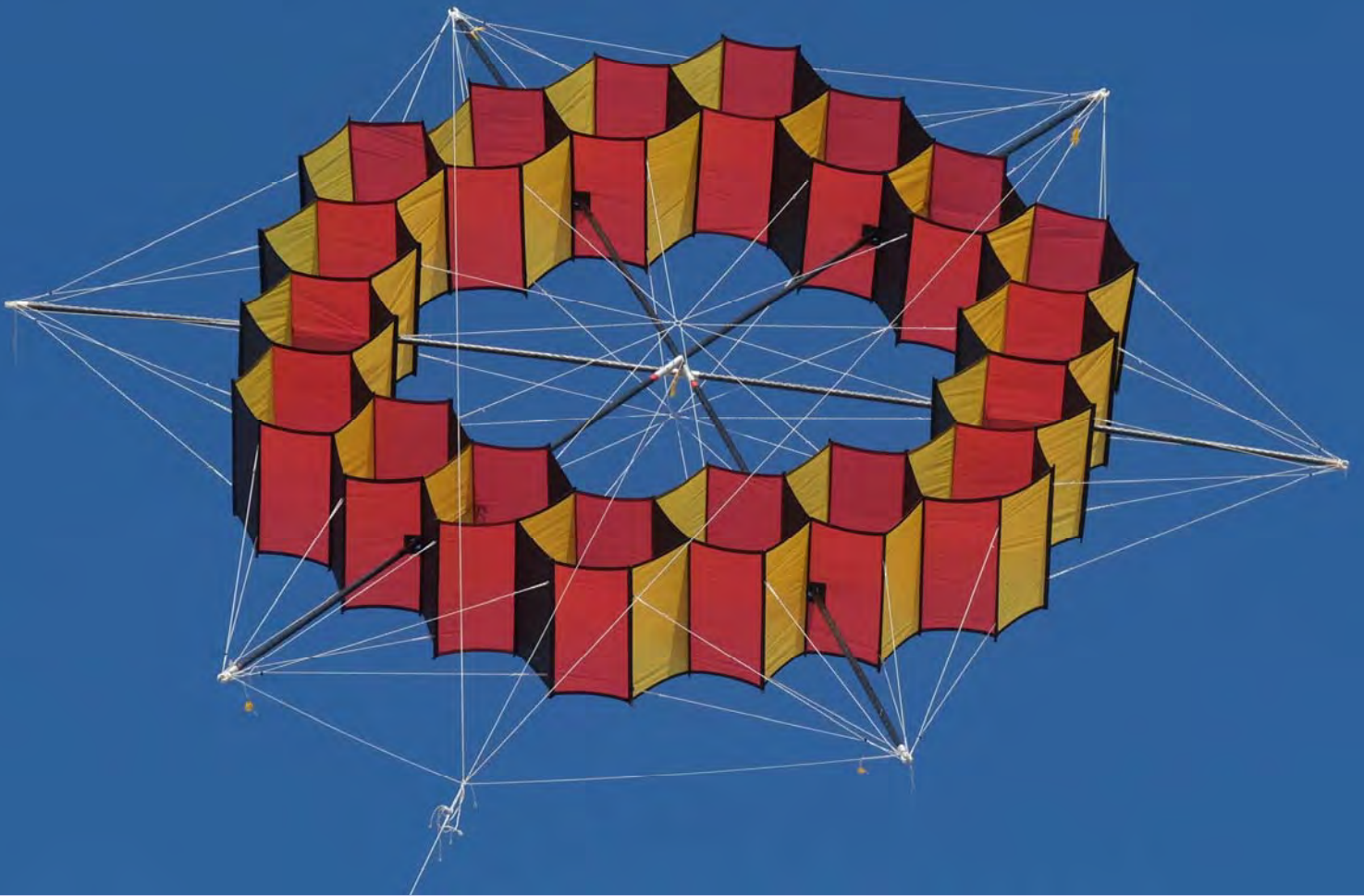


THE KITEFLIER

www.thekitesociety.org.uk



Issue 175

April 2023

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

**New
For
2023**



HQ Rainbow
Swallow Kite



All The Fun Of The Air !



Revolution Reflex Blast

Spiderkites
Dragon Wilma



Spiderkites
Starlight



HQ
Eddy Rainbow
Peace



HQ Bouncing
Moodeez

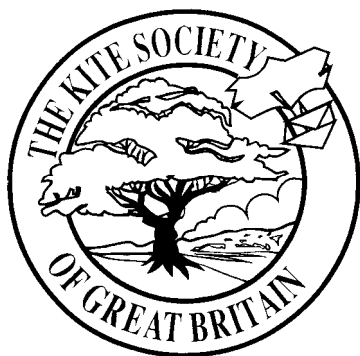


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Editorial

Dear Reader

Another year is upon us and the start of the kite season kicks off. Let us hope there are good winds, the right temperature and no wet stuff.

Portsmouth is shaping up to be a great event this year with many kitefliers already agreeing to attend the event. We hope to see many of you there.

Front Cover

One of Peter Gualhofer's complex cellular kites. He will be in Portsmouth this year.

For those who knew Bill Final, one of the Dunstable Old Gents, he sadly passed in February, Lex Kraaijeveld posted "To all UK kiteflyers among my friends: the memorial fly-in for Bill Final will take place April 29, on Dunstable Downs. Aim is to get as many kite flyers together there, single-line, dual-line, quad-line, and share the sky. Of course not limited to UK flyers, but they're the obvious target group given geographic location."

Another kiteflier and maker who many will know of is Randy Tom. He passed away on 11th February. Randy was founder of Hyper Inc., manufacturer of the early stacking delta-winged sport kites Hyperkites; award-winning master kite builder of iconic creations such as the Seven Sisters with inspired appliqué by modern art Patrick Nagle; inventor of numerous patented kite designs and competitive sport kite flier. His meticulous 127 panelled wind ribbon as a film strip with appliquéd Disney animated movie scenes was his masterpiece, remarkably showcased at only 30 minute intervals to prevent UV damage. It was proudly showcased at the 1995 Epcot World Festival of Kites at Walt Disney World.

His legacy in fostering the stained-glass layered appliqué inspired many other notable kite builders and even to this day. We will certainly miss Randy.

Gill and Jon

Retirement Sale

After over 30 years in the kite industry, the owners of Kiteworld Stephen and Michael Howard are looking to retire. We are seeking to sell our online business within the next few months.

This would be a great opportunity for someone with a good knowledge of all types of kites and kite accessories to maybe turn their hobby into a successful business. It would also suit a gift / beach store owner to boost their income via online sales and add kites to their existing store sales.

www.kiteworld.co.uk is a top ranking online kite business that can be run from anywhere.

The website operates on a desktop platform called Sellerdeck. This is a reasonably easy to use eCommerce platform that we have used successfully for many years.

We are looking to sell the domain, website www.kiteworld.co.uk, goodwill and all existing suppliers contact details. We also have a significant amount of stock that could be purchased at a negotiable price.

This could be a life changing opportunity for someone to 'Live The Kite Dream'. Anyone interested please email us at sales@kiteworld.co.uk for more information. Stephen and Michael Howard

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

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

Selling Up but Staying On

I finished up the last article talking my increasing lack of mobility and about selling our collection of kites and that it was something I intended to investigate further.

Well the short, cold days of winter put paid to that!

Now here's the thing.

It didn't take long for the pair of us to realise that we have accumulated enough kites to be in the twenty thousands, valued at new.

We intend to keep just a couple of kites back for the odd, perfect flying day with friends or to take on holiday (if we ever get that arranged) but, by the time you read this we will have begun the inventory.

I'd like those



A few people have already enquired about the gems in our collection but, if we released those, then the process to sell on the rest would be longer than we wanted.

We figured that if a single line flyer bought the whole lot then the initial purchase price could be recouped by selling off the sport kites or vice versa with a sport kite flyer selling the single line stuff excepting that there will a great temptation to keep some back for him/herself.

The stock check will take a few days; some of the kites have only been out of the bag once and, shamefully, we've forgotten what's in them.

There are many reels of lines at all weights and plenty of dual and quad lines too!

Anchors, bags and two boxes (plus what wouldn't fit in) of spares - and lots of spare rods too - many of which are difficult to find these days!

The thing is that when we were doing events we had to cover for all wind strengths and a lot of gear was needed - OK, and I kept buying more kites because I like them!

We aren't looking to make a fortune from this and we understand it's going to be too much to spend for many to consider but it will be certainly, well under a quarter of the 'new sale' value - and we'll deliver!

Go Kiting

I had a conversation with Tony Dane of Go Kites about the Emerald Cobra after it appeared on our YouTube channel.

I have proved many times, that kites sell better if people can see them flying first and that's why we like to help out traders like him by showing as many as we can either through videos played on our YouTube channel, various forums on Facebook, our website or in real life at events when prospective buyers can try them out and form their own opinions on which to add to their collection.



New Blood

It's all about keeping the interest going and

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

new people coming through need to see what's available.

I have reviewed the Emerald Cobra kite below. Tony agreed with my comments.

A kite like that is not at the bottom end of the first time kites, family budget when out for the day at an event but once he had sold one then people would see them in the sky and visit his stall at regular intervals to enquire and get one for themselves.

Eventually they would all disappear from his shop and be creating a spectacle outside.

It makes it all the better if a trader can point to one of our videos or send customers over if we are at the event.

Not a New Concept

Back in the nineties, we were at a kite shop, mostly selling Prism kites, as I remember, in the bay area of San Diego.

They had someone permanently flying a kite with tails close-by and there was a constant stream of people to the shop. We did similar for Kiteworld (then Force Nine Kites) at events back in the nineties.

We asked other vendors if they wanted our help - None saw the potential, we still remember one of them actually laughing at us.

Back in the day there were so many traders - Kiteworld are doing very well thank you, the guy who laughed didn't last much longer.



HQ Emerald Cobra 10 Metre

A surprisingly large kite for the money, the 10 metre long Emerald Cobra affords great presence in the sky and a lot of fun after an

easy launch but it's a pain rolling up the tail afterwards!

This is not just a kite to be bought for the grandchildren, experienced flyers will love it as well.

I have nothing else to say - Go get one! I think I have done one of my shortest ever reviews there, please read it again or go to the Close Encounters Kite Displays You Tube Channel.



Dolphin Kite

It says on our video "A lot of kite in a little bag".

For something that fits in a suitcase weighing virtually nothing yet converts to a kite that's 2 metres tall it's ideal for taking on holiday to amuse the kids, yourself and everyone right down the beach.

There's a line on a spool that comes with it and assembly is easy even for me as long as you remember the rule that goes with most kites, especially at first time of assembly - put the spine together first and go from there.

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

The dolphin doesn't need a lot of wind due to its size and we found it very stable when we flew it at the Jolly Up in Cliddesden near Basingstoke.

Yep, we both liked that one, I might even keep that one when we sell up.

The DrumBox

I got to know Barry Brown after taking photos and then chatting with him whilst he held down the head of that wonderful Balinese Dragon at Portsmouth last year.

Then I followed him through his FaceBook



Barry Brown with his Drum Kite

posts of making his Drum Box.

Now, because I don't do fiddly, I have relied on the very patient Barry to provide some of

the details and, if you want to get in to this interesting kite for yourself, then plans etc are easy to find on line.

Named

Barry says that he's unsure over whether it's called by that name because of its shape or the sound it makes because of how tight it is; probably both then!

When successfully built, the Drum Box is versatile in that it will either sit, glide or tumble and there's a smaller version that, when fitted with a bearing, will spin.

Different Strokes

The Drumbox (created by Dick Toonen and Jan Grandia of the Netherlands) is a ton of fun to fly, and is fairly simple to build... so long as you've got the custom-made centre connector that holds it all together - and now it comes in lots of varieties!

The standard Drumbox has 10-sides. You can make it in various sizes using 3mm, 4mm, 6mm (standard size, taught in workshops), or 8mm. There's also a new half-box with 10 sides using 6mm spars - and if 10 sides is too many, there's a 4-sided version as well, with 6mm spars.

I don't know about you but I can't wait to see this close up and have a fly for myself. Thanks Barry.

Where to Fly?

Someone posed a question recently asking for peoples preference - and why, for either flying on sandy beaches or on big, grassy fields.



Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

My reply had quite a lot of support - "When you're older, you'll know that your first consideration is to find a site near toilet!"

Thinking on, these days we are checking for warm weather as well as a decent breeze before we think of loading up!

HQ ARROW

I was asked for my opinion on the next two kites.

This type of kite is not, normally, me. I'm not really one for out and out speed nor having a strong pulling kite to get me excited but, yes, I'd give them a try.

We already have an "XL", the largest kite in the range (reviewed in an earlier edition) also used for another "How to launch a sport kite" video but there are four different "Arrow" kites from HQ and a couple of other, very similar ones but not, actually, called "Arrow".

I was asked what the "M" stood for on the green, second smallest in the range.

The smallest is called "The Little Arrow" and the size above the red, seen here is just called "The Arrow" so, Hah! I'm assuming it stands either for Medium or "Mad!"

And 'mad' they certainly are with breakneck speeds achievable when the wind picks up.

Experience Required

Certainly not a beginner kite the recommendation is four 14 years and upwards.

I did have a lot of fun with both kites.

The larger, red Arrow is less twitchy, obviously and easier to maintain a low pass just above the ground.

Any loose dogs chasing kites has no chance of keeping up with these babies but caution is advised because if they hit anything living, serious damage will be caused.

Also, keep well away from my car!

Assembly

We first tried these on a day colder than we would normally have gone out but I'd had them for a long time waiting for a strong enough wind blowing from the right direction to get good light and the sun out - and I was beginning to feel guilty about not having made any videos of them.

Having since tried them on a warmer day, I believe that it was the colder weather that made them sooooo difficult to assemble.

The outer sail tensioners were on the limit of my strength to bend and fit in the connectors on the leading edges.



It's not just me being a wimp, my mate Mick was with me to help with the video and he struggled too!

Perhaps we're both just a couple of old fogeys then?

I say experienced flyers only on these kites, not only because of the attention required and the 'impulse

quick' reactions required to keep them flying but a novice flyer would be very lucky to get either kite self launched.

Chuck it Up

They will get away OK with the momentum of an assistant "Throwing it up" for them but from a solo flyer's point of view a really long, swift but steady pull with a big step back will effect a leap in to the sky with the kite flapping about of its own volition like a trick kite and the pilot trying to stay with it hoping that it powers up before it returns to earth.

Once it's going though it is very pleasurable.

I was surprised about that.

Keep the Momentum

You have to be careful not to take it too near the edge of the wind window because if you lose too much speed, it will quickly let you know and, almost irrecoverably, head for the ground.

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

All of the Arrows are very 'flat' kites just like the old days of sport kites before the likes of Tim Benson, Andy Preston and others learned to put depth in to the sails with longer stand offs thus making them more "trick-able".

But the Arrows are designed for speed not tricks so 'flat' and speedy with a bit of a pull they are!

Apart from the larger kite being smoother, obviously having more pull and, I suspect, costing a bit more, most of the characteristics follow the same pattern.

Delta Rider 2 Metre

Built to the same spec as the Rainbow Checker reviewed in the previous magazine is just as superb.

An easy launch using the 60 metre spool of line supplied with the kite transgresses in to a smooth flight in light winds with a proven, substantial lifting power without an unmanageable pull in fuller breezes.



With a spinner and streamers included in the bundle we thought this was great value for the money.

Of course we couldn't resist the temptation of stacking two deltas for a full and stunning effect.

Obituary

We were so sad to hear that **Courtney Beckles** had passed away.

Such a cheerful character at Kite Festivals

When we first started our pairs demonstrations at festivals we could always hear him cheering us on followed with the blasts on the air horn.

We know that many will miss him and his contributions towards many wonderful days flying kites.

Our condolences to his family and close friends.

Bill Final, a friend we made through kiting quite a few years back now.

We watched him progress through his four-line flying and then enjoying the teaching of his skills to new flyers.



Bill and his Flying partner, Graham, travelled with us to many events helping with our demonstrations and using the stage for some of their first public performances.

Bill was the sort of bloke that would come and find you to say hello if he knew you're at the same event and was always most welcome to shelter from the weather in our tent.

We often swapped snippets of humour on social media as well as discussing various aspects of kiting.

I shall miss that - we will both miss Bill, he was a nice bloke.

That's better

Good news from HQ this year is that they have employed and strengthened better direct links with their retailers and, with some changes from suppliers making false promises and have much improved warehouse stocks.

They did get me the safety strap I said I would review in this article but I have not yet had the chance to get out and try it ... Next time!

Allan and Marilyn Pothecary
Close Encounters Kite Displays

I had planned to write about something completely different but it will have to wait. Too much has happened (or too little, depending on how you see it) since my last splurge and the photos (if nothing else) may be interesting.



It is a year since the rude interruption of Ukrainian tranquillity that started with the kite family Tarasenko enjoying Polina's trombone concerts in Barcelona. I had been partly sponsoring Polina's studies and had subsidised the Spain trip so was surprised when they went home at the end of February just in time for the bombing of Kherson. Very quickly, as these things do, I found myself teaming with Sandrine in Dieppe as part of a network of helpers and funders who worked together to get the kite family stabilised and Polina back in Germany to continue her studies. Since then we have been keeping an eye on their, and others, security, continuing the funding that has allowed them to function and, in one case, pay for medical care. It has been interesting to see how they have adapted and, of course, kitemaking with the displaced children has been part of it.

I think it was because of the Ukrainian work that Sandrine invited me to Dieppe. At first I thought I would not be able to make it due to my mobility issues but then, at Portsmouth, I had a chat with Bob Cruickshanks and we made a plan. It turned out that the Dieppe hotel could accommodate two people (it did, but only just) and that Bob's car, being bigger than mine, was more suitable. And so it was that

we travelled and bunked together, shared my meal tickets and the whole week cost each of us £50! The festival itself was a toe dipping exercise to test the funding and sponsorship so it was a much smaller and less lavish event than in the past. Many regulars were missing and some countries not invited for no explicable reason. The United Kingdom shared a miniature marquee with The Netherlands and Ecosse and, being mobility challenged, the job of entertaining the never ending hordes of children fell to me and the Dutch. Actually that didn't matter too much since Janneke Groen appeared from a long kite hibernation and there was much to catch up on again. After a day with this threesome we extended the camp to include Catarina Capelli who represented Cervia and the state of ARTEVENTO.



We had a 'pilot's briefing each morning and at one of them I decided to do a little spiel on Ukraine and the support given by Sandrine. I took along a small Ukraine kite that I had made and flown in Bristol and where an elderly lady had approached me and ending up donating a tenner to the cause. At the meeting I doubled up on the tenner and gave the kite and money to Sandrine. Of course there wasn't a dry eye after that and Sandrine told me later that we

had raised around £500 towards helping our various friends who had been displaced.



outbreak. I am not sure how it started but Jolanda went down with it so she and Jan went home, along with Janneke and many more went the same way.



Bob Cruickshank's Millennium Dome

The winds were variable and that allowed a huge variety of kites to take to the air over the week. I flew my Ukraine cotton kite as often as I could as well as the series of small Japanese style kites that I had been making, various Global Bees, Nicolas Wadsworth's flying gearbox and Steve Brockett's Circada Lady.



It was a good week at Dieppe, spoilt a bit when one of the very special, and very large, Thai kites was stolen during the night. The other problem was the Covid

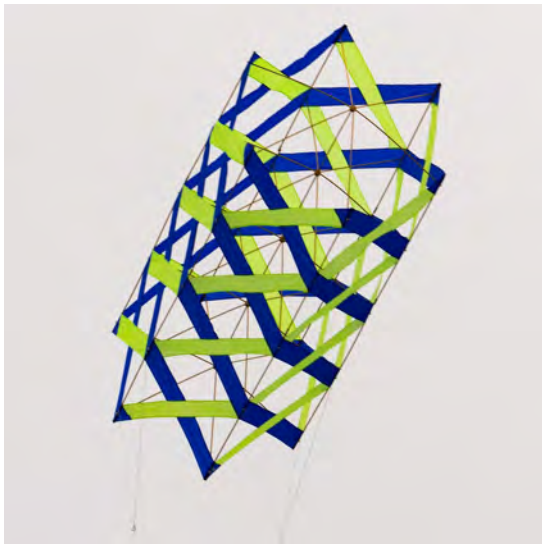


A lot of these small Japanese style kites went to new owners

One of the rather more bizarre Dieppe moments was when I suddenly became a judge for the art kites competition. There was no getting out of it despite me professing to a dislike for competitions, particularly when it comes to kites. There were rules and a strong leaning towards protecting the environment. That led to a certain confusion on how to compare immaculately made ripstop and carbon with more robust efforts that used only natural or found materials. And then there was the

flying (or inability to fly) and the weighting that would be applied (or so it seemed) according to the artist's name. Needless to say, I dislike competitions, and applied the rules rigorously! It was an exhausting four hours so I backed out of dinner and trundled back to the Egg Hotel and ran a Covid test. Positive!

Bob, who was sleeping on the child's bunk bed above me, was very positive about the bad news and, since the next day was Sunday and the last day, I would keep away from the crowds and we would otherwise carry on regardless. It worked and, despite our close proximity and a rather disturbing Covid cough, he wasn't infected.



I had the very sad news that Nicolas Wadsworth had died just before we left for Dieppe. I had been visiting him on occasions earlier and had brought back a lot of his kites and notebooks with the idea of making a photo book for him. Luckily that had been finished and delivered a month before his death and it was a really good to see him smile at the reminders of previous times. Fortunately I had cleared Covid before the funeral and it was good to see so many friends at the gathering. Old Gits of varying Grumpiness, John Browning; we were all there. I had to do a little eulogy, the books were there and afterwards we all had a good reminisce. With Eva's agreement I split up the kites with half going to a family member and then the rest being shared between Andy Rimming and me.

You can find the book about Nicolas Wadsworth's kites here.

<https://www.bobbooks.co.uk/bookshop/photobook/nicolas-wadsworth-the-kite-professor-1>

My persistent Covid cough continued despite proving negative and suddenly became far worse after my Covid jab so I decided to visit the quack for some antibiotics. That was when the trouble started because the next thing that happened was finding myself in the A&E ICU! Broken heart and on the way out. They have me stabilised but there is butchery looming.



Needless to say Kitelife never stops so I was transported to the kiteworld of indoor flying in Swindon the other day and this week I returned to Afghanistan (in Bristol) where I built an Afghan kite stall in the church, made kites for the refugee children and was kite provider to the expert Afghani fliers who wanted real Gudi Paran rather than the bought-in workshop kites. Crazy and hectic but the womenfolk produced authentic spicy bolani for lunch....yes, it is all Kitelife.



Not Gudi Paran but Patang from Abdul Rauf of Mumbai



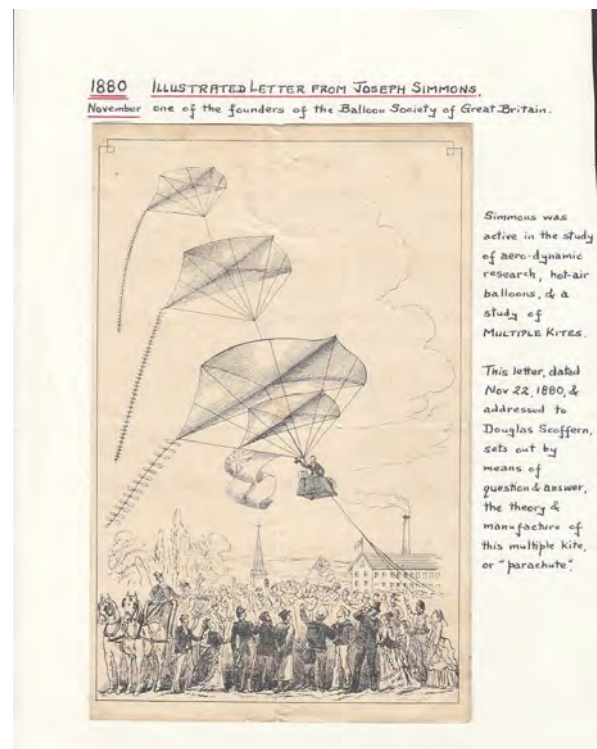
The sappers are wearing the hated Broderick caps and that rather nicely puts the date to around 1904



It was only the other day that I came across a new (to me) Cody kite photo that may explain my pair of original Cody kite wings. There are lots of features that show that the kite is very early and it is possible that the cell structure was influenced by Lecornu's 'wine box' design. In this case the kite seems to be designed as a pilot, or storm kite, possibly for one of the early kite trains. On looking more closely at the photo I saw that the wings are laced on and, since that matches the pair that I have, the thought of a reconstruction springs to mind.



What with the mobility issues and now with a much bigger problem to deal with it seems as if my active kiting days are coming to a close. Like Malcome Goodman I have the same problem with what to do with the kitestuff, in my case a very substantial library/archive and stash of important early kites. I want them to stay in Europe, preferably here in the UK, but with who?



Just a nugget from the archive. Simmonds Man-lifter 1880

Beehive and Related Kites by Peter Gaulhofer

My first flying experiences date back to 1963, when my brother and I, led by my uncle, first flew a diamond kite during our summer vacation on the island of Terschelling in the Netherlands, where I live. We used bamboo, kite paper and a long tail. Later in my childhood we sporadically launched a kite on the beach with a marram grass tail, which did not lead to good flying characteristics.

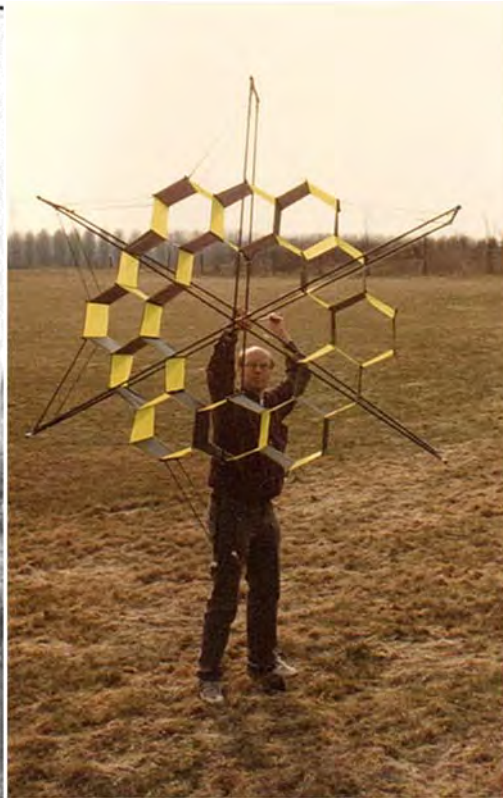
It wasn't until the late 1970s that kite flying got a boost when I got *The Penguin Book of Kites* by David Pelham for my birthday. Soon the first sled kite was built with primitive materials, garbage bags, adhesive tape and square aluminium tubes. The motto then was, next time I'll make a really big one.

So it happened that during the launch of my second sled kite, 3 meters high, I was launched, and dragged along the beach until I had to release the kite. The kite landed in the barbed wire of the beach fence and was badly damaged. We had of course launched the kite with way too much wind, but we thought it was a wonderful adventure.

A kite from Pelham's book that really appealed to me was Joseph Lecornu's kite with its square cells.



Lecornu ca 1900



Beehive 1995

In the early eighties I had my first sewing trials behind my mother's sewing machine and built a Lecornu. Unfortunately I was not very handy on the sewing machine at the time so not all surfaces were equally tight, but it did fly.

In 1995 I came up with a variant of the Lecornu: The Beehive. The fabric of this kite can always be pulled tightly by the tension lines on the inner and the outside of the kite. It is a kite that requires stable wind of 3 to 5 Bft (9 -19 knots).

Inland it is better not to use this kite, but on the beach with an onshore wind it does very well. I've built quite a few now. Some with diagonal poles of 2 meters, 3 meters and 4 meters in length,

Beehive and Related Kites by Peter Gaulhofer



My biggest beehive with about 24 m² of fabric on the beach of Ostend. It broke away and was just recovered by the local fire brigade from the top of the roof of "de Koninklijke Villa" or "The Royal Villa".

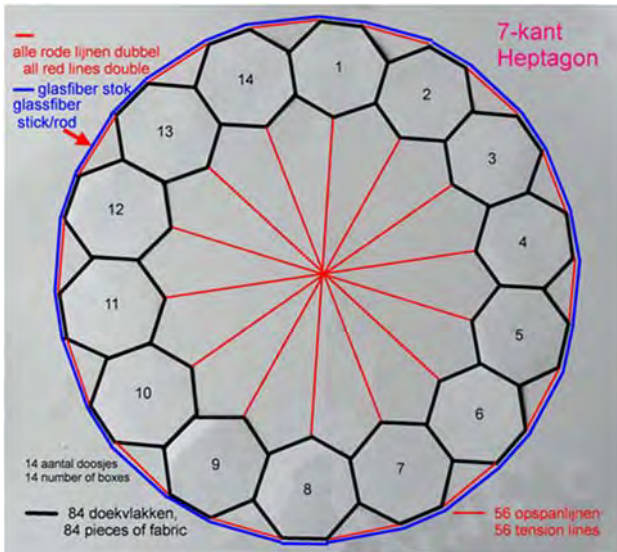
Another story I cannot forget: In January 2021 I lost a Sanjo Rokakku kite at Camperduin beach. This happened after the line broke with wind coming from the east, so the kite received a seaman's grave. 4 months later I flew there again with some friends. Then a man approached us with a rolled-up kite under his arm. He told us he saw us flying our kites and thought: These guys might know how to put up the kite I have fished out of the sea with my boat during shrimp fishing. So he had gone home to pick up the kite. He wanted to give it to his grandchildren but didn't know how to put it together and wanted our advice. When he unrolled it I saw to my great surprise it was my Sanjo. A stick was missing and a line was broken. He returned the kite to me without reluctance. After a 15-minute repair, it flies as well as before. What a coincidence !!!

Because my shed is starting to get pretty full, I started building small beehives with a single circumferential stick a few years ago. Many variants have now been added, often with 2 circumferential poles for extra strength and extra wind range. But there is more than 6 sides, so variants with 5, 7 and 9 sided boxes have also been added.

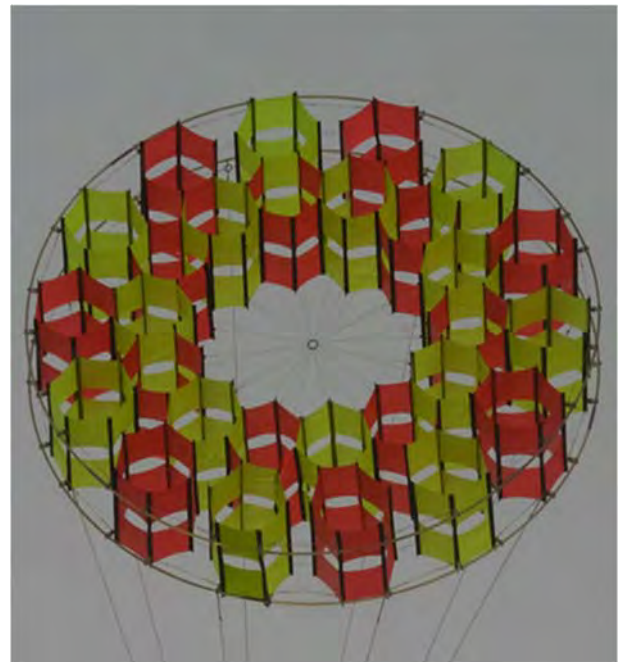
The kites with 7-sided or heptagonal boxes are now my favourite kites. They are connected with 28 S-hooks per circle so that a very good distribution of force is created. The 28 tension lines in the centre also contribute to this. For years I have built my beehives and related kites from rectangular surfaces, but lately I have provided the elongated surfaces with concave ends. This makes the kites much quieter in the air and I think there will also be less turbulence. In addition, I made another change. I now divide the pieces of the Icarex fabric in two by making a concave vent halfway in the fabric. I think this improves the stability of the kites.

Beehive and Related Kites by Peter Gaulhofer

Below you will find a schematic drawing of the heptagon, with next to it a photo of a heptagon with a diameter of 130 cm



But it can also be a little bigger. The kite at the bottom left has a diameter of 280 cm. The kite at the bottom right has a diameter of 130 cm. The concave vents in the middle of the fabric are clearly visible.



The kite on the right has 308 pieces of Icarex with 616 concave sides. It took me about 7 days to build this kite. I am very satisfied with the result.

On the top picture next page you can see the size of some of my kites.

A special version of one of my pentagonal kites is the "Solar Explorer". This is my first kite with hybrid cloth. I used a spinnaker fabric and covered both sides with rescue blanket, which is often used for Circoflex kites. With sunny weather, it sparkles fantastically in the sky. (See 2nd picture next page).

For the transport of all my materials to the beach I have built a beach cart with caterpillar tracks. The tires can be clicked off in an instant and can be stored in the box of the cart. Sacks for the sticks and kites have also been thought of.

Beehive and Related Kites by Peter Gaulhofer



They are often provided with the colors of the kite.

I get a lot of attention on the beach for both the kites and the beach cart. It is always nice to have a chat with interested people.



I'd like to leave it at that. There is still a lot to tell about my kites, but not everyone is waiting for that. Pictures tell more than a thousand words.

Those who want to see more of my kites can take a look at my Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/peter.gaulhofer.5>) where you can find hundreds of kite pictures. On Youtube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61zoU7ybLEAI>) have published a number of nice kite videos under my name. But even better would be to come to the spacious beach of Hargen aan Zee, just an hours drive away from Amsterdam.

You can also see some of Peter's kites at the Portsmouth Kite Festival 29th & 30th July.

Magazine Contributors—Hugh and Lin Blowers

In our editorial of the last issue we inadvertently missed two of our major contributors to the magazine.

For this we apologise unreservedly. We look forward to receiving many more in the future.

Hugh and Lin have contributed many articles and photographs to the magazine—with festival reports from starting as far back as issue 98. (At

least the search did not bring any earlier ones up!, so there may be some missing). There have also been many articles about other kite related matters, with some thought provoking views from Hugh.

To give you an idea of the items they have provided (this excludes for sale entries) the following tables show the list of articles.

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| 100 | Cleethorpes 15 th & 16 th May |
| 100 | Ferry Meadows, Peterborough. 13 th June |
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Portsmouth 2023

Portsmouth International Kite Festival 29th & 30th July

We are pleased to say that the 31st iteration of the Portsmouth International Kite Festival will be taking place on 29th & 30th July, Southsea Common, Portsmouth.

Portsmouth City Council continues to support the kite festival. For which we thank them.

As normal parking and limited camping is available to members and must be requested in advance by sending the required details to us. The passes will be sent electronically, or in a return self addressed and stamped envelope. These will be sent early June.

Free parking Please provide your name and car registration number. Passes are specific to your vehicle and NOT transferable to another vehicle without a new pass being issued.

Camping is not normally permitted, but as a concession is allowed just for the kite festival. Spaces are limited and will be allocated by ballot. Therefore anyone who wishes to enter the ballot **MUST** request a pass from us together with the vehicle registration number.

All requests for camping must be with us by **31st May**. We will notify both successful and unsuccessful people by the **8th June**.

Requests for parking and camping passes should be sent to: portsmouth@thekitesociety.org.uk.

This year we will have a full international event with kitefliers from around the world.

New this year (so far) are Thomas Abdilla from Malta and Peter Gualhofer from Holland. (See the article on Peter's kites for more about them).

We will also have kitefliers from Belgium, Germany, Italy, India, Switzerland, Vietnam and Holland

Not forgetting our UK based talent of single and multi-line fliers.

There will be a get together Saturday Evening in the Halls of Residence (Rees Hall) with some form of auction (details to be decided).

More details will be on the web site (www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk) as available.

We hope many of you will come to the festival. There will be plenty of opportunities to help fly kites in the demonstration arena—as well as flying your own kites.



One of Thomas Abdilla kites with a traditional Maltese motif.



Bhavna Mehta kite.

Rosa Kite Festival 2023

This was our 3rd visit to Rosa—unfortunately the wind decided not to co-operate. There were still some spectacular kites on display.



Bits & Pieces

ChatGPT3 article about the development of kite team flying.

First published on kites.aerialis.com

Kite team flying is a relatively new and exciting form of aerial performance that has seen significant development in recent years. The sport involves a team of individuals flying kites in coordinated patterns and manoeuvres, often set to music or other forms of synchronized performance.

The origins of kite team flying can be traced back to the traditional kite-flying festivals of Asia, where large numbers of kites would be flown in the sky in a coordinated fashion, often with intricate designs and patterns. However, it wasn't until the 1980s that kite team flying began to evolve into the modern form of the sport we know today.

One of the key figures in the development of kite team flying is David Gomberg, an American kite enthusiast who began experimenting with coordinated kite flying in the 1980s. Gomberg developed a system of communication and signalling that allowed multiple kites to be flown in a coordinated fashion, paving the way for the formation of kite team flying groups.

The early days of kite team flying were primarily focused on the coordination of a small number of kites, typically between four and eight. These early teams would perform basic manoeuvres and patterns, such as flying in formation or performing simple choreographed routines.

However, as the sport evolved, teams began to expand in size and complexity. Today, kite team flying teams can number in the dozens or even hundreds, with each member flying a different kite or set of kites. These larger teams are able to perform increasingly complex manoeuvres and routines, often set to music or other forms of synchronized performance.

One of the most impressive aspects of kite team flying is the level of coordination and communication required to pull off complex manoeuvres and routines. Teams use a combination of hand signals, radios, and other forms of communication to coordinate their movements and ensure that the kites are flying in the correct formation or pattern.

Kite team flying is a sport that has become increasingly popular in recent years, with teams popping up all around the world. Today, you can find kite team flying teams in countries as diverse as the United States, Japan, Italy, Germany, and many others.

One of the major events in kite team flying is the "Berck sur Mer" International Kite Festival, held annually in France. This festival attracts

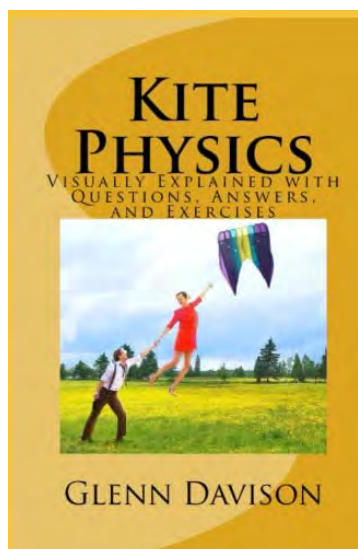
kite flyers from all over the world and features some of the most spectacular kite team flying displays you will ever see.

The future of kite team flying looks bright, as the sport continues to evolve and attract more enthusiasts. With new technologies and materials being developed all the time, it is likely that we will see even more impressive feats of aerial coordination and performance in the years to come.

In conclusion, Kite team flying is an exhilarating and dynamic sport that has seen significant development over the past few decades. It is a sport that requires a high level of coordination, communication, and skill, and it continues to evolve and attract more enthusiasts every day. It's a fascinating glimpse into the world of kite flying and a reminder of the beauty of the sky. The future of kite team flying looks bright, and it is a pleasure to watch this aerial performance that is growing in popularity all over the world.

Book Updated

Kite Physics by Glenn Davison has been updated.



I originally released the Kite Physics book in 2017 after having it reviewed by two PhDs and one NASA engineer. Since then it's been available on Amazon as a paperback and eBook.

I thought about releasing it as an audiobook but my reviewers said that the illustrations that I'd done were too important to an understanding of the content. So instead of

an audio book I updated the paperback and eBook with: New sections called, "stress," "wind window," "wind at altitude," "strength vs. weight," "roll pitch yaw," and "lift factors" as well as improved descriptions, and an improved wind speed guide.

There are new illustrations and photos to show the sail, keel, bridles, tow point, fuzzy tail, wind tunnel, throwing a kite, and the reason a fighter kite is so fast!

Sportkite.org

The Competition Archive is undergoing massive updates.

The most comprehensive database of the history of sport (stunt) kite competition is housed at

Bits & Pieces

Sportkite.org, with over 125k+ scores recorded from 1985 to now. A large overhaul and update is underway to make this more usable to users, including the addition of STACK (Europe) and JSKA (Japan) scores.

There is also an archive of videos going back to the 1980's competitions. The older ones are mainly USA. All are worth a look to see how the sport has developed over time.

Superbowl

For those who do not follow American Football this year's half time show featured Rhianna. In the video leading up to the show kites were featured along with the text:

"My whole life was shaped on this very road, I was just a little island girl flying kites in the cemetery, but i had big dreams".



You can see the whole segment on Youtube <https://youtu.be/lcwMYBdMCSI>

Festival of work: Women kitemakers have no respite

Every year prior to the kite festival on January 14, women in Rasul Kade Ni Chali, a settlement in Behrampura, Ahmedabad, are part of an unending work shift. "Here, every other woman makes kites," says Noorani, a kitemaker herself. Every day, the work is supplied to their doorstep by the contractors who run wholesale kite shops at Jamalpur market. While some women paste the central stick to the kite, others are involved in pasting the arch.

They receive a low wage of INR 100 per 1,000 kites, which goes up to INR 130–140 during peak season (November to December). "The wages are high till the kite festival. There is no work from January to March. So, it's important for me to do as much work as I can. Ultimately, this will be my savings for the next three months," adds Noorani. This pushes the women to work extra hours during peak season.

Ruksana, 36, has been making kites for the last decade. She says, "I usually wake up at 5 or 6



am, do all the cooking, cleaning, and dusting, drop my children at the madrasa, come back home, and start working at 12 pm sharp." Within a couple of hours, she has to prepare lunch for the family and pick up the children from school. In the evening, from 4 to 7 pm, she gets some more kitemaking work done before cooking dinner and washing the dishes.

"Finally, at 10 pm when everyone goes to sleep, I get time for myself. I work continuously for four to five hours since there's no interruption, and sleep at 2 or 3 am," adds Ruksana. During peak season, she gets only two to three hours of sleep. Ruksana's husband is a loading-and-unloading worker with a limited income, and her earning is crucial to the household. Missing work is not an option as the family has to pay house rent too.

Abidah, who lives in the same locality, made kites for 25 years, but has now stopped and manages household chores. Her four daughters have taken over the work from her and their income is sufficient for the family. Abidah's eldest daughter, Salma, 23, says, "My sisters often take leave from school to work on the kites during peak season. The four of us start making kites at 9 am and work till 9 pm. We take a break only to eat. If bored, we watch TV while working. Sometimes I feel it's a nice pastime as we don't step out much."

Salma adds that she misses school lessons and has back pain at the end of a workday. The sisters make 4,000 to 5,000 kites a day, earning a revenue of approximately INR 500–700. (£5-7),

Around The Auctions

From Invaluable.com

Paul Cadmus (American, 1904-1999). Etching on paper titled "Youth with Kite," depicting a young man holding a kite aloft, 1941. From an edition of 75. With a certificate of authenticity.

Dimensions

Sight; height: 10 1/4 in x width: 5 1/4 in.
Framed; height: 27 in x width: 21 3/4 in.

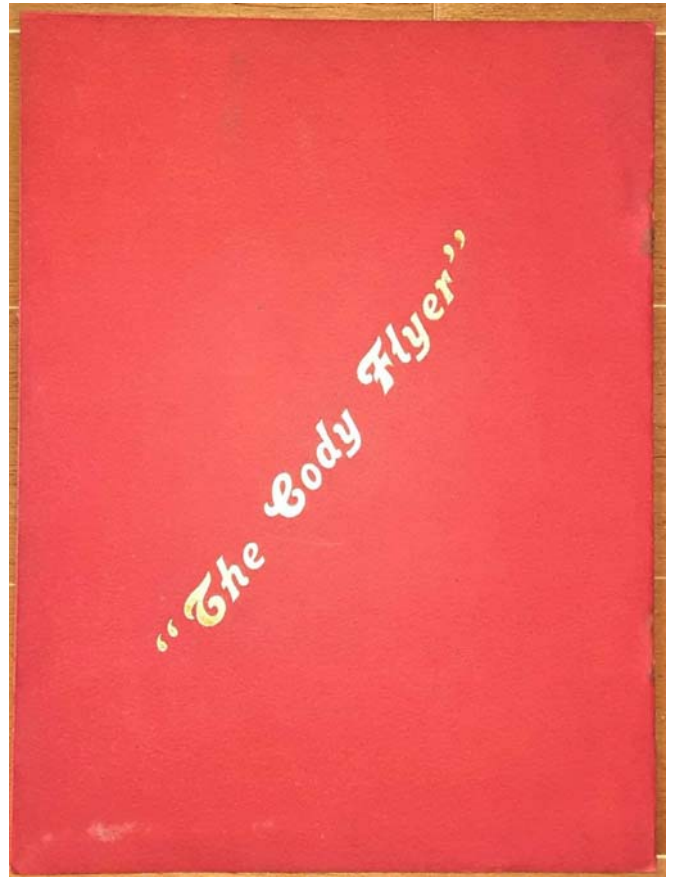
Bits & Pieces



Sold for \$2800.

Antique Aviation ephemera Cody Flyer catalogue 1912

This is a very scarce 110 year old sales catalogue, in its original mailing envelope, for the 1912 Cody Flyer and War Kite. Contains 12 pages with numerous illustrations.



Estimate \$350—\$450



Utagawa Toyohiro (Japanese 1773—1828). Women and Children Watching Kite Flying

Just the left panel of a triptych.

38.5x26cm

Sold for \$360

Makar Sankranti 2023: Ahmedabad's Kite Museum takes you back in time

Growing up in Hyderabad, one of the indelible memories of January has always been of seeing endless kites in the sky and how the fliers would compete to cut each other's manja - the strong thread that allows the kite to scale such heights and still remain obedient to the skilful flier's wristy movements.

With time, I saw fewer and fewer kites and it was not until a recent trip to Ahmedabad that these memories came rushing back as I visited the unique kite museum. The museum is located on the ground floor of Sankar Kendra, a cultural centre on Bhattacharya Road, in a building dating back to 1954 and designed by Le Corbusier. The layout is simple, and as you enter here, it is the sheer volume of infographics that is bound to blow your mind.

Started with 125 exhibits in 1986, the kite museum was conceptualised after Bhanu Shah, an avid kite collector, donated his entire collection

Bits & Pieces

to the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, and there have been many additions from then on.

Chronicling the history of kites from 200 BC, there is an infographic that shows how Benjamin Franklin showed that lightning is electricity by flying a kite through a thunderstorm in 1752 and how kite-flying led the Wright brothers to make the first plane in 1902. The trivia here is interesting too. For instance, did you know that in India, efforts were made at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, to harness wind energy through kites? The project was sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology and the Institute tried to create a model which uses kites to generate electricity, grind grain and pump water.

Another interesting fact: the largest kite in the world, from Japan, is 20 meters in diameter, weighs 2,550 kg and was made with 3,000 sheets of Japanese paper.

As you walk around this small but unique museum, you will be intrigued to know that kite flying is not just a tradition in India but also in other countries. The first kite was rectangular and was flown in the second century B.C. in China. Incidentally, the Japanese believed that the cord of a kite connects earth with heaven, and kites were linked with religious ceremonies and beliefs. In fact, they have a 'Yako' kite in the kitchen to be safe from fire. Kite-flying was a form of prayer, especially when the fishermen wanted a good catch.

On the other hand, the 'Tongari' kites were flown for a child's growth and development. The square and light Nagasaki Hata kite is a fighter kite that has excellent manoeuvrability.

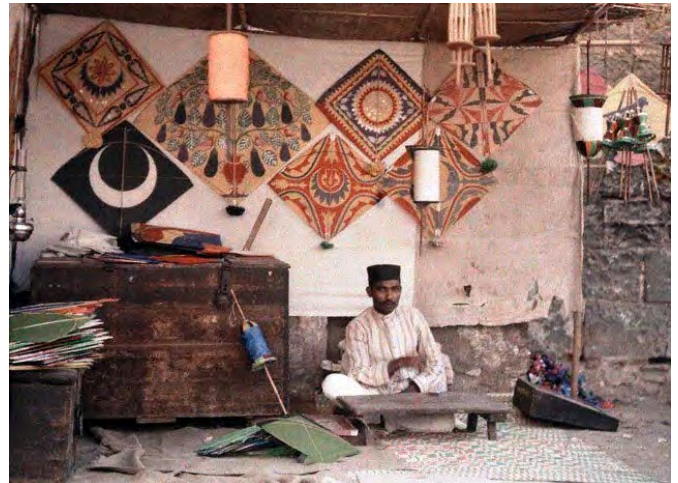
There is an extensive collection of all kinds of kites here, including the paper, bamboo, cotton, and nylon used to make them. Do not miss the kites that have mirror work; Rokoku, the hexagonal Japanese kites, and block print kites. There are also kites with geometric patterns as well as one with an image of Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi. There are a variety of colourful kites that line the walls on either side of a large hallway displayed thematically. There are kites with flowers, buildings, human figures, birds and more and along with a display in English, there is also text in Gujarati.

There are 18 displays across the museum, along with the kites. Exhibits like charts, sketches, drawings, and photographs, many of them in black and white are on display here. All the documentation has been done by Shah himself, who has painstakingly researched kites and all references to kites to put this museum together. Incidentally, kite-flying is part of the festival of Uttarayan or Makar Sankranti. Ahmedabad also hosts an annual International Kite Festival when kites are procured from plac-

es like Kalupur, Jamalpur, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Agra, Mathura, Rampur, Bareilly, and Lucknow. There are vendors who come from these cities to sell kites during the festival. The kite museum is the only one in India and is sure to take you down a very nostalgic trip down memory lane - do not miss it the next time you are in Ahmedabad.



Kite Vendor—India 97 years ago



A 97-year-old photo of a kite vendor of Mumbai then capital of The Bombay Presidency Of British India was taken in 1926.

{Comment from Paul Chapman}. Both Patang and Firkis are really nice. The big Firki top right seems typical of Khambhat where they fight from the salt beds and the long spike allows the Firki to be pushed into the salt. The one leaning against the cabinet reminds me of the Firkis from Calcutta where the body will contain shells to make a rattling sound; but most likely also from Khambhat which is where the best kite-makers work. The Khambhat kites tend to be much bigger than what we are used to. But the kites hanging up are superb examples of pieced together exhibition work.

Crowdfunding campaign launched for Morecambe kite festival

A crowdfunding campaign has been launched to support the 2023 Morecambe kite festival. Organisers More Music are celebrating their 30th birthday this year and have asked for the pub-

Bits & Pieces

lic's help to make their annual 'Catch the Wind' kite-flying event the biggest ever.

So far the crowdfunder has achieved 65 per cent of its target, with £18,215 raised out of £27,706 at time of writing. This year's kite festival takes place on Morecambe Promenade on Saturday June 24 and Sunday June 25.

It will focus on the natural world, climate change, the landscape and the future of the planet. The festival is a free, inclusive, family friendly, weekend festival, with music, professional kite flyers, street performers and creative workshops.

"Catch the Wind is one of the most popular events in the Morecambe festival calendar and also the longest running," said a spokesperson for More Music. "It offers wonderful opportunities for local people, increases numbers of visitors to the district, provides employment, generates business for the economy, offers a platform for diverse artists and showcases the natural beauty of the bay.

"By pledging, your support will ensure the festival is free and continues to provide great art and opportunities for everyone. Although More Music are off to a flying start with their campaign, being 65% of the way to their target, they still need your help as the campaign is 'all or nothing'. Individuals and businesses have already pledged as well as Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund backing the project too.

"Whether small or large, from £1 to £100, any donation will help support the festival, and is massively appreciated by the More Music team." This is the first time More Music has crowdfunded for Catch the Wind.

A More Music spokesperson said this came about due to a "great opportunity" to partner with the Spacehive fundraising platform. She said that the festival would still go ahead even if the target was not reached, but on a "different scale", although the Morecambe-based community music group was confident of achieving the funding required.

Olympic kite foiling extravaganza heading for Portsmouth in 2023

The UK is to showcase super-fast kite foil racing in the countdown to the Paris 2024 Olympics when the RYA hosts the 2023 Formula Kite European Championships. The world's best racers from the Olympic circuit will battle it out on the waters off Eastney Beach in Portsmouth from September 19 to 24 for the title of European champion – and potentially a place at the Games.

Kite foiling sees riders 'fly' above the water on hydrofoils attached to boards, powered by huge

kites which can propel them to incredible speeds of up to 45 knots (51mph).



It will be the first time the UK has hosted an international Formula Kite regatta since the exciting new discipline was added to the Olympic roster. Formula Kite will make its Olympic debut at Paris 2024, with medals available for both male and female athletes.

And the stakes for the 2023 European Championships couldn't be higher. Taking place less than a year from Paris 2024, 150 athletes from more than 35 nations will descend on Portsmouth for the regatta.

Sara Sutcliffe, CEO of the RYA, added: "Kite foiling is the newest addition to the Olympic sailing slate and we couldn't be more excited that some of the world's best athletes will be racing on our waters during the big countdown to Paris 2024. "As spectator sports go it doesn't get much more thrilling or faster than kite foiling. This will be an event the likes of which UK audiences won't have seen before, and we look forward to welcoming Olympic racing back to our shores once more."

Eastney beach will provide the perfect viewpoint to watch the high-octane racing, which will take place just a few hundred metres from the shore. Racing will start on September 19 and run through to a thrilling knock-out finale on September 24, held in front of hundreds of on-lookers with expert commentators explaining all the action.

A range of activities will be on offer including kite flying, while experts will also be on hand to explain the basics of the sport. The event is also the perfect opportunity for youngsters to learn more about the range of watersports available on their doorstep and connect with the waterfront of Portsmouth.

From Mail Online

Flying a kite in a public place is technically illegal

Bits & Pieces

Flying a kite with friends on a lovely summer day in the park might seem like a great idea, but under section 54 of the Metropolitan Police Act 1839 this is actually illegal. *[Although the part of the act says—Every person who shall fly any kite or play at any game to the annoyance of the inhabitants or passengers, or who shall make or use any slide upon ice or snow in any street or other thoroughfare, to the common danger of the passengers. So technically it is only if you annoy other people]*

The law was originally brought in to prevent there being common nuisances and any danger to local passengers.

Three children among six killed during Indian kite-flying festival

Six people, including three children, have died after their throats were cut by glass-coated kite strings during an annual kite-flying festival in India.

The victims reportedly bled to death when the razor-sharp kite strings became entangled around their necks, officials told the Press Trust of India (PTI). At least another 176 people were injured due to cuts and falls.

Some participants are known to coat their kite strings with powdered glass in order to slice their opponent's cords while in the air. Although the practice has been banned since 2016, critics say it is rarely enforced.

A two-year-old girl reportedly died after a kite string struck her neck while riding on a scooter with her father, PTI cited an official from Bortalav police station as saying.

The girl, known only as Kirti, is said to have died during treatment at a hospital on Sunday. Another girl, aged three, was walking home with her mother in Visnagar town on Saturday when a string cut her neck. She was taken to hospital but was declared dead on arrival, a Visnagar police official said.

Rishabh Verma, a seven-year-old boy riding on a scooter with his parents, was also struck by a string in Rajkot, an official from Aji Dam police station said.

Nikunj Sharma, a campaigner for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) India, previously told the Guardian the use of manja, the nylon string used to fly kites instead of cotton, could make injuries severe. "Unlike cotton strings these are non-biodegradable, don't break easily and continue to cause injuries months after the festival," Sharma said.

In Ahmedabad, Gujarat's largest city, the police department warned against using the coated kites at the festival. "Do not use deadly Chi-

nese manja to fly kites," it said. Police urged participants to be careful while flying kites during the festival, saying the "momentary fun" of cutting another kite could come at the cost of someone's life.

However, Jayesh Shinde, an activist campaigning against the use of manja, said the government had failed to uphold the ban and should compensate victims for their treatment.

"Citizens should not have to pay for the lackadaisical attitude of the government machinery. If the official ban is not being implemented, then the government should offer compensation to victims," the Times of India quoted Shinde as saying. The popular festival marks the onset of spring where kite-flying is often used during celebrations across the country.

Hundreds of birds also fly into the kite strings or are entangled in them, causing deep cuts to their wings, nerve injuries, fractures, dislocations and, in many cases, death.

North Hants Kiter's Jolly Up 32—April 22 & 23.

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). Pie and Mash will be available in the Marquee on the Friday evening, please order and pay at the bar. There will be a Hog Roast on the Saturday evening (£10.00 and please bring a plate and cutlery where possible to keep our outlay down!) Please let us know in advance if you require a vegetarian option.

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 before or on the week-end (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.

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

For further info, please contact:
Roy on 07778 352825, Chris on 07456 342970
Or e-mail roy@kitesup.co.uk,

For orders: hayley@kitesup.co.uk

Your tee-shirt/polo etc, can be pre-ordered. Please email Hayley if interested in doing so.

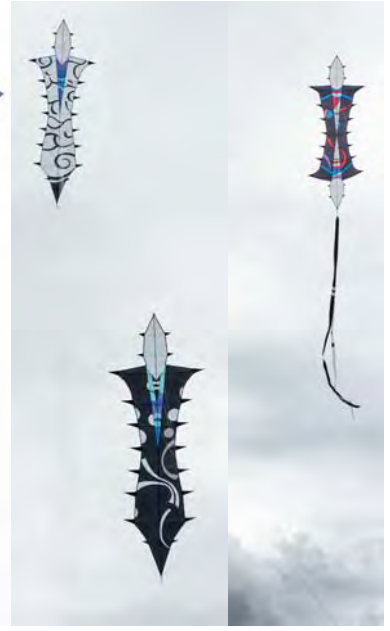
More Photos from Dieppe—Chris Mabon



Maybe the most poignant kite to be flown... made from a newspaper cutting by an Austrian kiteflyer



A poignant and commonly seen colour combination



A trio of Michael Goddard Kites - our two 'Spirit of the Wind' kites with 'The Magician'



Sandrine Frébourg (centre) and her Team once again organised a superb Cerf- Volant



Columbian delegates



The Sunday Parade with musicians 'La Batacuda o Maracuja'



More Photos from Dieppe—Chris Mabon



Robert Brassington kites filling the sky



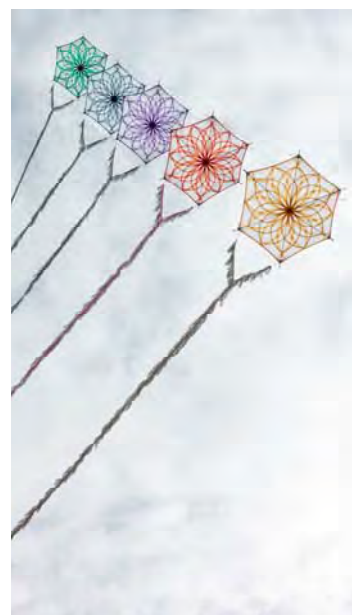
Kites by Scott Hampton of the USA continually lit up the skies



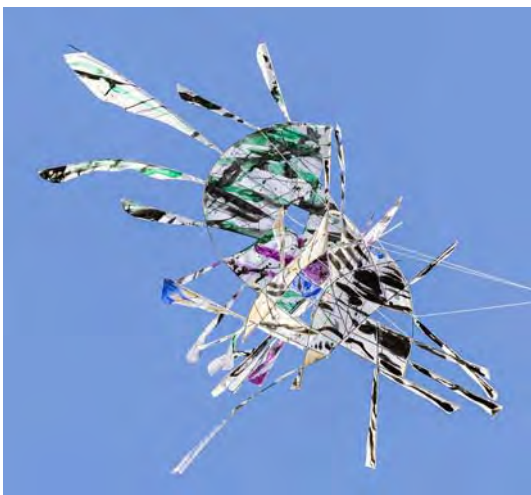
Trio of 'Dragonflies' by George Peters. I was fortunate to recently buy no. 38-1992 (right) as a sail only and rebuilt with new spars. Siblings 53-1995 and 61-1996 are being flown by the Blowers



A trio of 'Dague' kites by Michel Gressier. My double header flying with the Blowers versions



by Alicja Szalska of Poland



by Kadek Armika of Indonesia



'Heart' kite by Rene Maier

Events List

| April | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| 15-23 | Berck International Kite Festival, France | www.cerf-volant-berck.com |
| 21 – 01/05 | Cervia International Kite Festival, Italy | artevento.com |
| 22-23 | North Hants Kiter's Jolly Up 32, Cliddesdon, Basingstoke | Kites Up |
| May | | |
| 14 | Streatham Common Kite Day, Streatham Common, London SW16 3BX | www.streathamkiteday.org.uk |
| 26-30 | Margam Park Kite Festival, Margam Country Park, Neath Port, Talbot, South Wales SA13 2TJ | www.margamcountrypark.co.uk |
| 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 |
| 24-25 | Bedford Kite and Motoring Festival, Russell Park The Embankment Bedford MK40 3RH | Bedford Council |
| 24-25 | Cardigan Bay Kite Festival, Gwbert-On-Sea, Cardigan, Ceredigion, West Wales SA43 1PR | kites@skybums.com |
| July | | |
| 1-2 | Barmouth Kite Festival, on the beach opposite the Lifeboat Station, Barmouth, Mid Wales | kitesbarmouth@gmail.com |
| 2 | Hampstead Heath Kite Flying, Parliament Hill Fields, Hampstead Heath | hampstead@thekitesociety.org.uk |
| 8-9 | Leominster and Hereford Kite Festival, The National Trust's Berrington Hall, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0DW | www.kitefestival.org.uk |
| 15-16 | Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton. | Brighton Kite Flyers |
| 15-16 | Shropshire Kite Festival, Lacon Childe School, Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire DY14 8PE | Facebook Page |
| 29-30 | Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Portsmouth | 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 |
| 26-28 | Bognor Regis Kite Festival, King George V Playing Fields, King George V Playing Fields, Felpham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO22 8QS | www.brkf.org/kite-festival.htm |
| September | | |
| 8-10 | St Anne's International Kite Festival, The Beach, Lytham St Anne's, near Blackpool, Lancs FY8 2PQ | hello@smilefactor10.co.uk |