and the bar that used to provide for us in the evening reduced to firewood, leaving a pile of timber on the floor and whacking great holes in the ceiling. The new furniture was already looking distinctly yucky after only a few months, designer it might have been, but designed for the situation, certainly not.

The breakfasts are probably the best part of the Rees Hall experience, so we were well fed as we set off for the field, with the wind already showing signs of being somewhat stronger than the day before and the large kite arena already well established. Sunday's programme was scheduled to be a repeat of Saturday, so another altitude sprint got the day underway. This time, Bob C, and Steve, the new convert to the KL cruciform kite lined up alongside Karl who had a super sized version. Alan admitted that the time limit in the freshening wind might have been a bit generous, but Steve S was more than happy to run out the winner with his new purchase. The stronger wind proved too much for Karl's own kite, which disassembled itself, raining bits down into the arena.

A casualty of the increased wind was the planned Edo sessions as the decision was made to leave the Galleries on the ground. A few of us that had been there before would have been quite happy to fly a selection of them and a couple of privately owned Edos did take to the

sky. If the handle on the bottom line is left well alone, they will fly in almost anything as the lower lines allow the kite to float happily and without much pull, tension the bottom lines though and you do have a fight on your hands.

It was an entirely different selection of art kites on day 2 including more of the incredibly detailed creations from Karin and Roger Stevens from Belgium. What is unusual about this couple is that each make their own kites, as their only attempt at cooperation led to strife. All of their kites bear close inspection, as the quality and detail of their work is amazing. Roger was flying a highly decorated delta kite with a long flowing tail, but it was the tail that was fascinating as there were a myriad of coloured port-holes of varying sizes along its length. On the ground, each of these circles was a double layer of organza that in turn was stitched between a hem of thin plastic to stop it fraying. They are also working in cooperation with Gill Bloom who is supplying them with dyed backdrops for them to add appliquéd detail. The fishermen against a setting sun was magical and almost impossible to recreate in any other way and a number of other panels were passed over during the day, so even more stunning images to look forward to.



We stayed dry! Portsmouth 2022—Hugh Blowers

The loss of Chris Beel was a shock to us all, but now, by courtesy of his daughter, kites from his wonderful collection are filtering down. The most recognisable for me was the John Pollack flower now being cared for by Peter and Sarah Bindon. The amount of paint on John's kites ensures total colour saturation with examples of his work being few and far between in the UK.

Apart from an original Seven Sisters, there are only a couple of other Randy Tom kites in the UK that feature legal, Patrick Nagel images, and the one flying must be thirty or more years old, yet for a small and simple kite it flies in anything from a zephyr to far too strong to be sensible, yet always attracts attention. Michael Goddard had dug out some of his larger kites with multiple spars and added lots of tails to the lines, meaning lots of rolling up at the end of the day. Paul and Natalie had three Robertshaw serpents with decorated lines that flew all day at the western edge of the arena.



One slightly less than pleasant note were complaints from residents about the noise of the two Vietnamese kites being flown by members of the public, with hummers on them [ED: *This was due to them sounding like a siren alarm*], necessitating them being asked to take them down. One wonders how said residents manage when Victorious starts banging out music at about 120db throughout the day, or do they move out?

It was quite noticeable that the number of flyers and public was thinning out during the afternoon, especially if the queue for the toilets was taken as a guide. The afternoon programme was predominantly two and four line team displays with teams combining to add another dimension, a long way from the mega teams and grid flies of the past though. A long standing tradition at Portsmouth that brings the day to a close is the Spirit fly, augmented at first by Nick James angels and latterly by a mass of doves supplied by Karl and Sara Longbottom. An addition this year was a huge, inflatable, Italian 'Will O the Wisp' style ghost.

Suddenly it was all over with the presentations taking place immediately, Bernhard for the 'kite

of the festival', Bob and Steve for the altitude sprints and then the Herman Van den Broek award made to Pauline Taylor who has promoted so many festivals and devoted so much of her weekend to rigging and then packing away the Air Gallery Edos.

Leaving Portsmouth was spookily easy compared with normal, which, like the thinning of the crowds we put down to a certain football match that coincided.

How lucky we all were that the first full festival after covid enjoyed such good weather, and we hope that the Mayor, who spent so much time on the site, enjoyed it enough for there to be a 31st. We worked out that of the 30 festivals so far we had been to 28 of them, missing the first and a later one through work patterns. During the years we have been soaked on numerous occasions, blown off the common, sat in stifling heat with no wind and then enjoyed the days when the weather is perfect, much like Saturday. Just wish that there was not the M25 between us and Portsmouth as it is always a lottery in both directions. This time it was a very expensive Jaguar that had decided to play dodgems with 38 tons of artic, coming off a very poor second.

Preparations now in hand for Dieppe for the first time in four years, where did the time go?



East Anglian Kite Flyers Wildlife Event—Colin Roberts

For the first time since covid lockdown Pete our events organiser was contacted by the manager of the Essex Wildlife Centre at Walton-on-the-Naze in Essex to enquire if we could do a two day kite event over the weekend of 30th and 31st of July. Although this clashed with the Portsmouth Kite Festival previous event at the Naze have been very popular. We are always keen to help promote local events so we as a club said yes and the planning began. We would be doing a kite display, kite workshop and sweet drops both days.

Saturday 30th was hot and sunny with a SSW wind in the teens ideal for a fly at the Naze. Jonathan and Jonny took on the task of doing the kite display. Cars are not normally allowed on the Naze but we had special permission so they could anchor large kites to their cars—just as well as after weeks of hot weather with no rain the ground was parched dry and rock hard. So not having to hammer in ground stakes was a bonus. They soon had up a Manta Ray, large Trilobite, Octopuses, Bears etc. and some ground items, Ladybirds, Parrot banners and a spikey ball etc.

In the education room of the centre Lyn set up the kite workshop with help of other members of the club. Every child would have the choice of decorating either a diamond or delta kite, they could do their own design or use one of the many stencils provided. Each child was also given a lollipop and were provided with a protective apron so parents didn't go home with a multi-coloured child. However, some managed to get permanent marker over their faces probably a good job school is out. We were constantly amazed by their ingenuity and artistic skill, some went for the minimalistic design while others did the whole kite that would not have been out of place in an art gallery. It was pleasing to see several Ukrainian flags being drawn along with the usual fairies, horses, spaceships, tractors etc. Some parents admitted they were using their child as the excuse as they were the ones who wanted to do a kite,. Both days a lot of oohs and aahs could be heard as the kids could see the big kites flying from the education room. The workshop was busy all weekend, word had got out via social media several folk had pre booked a time slot others just turned up. 96 kites were made on Saturday and surprisingly the exact same number on Sunday, it was brilliant to see the nippers outside flying their masterpieces.

When myself and Pete went outside to assist with the sweet drop we found that it was very busy with lots of folk having picnics etc while enjoying Jonathan and Jonny's magnificent display. Many of the public had turned up with their own kites or had purchased one from the shop at the Naze. Over the weekend they answered lots of questions. The sweet drops as usual were popular we did two each day up to

7's and over 7's, a few adults asked if we could do an alcohol drop for them, not sure bottles and cans of beer would be in line with health and safety.

Sunday was a repeat of Saturday except that the wind was terrible, it was a strong and gusty westerly blowing in the high twenties and a westerly meant it was also blowing out to sea. Jonathan and Jonny did an amazing job flying their large kites in the conditions with a different display to the one they had done on Saturday, Dragons, Pink Panther, Tom and Jerry and Jonny's new Tweetie Pie were some flown. They also had to ensure that they were extra attentive so the public were kept safe at all times, even though safety signs had been put up some folk were oblivious to the risk of having a picnic under a lively big kite, they were politely informed of the danger and told to move.

Surprisingly only a couple of the workshop kites had been let go of by a little hand and had disappeared over the cliff edge. After doing another two successful sweet drops we did notice a kids pushchair heading towards the cliff edge on its own! A parent who had been flying a delta stunt kite had put the kite on the back of the chair still made up while he wound in his kite lines, the kite was acting like a sail, thankfully the chair was grabbed before it went too far.

The weekend had been hard work but very enjoyable with lots of people saying what a great time they had had seeing the kites and were looking forward to the next time. The manager of the centre was also very pleased with how many folk had been to have a look round their superb facilities.

Videos of the weekend can be found here

<https://youtu.be/Ni7hwFW6y4I>

<https://youtu.be/4tt8inQ6Qd4>

with further pictures on the East Anglian Kite Flyers (EAKF) website and Facebook page



East Anglian Kite Flyers at First Light—Colin Roberts

For the first time since lockdown the First Light Festival was being held in Lowestoft and the East Anglian Kite Flyers were approached to put on a kite display as part of the event was being called First Kite for which lots of small kites had been sent to local schools and clubs to fly at the event.

The First Light Festival is held over a weekend on south beach Lowestoft to celebrate the summer solstice, Lowestoft is the most easterly point of the UK so sees the rising sun first and the festival runs non stop (usually) from midday Saturday to midday Sunday, it is a huge event with music, a parade, dance groups and art projects etc. all featured and this year kites.

We were booked to fly from 10am Sunday to midday as part of the closing finale. The Suffolk Kite Flyers were also going to be there. Jonny and Lou (Red Kite Crew and also EAKF) were staying overnight as they had family nearby. Myself Pete and Lyn met at McDonalds at 8am so we could travel to the beach in a small convoy of two as roads were due to be shut, we had a reserved parking space on the cliff top near to a steep slope down to the beach.



As we arrived we could see that Jonny and Lou had made an early start and already had a lovely Manta Ray flying held down by some seriously heavy sand anchors. We met Jonny in the car park who was getting more kites from his car, he said there had been some confusion as two flyers from the Beccles Bunch were there having been asked at the last minute if they could attend as we had cancelled!! This is what Donald Trump would call fake news as in fact it was the Suffolk Kite Flyers who had cancelled. South beach is very big so there was plenty of room for all.

After a bit of early turbulence the wind settled down to blow along the beach all day towards the music stage. The wind speed was in the high teens low 20's all day. Jonny and Lou's display was taking shape at pace having added a spaceman, Pink Panther, Tom and Jerry, and later joined by a stunning Dumbo the Elephant kite having it's first fly.

I set up a display of rotating items, rainbow wheel, snake wheel, spin sock and a roto box. I

also flew a skeleton who at one point had a wander along the beach when little hands removed some of the sand from it's anchor (kids don't you just love 'em) fortunately it was rescued by the Beccles Bunch before he went too far. They were flying a lobster, sea horse and octopus. Pete soon had up a large trilobite with octopus and Mickey Mouse attached he also flew a gecko.

We were supposed to fly for two hours but we saw no reason to stop at midday so we flew on until 4pm, kites were changed and new items added to keep the display looking fresh including Jonny and Lou's gorgeous Marlin. More octopuses were added along with a UFO Sam etc.

We had lots of nice comments and answered lots of questions. As we looked around the beach and prom we saw it was packed, organisers of the event estimated that over the weekend approx 60,000 had attended despite the event having to be paused overnight Saturday due to heavy rain, gale force winds and lightning. Fortunately that had all passed before we started our display. The organisers said what we had done was simply fantastic. Before we started the hard work of taking the kites down the wind had freshened so we had a good work out especially Jonny who must have made fifteen or more trips up and down the slope during the day to fetch more kites from his car.

Who knows after all the great feedback on social media etc we may be invited back next year, both days and a night fly all a possibility. We always say flying kites keeps you young and you are only as old as you feel and we were feeling old after spending all day on very soft sand but we had loved it.

A video of the event can be found here https://youtu.be/_TMYQ3p9k2Y

and more pictures can be found on the East Anglian Kite Flyers website and Facebook page

Colin
EAKF





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