

MKFNWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

APRIL 2014





A set of Robert Brasington 'Sophie's' flown by Bob Cruikshank's
at Cleobury Mortimer last summer.
Check out the Robert Brasington website if your in need of inspiration.....
robertbrasingtonkites.com

INFORMATION

CLUB FLY-INS

We hold club fly-ins each month (winter included) at various sites. These are informal events and are a great way of meeting other MKF members.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Your membership cards can obtain you discounts for purchases from most kite retailers in the UK, and gain you entry to events and festivals free or at a reduced cost. Please keep them safe.

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

All fully paid up members are covered by Public Liability Insurance to fly kites safely for pleasure anywhere in the world. If you injure anyone whilst flying your kite the injured party may be able to claim on the club insurance for up to **£5,000,000**. The club has Member-to-Member Liability Insurance. A claim may be refused if the flier was found to be flying a kite dangerously - e.g. using unsuitable line, in unsuitable weather; flying over people, animals, buildings or vehicles. This insurance does not cover you for damage to, or loss or theft of members' kite/s.

BUGGIES, BOARDS & KITESURFING

Unfortunately we are not able to cover these activities within the clubs insurance policy.

'MKFNEWS' DEADLINES FOR 2014+

	OMNIUM EDITION	'COPY' DEADLINE	PUBLISHING DATE
1	8	24 th June	Mid July
2	9	24 th September	Mid October
3	10	25 th December	Mid January 2015
4	11	25 th March 2015	Mid April 2015

The MKFNEWS is pleased to print articles and photographs submitted by any interested party. All submissions are reproduced at the Editors discretion, however the Club cannot be held responsible for any views or comments contained in any such articles.

MKF CLUB OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN & NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Bill Souten

52 Shepherds Court
Droitwich Spa
Worcestershire, WR9 9DF
☎ 07840800830
bill.souten@mkf.org.uk



SECRETARY

Sam Hale

12 Briery Street,
Lancaster.
LA1 5RD
☎ 0789 500 9128
sam.hale@mkf.org.uk



TREASURER

Frank Wood

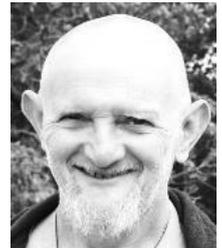
48 Borough Street
Castle Donington
Derbyshire. DE74 2LB
☎ 01332 811030
frank.wood@mkf.org.uk



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Jim Cronin

72 Addison Road
Coventry.
CV6 2JN
☎ 07831 396141
jim.cronin@mkf.org.uk



WEBSITE MANAGER

Peter Bindon

31 Arran Way
Rothwell
Leeds. LS26 0WB
☎ 01132 828771
peter.bindon@mkf.org.uk



EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR - MKF NORTH

If you could help fill this post please contact the Chairman

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR - MKF SOUTH

If you could help fill this post please contact the Chairman

UP AND COMING EVENTS

MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS
@ CALKE ABBEY
SUNDAY 6th APRIL 2014



Back to Calke Abbey, however the flying field has moved slightly, as the 'old' area is now an extension car park with proper roadways..... Hope to see you ALL there.

(Use DE73 7JF if you're using your Sat Nav to get there.)

FUN DAY 'NATURE' KITES
Apedale Country Park
Apedale, Nr Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire. On the B5367
Sunday 1st June 2014
MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS

A good 'fly-in' for you to bring out all those bird, butterfly and insect kites. Check out the plan on the back of the January edition of the 'Kiteflier', Papillion Kites should be the order of the day.

(Numbers of butterflies were up last year after a steep decline in 2012, a survey has found. The warm and sunny weather last summer enabled species such as brimstone, common blue, small and large skipper and small tortoiseshell to thrive, said the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey.)

P.S. Remember it's Apedale so bring your wellies.....

MKF CLUB 35th ANNIVERSARY
FLY IN
PUFFORD ABBEY
COUNTRY PARK
OLLERTON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, NG22 9DF

SPRING KITE WEEKEND

Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th April 2014

SUMMER KITE WEEKEND

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th August 2014

ONE SKY ONE WORLD

'PEACE' KITE DAY

Sunday 12th October 2014

MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS

MKF CLUB 35th ANNIVERSARY
FLY IN
RUSHCLIFFE 35th ANNIVERSARY
COUNTRY PARK
SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2014
as part of
rush4health



MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS

EXKITEMENT

Apedale Country Park

Apedale, Nr Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire. On the B5367

Sunday 5th October 2014

MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS

No theme this time, just bring those wellies.

Bristol International Kite Festival Update

Following a highly successful festival in 2013 the organising team has, after much consideration, decided to give this year a miss and instead to focus our efforts on planning for 2015 which will also mark Bristol's year as European Green Capital City.

As many of you will know the festival is still run by a core team of hard working friends and volunteers and has become a major event to organise on top of family and full-time work commitments.

We will also not be running a Festival at Weston Beach this year for the same reason.

By running the Bristol event every two years in future, like some other major festivals, it gives us more time to plan ahead and manage these other commitments.

Kites will still feature in around Bristol this year and we are looking to participate in other events over the summer by offering activities such as kite-making workshops and displays.

Avril Baker ✉ media@kite-festival.org.uk
+44(0)117 977 2002



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2014

1	Wednesday 1 st January - Bank Holiday
2	Sunday 19 th January
3	Sunday 16 th February
4	Sunday 16 th March
5	Sunday 20 th April
6	Monday 21 st April - Easter Day
7	Monday 5 th May - May Day
8	Sunday 18 th May
9	Monday 26 th May - Spring Bank H
10	Sunday 15 th June
11	Sunday 20 th July
12	Sunday 17 th August
13	Monday 25 th August - Summer Bank H
14	Sunday 21 st September
15	Sunday 19 th October
16	Sunday 16 th November
17	Sunday 21 st December

The group meet at Worcester Woods Country Park, Worcester, WR5 2LG.

Grid Ref: SO878542

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR WANTED

THE ROLE OF THE EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

The main part of the events co-ordinator post is to be the contact point on behalf of the club with various people and organisations that would like to hold a kite flying event.

Dealing with requests for the club to attend a venue to put on a display, this may be from a local authority, charities like the National Trust.

Some requests will be repeats of long standing events others are new locations they all need to be assessed as to location, space, benefits to the club etc. and responding accordingly.

Arranging height clearances with the Civil Aviation Authority, and sometimes notifying local authorities and police forces of an event in their area.

Notifying other members and kite fliers of any planned events via Newsletter, Kite Calendar, web site and forums.

If you would like to find out more about this post my contact details are at the front of the newsletter or just come and have a chat at an event. I would be happy to work alongside someone until they get the hang of things.

Bill Souten Chairman



LEOMINSTER & HEREFORD KITE FESTIVAL

19th & 20th JULY 2014

Truly wonderful last year..... Bill Souten

Purple Lady and Feather Banners a BIG HIT! in UK

Published October 18, 2013 | By Linda Sanders

While they're known as flag banners everywhere else, amongst kite flyers in UK, the feather banner is a symbol of "I'm here! See me now!"

Teaching workshops are regularly offered to members of the White Horse Kiteflyers Club, and with the help of President Arthur Dibble (plus dedicated Committee members, Don Baggett and Janet & David Robinson) arrangements for a workshop for feather banners started in September 2012.



Feathers in a Field in Lechlade, UK

October 2013 participants for the "Purple Lady Workshop" began wandering in to the workshop room of St Joseph's Catholic College (Swindon) at 9am, well before the official start of 9:30am. Eager? Keen?

Twenty seven feather banner kits had been transported 12000 miles from OzFeathers' cutting studio in Willunga, South Australia, with each banner requiring up to 20 pieces of pre-cut flag nylon. The Purple Lady had to be sure that everyone received all the right pieces.

Introductions done, and... let's begin!

Instructions were powerpoint-presented on a projector, hot-dot welding tools were plugged in, patterns were handed out... and... it was all systems GO!



Pattern prep, photo by Patrik Koppen



Purple-uniform for David Johnson, ready!

Participants had to match pre-cut fabric pieces in the right order to their patterns.

With numerous colour schemes this meant everyone had to guard their work stations closely.

Mustn't lose any of the tiny pieces!

The youngest participant was just 9 years old.

The oldest was... well, they qualified for a Seniors' free-travel bus pass, say no more.

All the workshoppers switched from hot irons to sewing machines by the close of Day One.



Stuart Lafferty hard at work

Zig zag seams and back-tacking from some fast-workers meant the banners swiftly took shape.

In truth, this was Linda's first adult-teaching workshop, and so far the only one where sewing machines and soldering irons were to be used.

Amazingly, not one injury. (Not that we heard of!)

There may have been some dropped stitches, and the occasional “Oops!” as shuttles ran hot and bobbins ran out of thread.

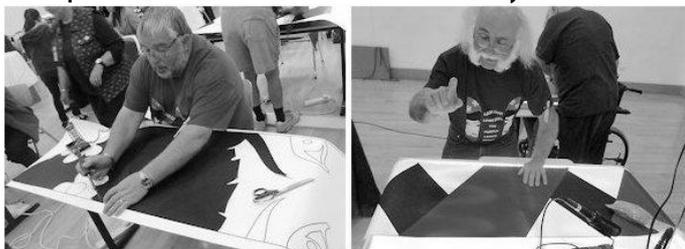
All in all, a hive of jolly activity.



Christian Baden Powell & Keith Boxall seek teacher’s help
Two design patterns had been proposed, which would suit all levels of sewing skills.

The “Lattice” design consisted solely of straight seams.

(Nine of the twenty seven banners were this easier variety, and every single one was completed with a minimum of fuss.)



Don Baggett, Keith, dotting mad!

The second pattern chosen was a modified version of Linda’s “China Lady” design, where the smallest pieces were circles of just 2cm diameter.

(Sewing tiny circles can be a nightmare – it’s quite a challenge to make sure stitching is both neat and effective.)



Arthur Dibble captured the colourful results

Seven colour schemes were offered for “China Lady” and four colour schemes for the “Lattice”.

The workroom mood soared as the banners started taking shape and we’re convinced it was all due to the brightness of the colours.

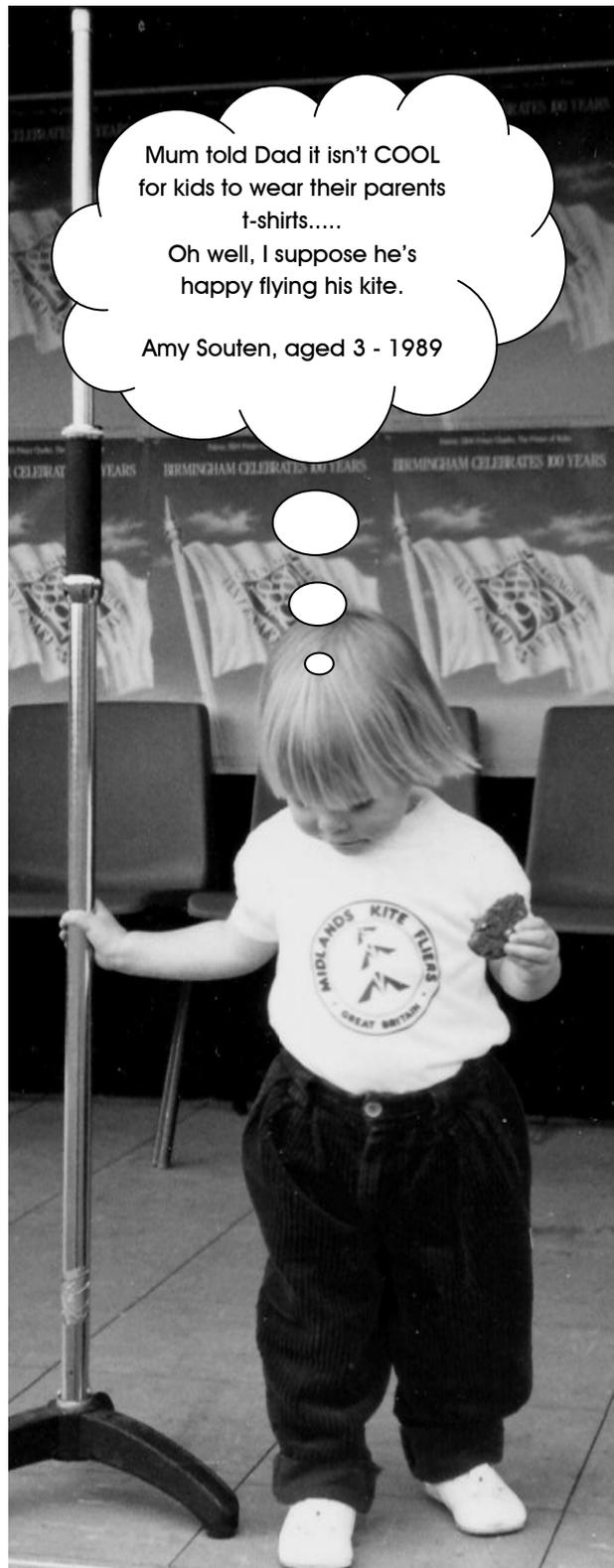
As each sewing machine was switched off and packed away, completed banners began walking outside.

Time for the final showdown (and photo opportunity) to the delight of passing traffic?

‘Reprinted with Linda’s permission’.

Perhaps the MKF could hold this type of workshop? Interested, let me know and we’ll get something organized.

Bill Souten



Mum told Dad it isn't COOL for kids to wear their parents t-shirts.....

Oh well, I suppose he's happy flying his kite.

Amy Souten, aged 3 - 1989

THE KITE SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN



CONGRATULATIONS from everyone in the MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS

It's hard to believe that after the initial ramblings of a few people in a pub in Old Warden, Bedfordshire that the Kite Society of Great Britain should, after thirty five years, still be going strong..... It's down to the hard work and endless hours that Gill and Jon have put in that we have to be truly thankful. Cheers guys.

By the way the Midlands Kite Fliers are also 35 years old this year... thanks to everyone past and present that have kept the club going.

Bill Souten
Chairman of the Midlands Kite Fliers.

Our official birthday is on 1st April 2014
that must be significant.....

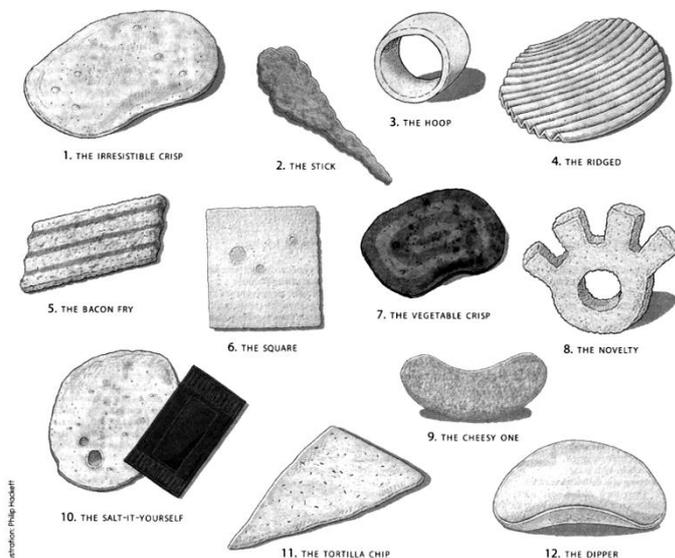


Simple, cheap way to attach your line laundry..
These cheap clips are currently available in Aldi. You can also check out 'The Range' for similar clips etc....



This is an American Kite Fliers Association Initiative. Check out their website for more detailed information. www.aka.kite.org

IDEAS FOR FLYING 'CRISPS' 2014

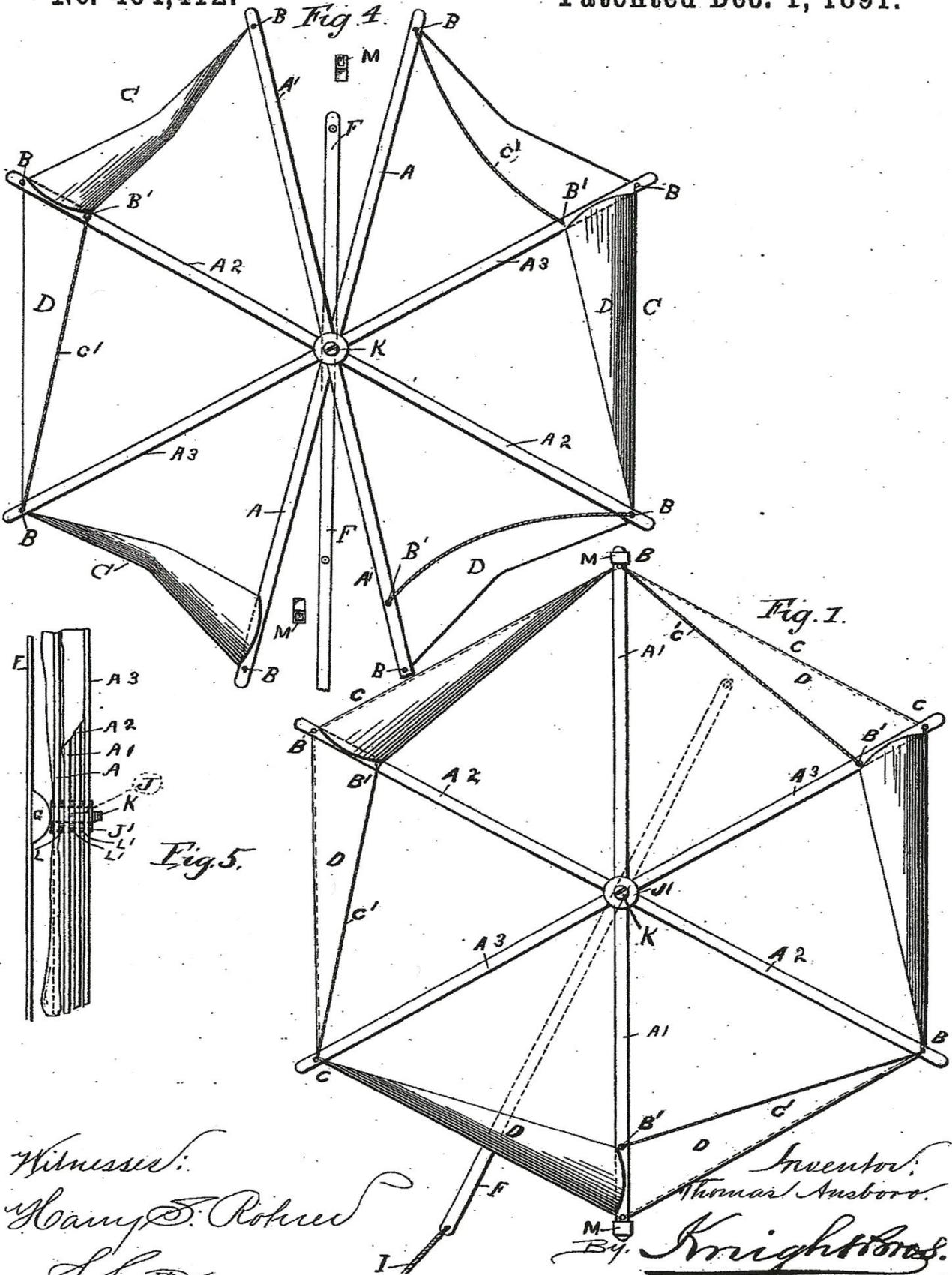


Maybe just the sort of inspiration you need???

T. ANSBORO. KITE.

No. 464,412.

Patented Dec. 1, 1891.



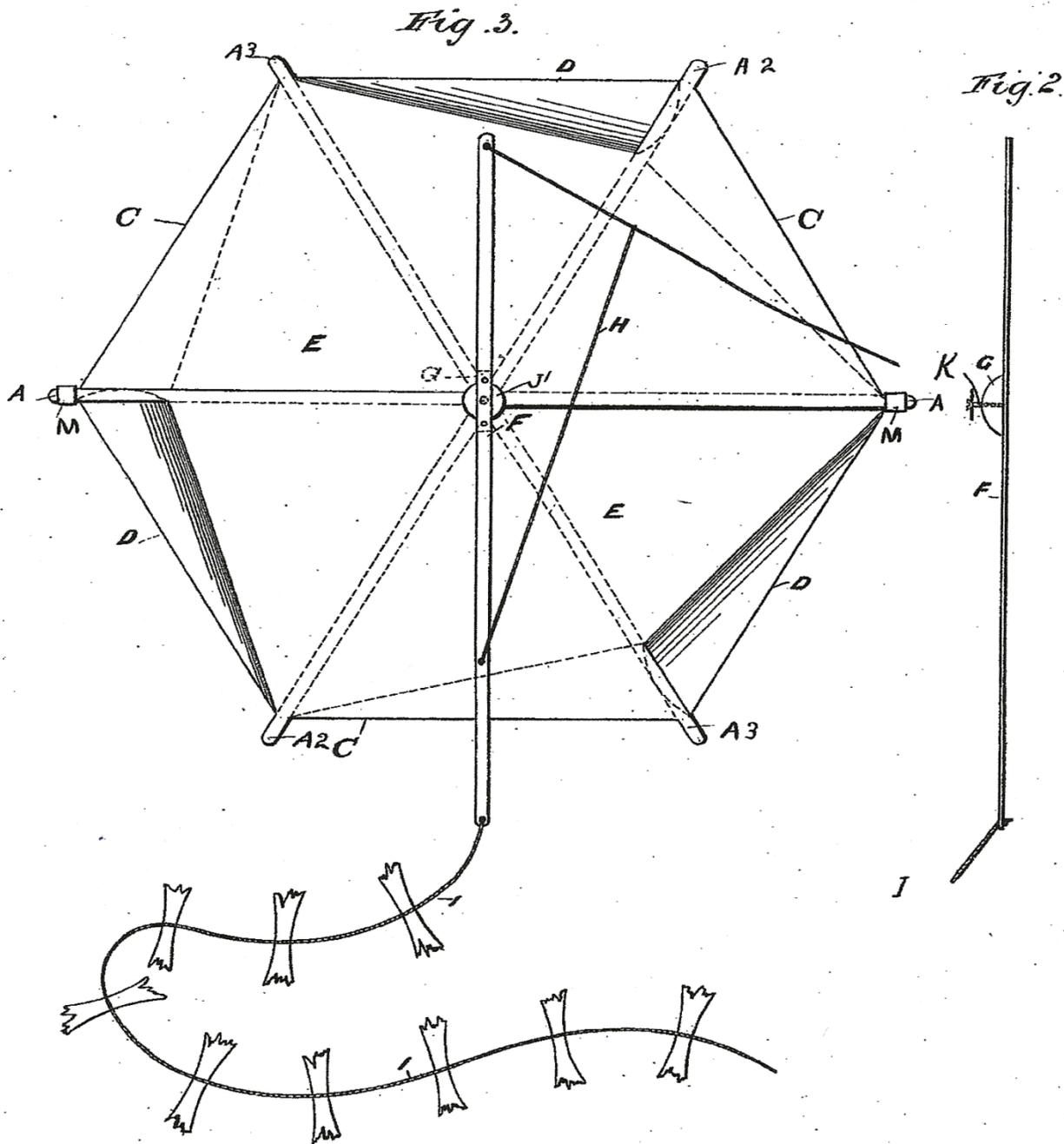
Witnesses:
Henry S. Rohrer
S. Carter

Inventor:
Thomas Ansboro.
 By *Knight Bros.*
 Attorneys.

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KITE.

No. 464,412.

Patented Dec. 1, 1891.



Witnesses:
 Harry D. Rohrer.
 S. Cotton

Inventor:
 Thomas Ansboro.
 By Knight Bros.
 Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS ANSBORO, OF GLASGOW, SCOTLAND, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO
JOHN LIDDLE, OF SAME PLACE.

KITE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 464,412, dated December 1, 1891.

Application filed June 6, 1891. Serial No. 395,399. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS ANSBORO, gentleman, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, residing at 277 Swanston Street, Bridgeton, Glasgow, in the county of Lanark, North Britain, have invented a new and Improved Revolving Kite, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates, first, to a new and improved revolving kite; and my invention relates, further, to a folding or collapsible kite.

I will first describe my invention with reference to the accompanying drawings, and then more particularly point out in the claims what I deem as new therein.

In said drawings, Figure 1 is a back view of the kite. Fig. 2 is a side view of the lath or strip on which the belly-band and tail are secured. Fig. 3 is a front view of the kite. Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 1, showing the kite partly folded. Fig. 5 is a detail side elevation of my improved kite in folded position, parts being broken away.

I take laths or strips $A A' A^2 A^3$, of wood or other suitable material, of equal length, at the extreme ends of each of which I make a hole B, and a little nearer the center of every alternate lath I make other small holes B' , which are equally distant from those at the end. With these laths $A A' A^2 A^3$, I make a skeleton frame-work by crossing and pivotally fastening them at the center by means of a tubular spindle J, (shown by dotted lines in Fig. 5,) which is passed through the central pivot-holes of the strips and provided at its opposite ends with washers J' , secured to the spindle by flanging its ends, the washers holding the sticks upon the spindle. I then encircle each half of the frame-work with a thin cord C by passing it through the more distant holes B, so as to form equal halves of a geometrical figure, such as a regular hexagon, which will fold in upon each other, as and for the purpose presently to be explained. One of the cords C passes from one end of the strips A, through one end of each of the strips A^3, A^2 and A' , respectively, ending in the strip A' , and the other cord C passes from the opposite end of the strip A' through the opposite ends of the strips A^2, A^3 , and A, respectively, ending in the strip A. I next pass cords

C' through the holes B and B' alternately, as follows, namely: through the remote hole B in one end of the lath A to the inner hole B' near one end of the lath A^3 , then to the remote hole B in the lath A^2 , and finally through the inner hole B' at the opposite end of lath A. I repeat this in regular succession through the other half or section of frame-work till the whole frame-work is encircled with a number of equal triangular-shaped spaces D, corresponding in number to the sides in the entire geometrical figure. I then cover tightly the two sections of the kite, saving every alternate triangular-shaped space D, with some close light material, such as cloth, silk, or paper, and the alternate triangular-shaped spaces I cover with similar material; but in this latter case it is not drawn tight, but allowed to drop between the opening of the cords, so as to form a sort of semi-conical pocket D' , as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. I next take another lath or strip of wood F or other suitable material of somewhat similar length to those in the frame, and to one side I fix at a point a little nearer one end a projecting block G, which may be made of light wood or other material. To the opposite side of this lath I attach the usual belly-band H of a kite and to the longer arm of the same the usual sort of kite-tails I. I next pass a pin or screw K (preferably a screw) through the hollow spindle J and screw or otherwise secure it into the block G and the kite is complete, the body being supported upon the strip F so as to revolve.

The attachment between the body of the kite and the spindle is made so that the block G is between the body and the exposed lath F to afford a clearance, and the wind which presses against the inclined surface of encircling pockets causes the body of the kite to revolve on the spindle.

In order that the kite may be compressed into little bulk and so take up less room in being packed for transit, I arrange the central strips $A A'$ with a thin light washer L, of wood or other suitable material, placed between them, so that they will fold in upon each other and also cover the body of the kite in two sections, as already described, so that the strips may be revolved on the spin-

dle J and folded into compact form, similar washers L' being likewise placed between the other laths or strips to allow a clearance for folding.

5 M M are metal caps adapted to fit over the ends of the strips A and A' when the kite is spread open and hold both halves of the kite in expanded position. When the kite is to be packed, these two central laths or strips A A' are separated at their ends by removing the caps M, as seen in Fig. 4, and the kite folded as shown in Fig. 5, and thereby takes up very little room. When it is again desired to use the kite, the two central strips are brought together again and kept in position by means of the caps placed over their ends. The face of the kite may likewise have a device—such as a spiral—colored on it, which will give an optical illusion of wave-like motion of its own as the body of the kite revolves.

It is obvious that a revolving kite could be constructed without the folding or collapsible feature and still be within the scope of my invention, and also that a collapsible kite could be constructed without the rotating feature without departing from the scope of my invention; but I prefer to combine the features as shown in the drawings.

Having thus described my invention, the following is what I claim as new therein and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A revolving kite consisting, essentially, of a strip or support, such as F, and a body rotatably attached to said support, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination of the strip F, the belly-band and kite-tail attached to said strip, and a suitable kite-body rotatably attached to said strip, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination of the strip F, the kite-body, the tubular spindle passing through said body, and a pivot-pin or screw passing through said tubular spindle and attached to the strip F for rotatably supporting the body, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination of the strip F, the kite frame or body constructed of suitable strips and a covering material, a hollow spindle passing through said strips for holding them together, and a pivot-pin or screw passing through said tubular spindle and attached to the strip F, substantially as set forth.

5. The combination, in a revolving kite, of the strip F, having the block G secured there-to, the kite-frame covered with any suitable

material, and a suitable pivotal connection between said frame and the block G, as set forth.

6. The combination of a suitable strip or support, such as F, a kite-frame rotatably attached to said support, a suitable covering on said frame, and semi-conical pockets formed in said covering, substantially as set forth.

7. The combination of a suitable strip or support, such as F, a kite-frame formed of suitable strips rotatably attached to said support, a cord C, passing around the ends of said strips, a cord C', also passing around the kite-frame and attached alternately to the ends and points inside the ends of the strips, semi-conical pockets supported in the triangular spaces formed between the cords C and C', and a suitable covering stretched over the remainder of the kite-frame, substantially as set forth.

8. A folding kite consisting, essentially, of a series of crossing strips pivoted together at or near their centers and provided with a suitable covering, said covering being divided into two parts and said parts being applied to the opposite ends of said crossing strips, substantially as set forth.

9. A folding kite consisting of a series of crossing strips pivoted together at or near their centers, and a divided covering applied to said crossing strips to form two separable folding kite-sections, substantially as herein set forth.

10. A folding kite consisting of a series of crossing strips pivoted together at or near their centers and having two separate cords connecting their adjacent ends on separate sides of the kite-frame, and a divided covering for said kite-frame, substantially as set forth.

11. A folding kite consisting of the crossing strips A, A', A², and A³, pivoted together at or near their centers, a divided covering for said kite-frame, and suitable caps M for holding the kite in expanded position, said caps being adapted to engage the adjacent ends of the strips A A', as herein set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

THOMAS ANSBORO.

Witnesses:

JOSEPH HENRY PEARSON,
ARTHUR HARTLEY YULE,

Both of 154 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow.

Photos for Indian Kite Flying (+2 at a time!)

I have had a few outings with my Indian Fighters this year, Bristol Kite Festival with Stafford Wallace

Recently we were staying in our caravan at Durham Caravan Club site and went to Seaham flying on the Cliff tops, last Sunday, a great day for flying at Souther Lighthouse.

(NTPProperty)<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/souther-lighthouse-and-the-leas/how-to-get-here/>

My wife took some photos of me flying a single Indian and then flying 2 Indians on one line, something Stafford Wallace suggested I should try.

The 2nd Kite is on 7 metres of line attached on a swivel 10 metres down from the lead kite so they don't crash into each other. It presents somewhat of a challenge, after about half a dozen outings I can now keep them airborne and even sometimes under control! We were both amazed at the outcome of some of these photos so I thought I would share them.

The attached photos may be of interest especially the Antenna and Diamond Fill ones. (The photos are as Taken on my wife's Small Sony camera with NO digital editing)
Kind Regards Clive.

From: Clive Paddison

<paddimac@ntlworld.com>



I hope that what I've done with your photos works, Clive.....

It's a brave man that flies two kites at the same time near a 'National Trust Building'.....



Come along to the...

Weymouth Kite Festival

3rd, 4th & 5th May 2014

Weymouth Beach & Esplanade 10AM - 5PM

www.closeencounterskites.co.uk

As you will probably know Weymouth Council have withdrawn funding for kites festivals. There has been much debate surrounding the wisdom of this decision and the short to long term effect this would have upon the prosperity of the town - how soon before it went the way of Clacton or Margate? Fortunately, some members of the carnival committee saw this event as a possible way of raising money for local charities and a committee was formed. I was asked to stay on in the advisory role I had taken on three years ago and off we went.

The new committee have never been to a kite festival before and have no concept of all the different types of kites and the requirements they demand, nor those of the flyers - and this doesn't make things easy.

All of the things we took for granted before like anchors in the single line arena, barriers, marshals, snacks, signage and even getting the mayor to come along and the social evening all has to be sorted and paid for - even the handouts at the pilots' meeting and the commentary bus itself.

Car passes are another casualty - the council allot twenty per event!

We have, however, managed to get a good deal with the council for the purchase of car passes

There will be three day passes on sale at our pavilion desk for a fiver per ticket - normally it's eight quid a day so five quid for three days ain't that bad!

We have been working extremely hard this year to try and get the things that people have been asking for - including making it more difficult for just anyone to get a beach pass.

Another idea is to try holding the altitude sprint later (11:30) to give people more time to get there and enter.

We know about the hold up in rewinding after but we will simply ask all participants to walk forward to the edge of the arena at the end so that the next demo can set up ready.

We even have a different commentator this year!

I'll be travelling down there for 3:00pm on the Friday to meet the JCB who will be placing the sandbags - I welcome suggestions or anyone else coming along to help and advise.

Most flyers have been extremely upbeat in supporting what is basically a new event - old faces returning and new ones staying over the whole weekend - we have a very full main arena program and are looking forward to seeing lots of displays in the single line arena too.

There are some very decent trophies and many categories in which they can be won - Particularly look out - and enter if you like -for the "Weymouth's Got Kite Talent" open trophy.

The guy that takes overall responsibility, Michael MacManus, has done amazing things in raising the money and will continue to do so through raffle tickets, program sales and other forms of sponsorship.

There is so much to say but I'll stop now because you can find all the details on the updates page.

The easiest way to get there is to type in Close Encounters Kites then use the link to the page.

Allan Potheary

www.closeencounterskites.co.uk



DIEPPE 2014 WITH THE ALCESTER AND WORCESTER KITE FLIERS



Members looking for a fun short break in September may like to join a five day coach tour run by our Chairman Mike to The Dieppe Kite Festival in France from Thursday the 11th to Monday the 15th of September 2014.



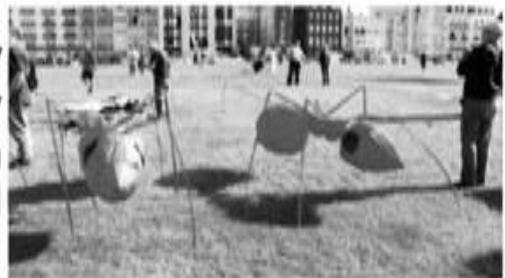
Several of our NARF members are part of the Alcester and Worcester Kite Fliers Club and have attended the wonders of the Dieppe Festival for many years, sadly the numbers going have dropped and it has been decided to open the trip up as a short holiday which would include a two day tour of the French countryside taking in Monet's Gardens, the beautiful fishing village of Hon Fluer, The Benedictine Palace, are a few of the many places that can be enjoyed in the Dieppe area of France. Dieppe itself is also a wonderful City with lots to see and do.



We usually go for the last five days of the Festival, starting early Thursday morning and travelling to France via the channel

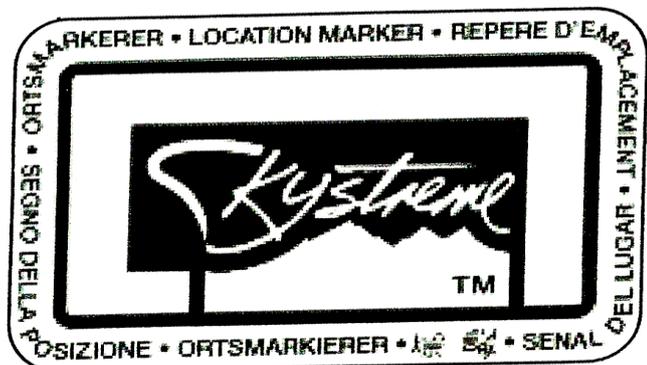
tunnel, where we usually arrive at Dieppe about midday. We have used the Hotel Europe on a bed and breakfast basis several times now and find it perfect for our needs. The hotel is on the seafront and every room has a sea view. For the kite flying enthusiasts the Festival is only a short walk along the prom and we usually spend Thursday, Friday and Saturday enjoying the Festival.

For those joining the trip for a short holiday we would recommend taking the Thursday afternoon easy after the journey, have a look at Dieppe or the festival, Friday would be a tour of the French countryside.



Saturday have a look at Dieppe and the farmers market, Sunday a further day out looking at the delights of the French countryside and visit places of interest. We return home on the Monday once again via the Channel Tunnel.

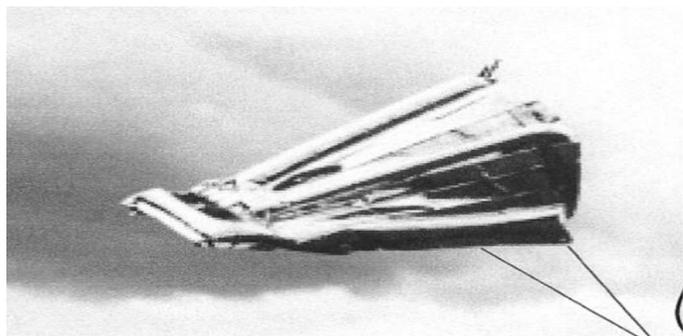
For those members that have been before they know what a great Festival this is and that's why we have returned time and time again. Dieppe is a wonderful City with lots to see and do and is the perfect place for a short break. If you need to know more then contact our Chairman Mike Pearson on 01386 553396.



'Skystreme' is an effective visual personal location maker that stays airborne in a wide variety of weather conditions. It is the world's first radar reflective location marker for outdoor pursuits, an emergency survival tool.

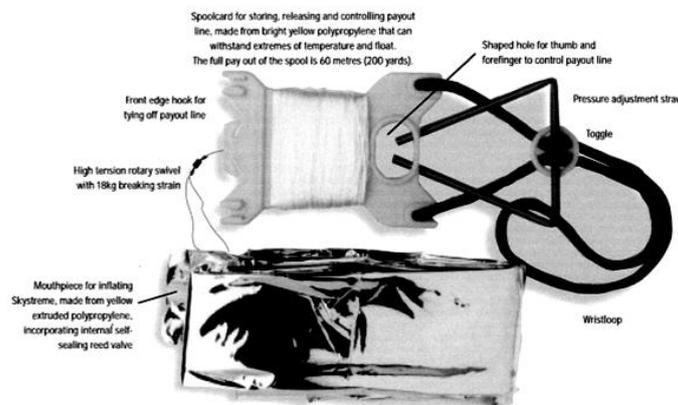
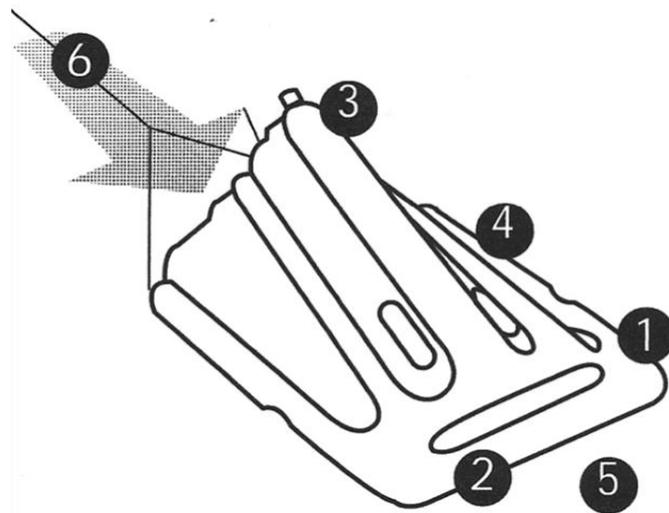
Inflated by mouth it has a self-sealing valve and can fly in wind speeds from 4 mph to Force 10 in rain and snow. It comes in a pocket-sized pouch weighing only 43grams and has three emergency uses.

It is distributed in the U.K. by Simpson Lawrence of Glasgow who supply most marine chandlers and outdoor activity shops. It costs £24.99.



'Skystreme' can lift off unaided. It is shaped like a wedge. The inflatable tubes (1,2,3 and 4) provide the stiffness of the edges of the wedge shape. Until these tubes are inflated by blowing up, the 'Skystreme' is completely flat. Air flows into the wide open end and forms a 'ram air pocket' inside the wedge shape until it leaves the 'Skystreme' through a slot at the narrow end (5). The high pressure inside the wedge causes the 'Skystreme' to lift off unaided. The tether brings the 'Skystreme' into the wind (6). 'Skystreme' is part kite and part wing. This combination gives extra stability and lift..

For 'Skystreme' to fly the lift force on the 'Skystreme' has to overcome the weight of the 'Skystreme' and the tether. This lift force depends on the air pressure. At high altitudes the air pressure is low so if 'Skystreme' is used on mountain tops it needs stronger winds for the lift.



Three ways to use 'Skystreme'

1. Inflatable rescue kite

'Skystreme' is usually used as a personal location marker as it flies just like a kite even in extreme weather conditions. Its mirror bright surface reflects sunlight so well that it can be seen at a distance of greater than 2 kilometres with the naked eye. At night it reflects light shone from any angle. An aeroplane has detected 'Skystreme' from a distance of 17 kilometres by using radar.

2. Inflatable Body Warmer

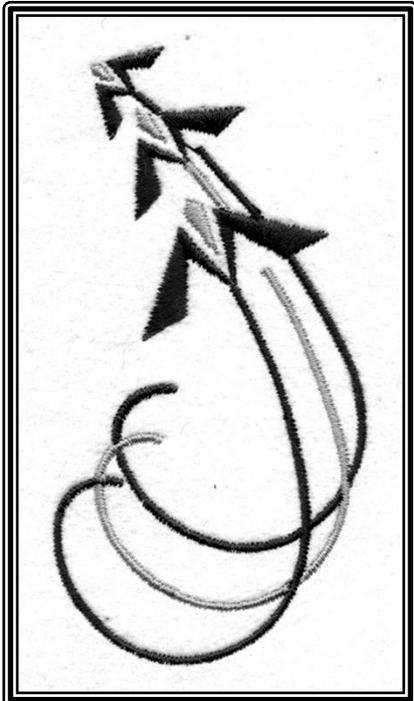
3. Inflatable Air Splint



CLUB CLOTHING IN THE FUTURE WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?



ORIGINAL EMBROIDERED BADGE - 1980



ORIGINAL EMBROIDERY FROM
CLUB T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS
1991

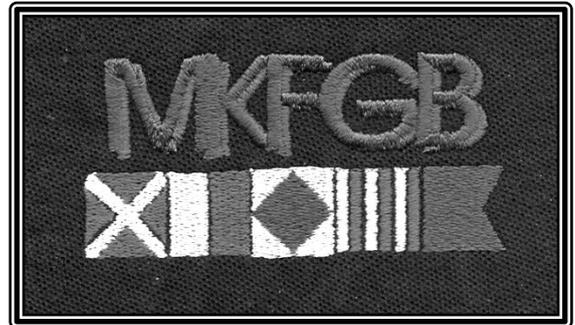


FABRIC BADGE FEATURING
THE ORIGINAL CLUB LOGO



EMBROIDERY FROM LATEST
RANGE OF CLUB SHIRTS.

All the shirts were bright red in colour, some had the club name screened on the back. These are no longer available as the company no longer exists and the last remaining stock was cleared at the recent Annual General Meeting.



Recent design that I produced following my interest in International signalling Flags. Doug Richardson has also made several embroidered designs using his own embroidery equipment.

Where do we go from here?

Do members want to have Club Clothing?

If so, what do you want?

If we are not doing the types of demonstration that were undertaken in the past, do we need uniform?

Is it important for the Club to have an image in the current climate?

Over to you – let us know what you want!!!!

LAWRENCE HARGRAVE

- his life & kites... and a chance meeting with one of his descendants!



Last year we moved house and needed to find a new doctor! Our local GP Surgery is great, and we were recommended by friends to see Dr Hargrave. We were pleased to find she was interested in our kite flying hobby, and she asked if we were aware of her grandfather's uncle, Lawrence, who is better known in Australia, where he spent a lot of his life. Sadly, we were ignorant, so I vowed to find out! When I started reading about Hargrave, I was surprised to find that he was the inventor of the box kite, and that the Hargrave Box can still be purchased today!

Lawrence Hargrave was born in Greenwich, England in 1850 and educated in Kirkby Lonsdale, Westmoreland. In 1872 his father, a Judge, took the family by sea to Australia (it took 3 months!) The reports of Lawrence's personal life are interesting. It would appear he was much more interested in kites & aeronautical matters. He met a David Johnston, shipping clerk, who had a daughter, Margaret, and, when attending a tea party at David's house, he announced he had purchased a house nearby. Someone said 'you'll need a wife'. Hargrave agreed, and turning to Margaret, asked 'What about you?' 'Yes, I would like that,' she replied. When her father asked them when they would like to marry, Hargrave replied 'Next week!' So they married on 7 September 1878. Hargrave was confident he would get a post at Sydney Observatory, and started work as an Extra Observer (Astronomical) at a salary of £16 13s 4d (about 80p) per month.

His elder brother, Ralph, died in mysterious circumstances in Hong Kong and left all his money to Lawrence, (who also benefited when his father died) and this enabled Lawrence to leave his job and retire (age 33!) to devote the remainder of his life to research work into scientific projects, all connected to 'human flight'.

Lawrence constructed many kites and I'm not sure he ever finished honing them, as the numbers just continued to increase! His Kite Number 38 was 10ft 1inch long, 5ft high with an 11ft 6inches span: he arranged the cells of the kite in a triplane design and installed a seat beneath the 'machine' for the operator! He then borrowed an anemometer and a spring balance from the Observatory. He proposed using three kites with a total area of 238 square feet to lift an all-up weight of 198 lbs. Sadly, they had some problem with assembly and the largest kite collapsed. He didn't rebuild that model, but channelled his energy into three other large cellular kites (probably called Numbers 39 - 41!)

In 1894, he tried his 'kite-life experiment' for a second time, enlisting help from his part-time caretaker. I think the description of this event is best left to Hargrave himself, who reported: 'On the 12th a southerly buster came in at 11am of what appeared to be the right strength. Swain and I carried five kites and the gear to the beach' (this entailed going over the railway line and two fences and two journeys across a creek!) 'Flew 37, 25, 39, 40' (yes, I was right - he was still numbering his kites, as he made new models!) 'Forward starboard booms of 38 were carried away. Hauled 39 and 40 down (two gentleman assisting). Replaced 39 with 41. Lower kite secured with gun-tackle purchase to the spring balance and two bags of sand. Toggled on the sling seat and got aboard with anemometer and clinometer. Swain slacked away the tackle fall to the end. I was then forty-two feet from the sandbags and dancing round in an arc of forty degrees on my toes. Wind 14.7 mph, spring balance showed 120 lb. After a quarter of an hour or so the wind freshened up and I went up, the wind reaching 18.6 mph. Swain read the spring balance: 240 lb. Wind fell lighter and I came down. Wind rather puffy, went up several times, not long enough to take a wind reading. Then a long and strong puff sent me up like a shot and I got a wind reading of 21 mph. Swain read the spring balance: 240 lb. Angle of the kite string with the horizon about sixty degrees, my height above ground 16 feet. Wind fell lighter and I came down and with purchase just able to haul myself and kites to the mooring. Swain and I hauled down the four kites with some difficulty' (we've all been there, I think, but not usually after flying underneath the kites!) This experiment established the cellular kite as a stable aerial vehicle, and Hargrave successfully flew 16 feet in length. Reports of that era said that he demonstrated to a sceptical public that it was possible to build a safe and stable flying machine (interesting to see note that we seem to use box kites today to lift crates of beer, not people). The Hargrave designed box kite, with its improved lift-to-drag ratio, provided the theoretical model that led to the development of the first generation of European (and American) aeroplanes.

Lawrence's sense of history led him to ask an outstanding photographer of his day to come and record his experiment. The widely published photograph (shown here) resulted in misleading many people to believe that the experience took place under some palm trees on Hargrave's estate (completely the wrong place to fly kites), rather than the true story above which took place on the beach.

Hargrave was elected to honorary membership of the Boston Aeronautical Society, and entered a kite competition they ran (prize money about \$50). He entered his cellular kite Number 47 - which had reduced surface to weight ratio and increased strength. Sadly, the Aeronautical Annual which ran the kite competition had run into financial problems preventing the continuation of this project. However, the President of the Society then put a Hargrave kite on the market in the USA, and the newspaper clippings of the time then showed the inventor as H H Clayton. Patents were then pending in the USA, Canada and Great Britain, but, sadly, not under the name of the inventor, Hargrave.

In the following years, Hargrave built many engines, his 17th engine being a single cylinder steam engine, followed by his first steam boiler. When he reached steam boiler number 8, he reported his good results to the Royal Society, who stated: 'Mr Hargrave has now brought the Society to understand how greatly he has advanced with his invention. The problem of flying machines has been solved. I (Professor Threlfall) have difficulty expressing my admiration for the degree of success attained by Mr Hargrave and I feel strongly the time will come when the City of Sydney will be known, not so much as the centre of the wool-producing district, but as the birthplace of the flying machine' (cheers and laughter from the rest of the Society members!) 'I might say more. I might say that the flying machine at this moment is potentially born.'

However, Hargrave did not build a successful flying machine because his new engine's power was only marginally greater than his compressed air machines. He abandoned work on the engine, but went on to build an aeropile engine, then propeller blades! He completed a steam turbine, motor Number 22, but he really wanted to concentrate on the translation of his cellular kites into a flying machine, independent of a tether to earth. His proposed Flying Machine No. 10 is of interest to kite fliers: it used 5 Hargrave box kites, size 6 - 50 sq feet and Phillips Venetian blind slats to make a flying machine, whose engine was started by moving the wings by hand. However, he then changed back to making engines again, and produced a pure-jet engine.

The attention of the world's scientists then changed and was drawn to man-carrying gliders. Hargrave began his experiments on curved surfaces, making models of what he called 'soaring machines'. Sadly, his first full sized soaring machine, known as Kite Number 54, was wrecked in a gale (due to the fact that Hargrave did not wait for a correct wind in which to test it and I wonder how many keen kite flyers have done a similar thing?)

Hargrave sailed to the UK, with his wife and 3 daughters (and governess!) but only stayed a few months, as he could not gain employment. He was frustrated as he could not get the parts he needed in Australia, but had to return there. In the winter, he contracted typhoid fever, thought to be from clearing out the cesspool at his new home! This resulted in him not being able to continue his experiments at a time when others round the world were starting to complete theirs. During his

illness, Orville and Wilbur (the Wright brothers!) piloted a heavier-than-air machine over four sustained flights.

By 1909 he was back to building kites again, his kite Number 95 - a triplane cellular kite, had a single cell with the supporting surface a reverse curve like a shallow 'S'. He built six kites of this type, considering them ideal supporting surfaces for aeroplanes, and then went as far as Kite Number 99 (no record seems to be over 100!) However, between 1910 and 1912 he was building full-size flying machines. By this time he was working for the majority of his time with his son, Geoffrey, which made him very happy. By 1914 he and Geoffrey were working on designing and building a one-cylinder two-stroke engine.

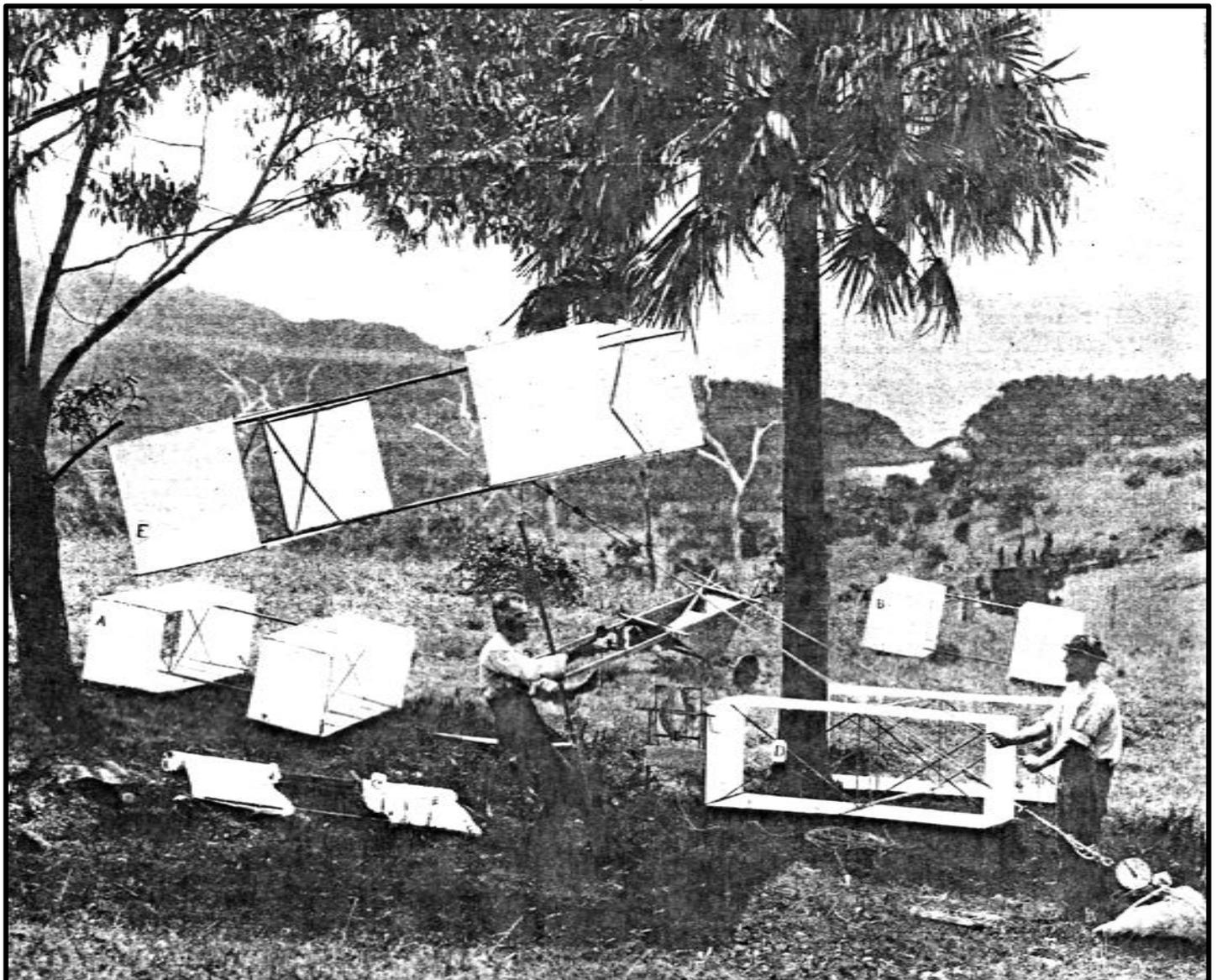
War horrified Lawrence, and all his life he had resented the evaluation of aircraft for their war potential. However, he offered himself for active duty on the day of the outbreak of war, and had he been younger, no doubt he would have been in the thick of it.

Sadly, his son and fellow experimenter, Geoffrey, was killed at Gallipoli in May 1915. Lawrence was a keen family man, who had one son and 3 daughters. I'm amazed, personally, at how much he managed to fit into his life: family and experiments together! However, he, himself, was admitted to hospital with suspected appendicitis, sustained an operation, but peritonitis set in and he passed away on July 6, 1915. He left his estate to his wife, Margaret, then on her demise it was to be divided amongst the children. His estate was valued for probate at £20,448 19s 8d.

The majority of the Hargrave collection of models was destroyed by bombing. However, one of 18 Lawrence Hargrave Memorials in New South Wales sits on the headland high above his first estate: Stanwell Park. This headland became one of the most popular launching sites for hang-gliding enthusiasts: something I think Lawrence and Geoffrey would both have enjoyed, had they lived in a different era!

I ended up feeling a little sorry for Lawrence Hargrave, not sure why, as he clearly enjoyed his inventions and personal life, and his failures never deterred him. He furthered the growth of kites a great deal, but seems seldom remembered, especially when compared to Eddy and Cody (though this is a comment from somebody who has only been flying kites for 5 years - perhaps everybody else is well aware of the 'Hargrave Box Kite' in his name)! Perhaps, too, if he had not become sick, he may have beaten the Wright brothers to their success, and then his name would have had worldwide remembrance...forever!

Sara Lyth, March 2014



EXPERIMENTS ON KITES.

TO THE EDITOR OF ENGINEERING.

Sir,—I have lately made an experiment with kites that will interest you. As few experimenters can afford to lay a rail track of sufficient length to properly try a flying machine, I thought it would be well-spent time if I not only devised, but made and went up on a series of kites that could be converted into a flying machine by adding a motor. Or, the kites to be merely used as a means of safely lifting a flying machine from the ground; trying it, and if it flew, slipping the moorings, as it were, and flying free. And, finally, picking up the kite line and descending without risk.

The cellular form of kite was used, but 18 months' work has developed a structure vastly different from those crude affairs you have already shown (see vol. Ivi., page 524).

I provided myself with five kites, and their weights and dimensions are given in the Table:

Kite.	Length of each Cell.		Breadth of each Cell.		Depth of each Cell.		Distance between the Cells.	Distance from the Forward End of the Forward Cell to the Point of Attachment of the Kite Line.	Weight of the Kite.	Lifting Surface of the Kite.
	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.				
A.	1 11	5 0	1 10	12 1	1 7	1 7	5 7	28 5	5 7	28 5
B.	1 11	5 0	1 10	12 1	1 7	1 7	5 14	28 5	5 14	28 5
C.	6 6	8 2	1 10	4 5	5 2	4 5	9 8	69 0	9 8	69 0
D.	6 6	8 2	1 10	4 5	5 2	4 5	9 8	65 0	9 8	65 0
E.	6 6	8 2	1 10	4 5	5 2	4 5	14 8	90 0	14 8	90 0

The shows on the inner ends of the booms slide along the top and bottom members of the main frame of the kite; this allows the corners to come inwards, and the kite to furl as shown by C in the photograph.

When the kite is furlled, the main frame has nothing to stiffen it against winding; but when the corners are bowed out, the whole kite is practically a rigid structure. It is not clear to me why the stretched surfaces stiffen the main frame, but they do so nevertheless.

The surfaces are made of very inferior calico. The woodwork is American redwood. The kite string is common clothes-line, three-ropes yarn Manila, and not easy to handle when strained.

One thing about these cellular kites is worth special mention: they are perfectly stable and certain in their action, and need no careful adjustment. I had an assistant, but under more favourable circumstances as to locality, and with a winch on the sling seat, he could readily be dispensed with.

On November 12 we carried the gear shown in the photograph to the sea beach, and flew A, B, and C. C proved weak at one corner, and the right side of the forward section collapsed. This did not prevent it still flying steadily, aided by A and B. However, we toggled on D in place of C, and flew E. A, B, D, and E were then flying on the same line, the distances apart being A to B, 52 ft.; B to D, 46 ft.; D to E, 46 ft.; E to the ground, 6 ft.; the lot pulling 180 lb. E was secured by a gun tackle purchase to the spring balance, and the spring balance to two sacks of sand.

The sling seat was then toggled on, and I got aboard with a hand anemometer and a clinometer. My assistant slacked away the tackle fall to the end. The apparatus was then 42 ft. to leeward of the sand-bags, and veering with the wind round an arc of 90 deg. This was unexpected, as the wind was well to the eastward of S.S.E., and the coast trends N.N.E. and S.S.W. At this stage there were only a few pounds' weight unsupported by the kites. The velocity of the wind was 14.7 miles per hour, the pull on the spring balance 120 lb. The slope of E with the horizon was 15 deg.

In about a quarter of an hour the wind freshened, and raised me, when I found the velocity of the wind to be 18.6 miles per hour, the spring balance reading 180 lb.

The wind fell lighter, and I came down. Several more ascents were made, but not of sufficient duration to read the anemometer, which has a two-minute sand-glass. However, a long and strong puff eventually came and sent me up like a shot. A careful reading showed the wind velocity to be 21 miles per hour, with 240 lb. pull on the spring balance.

The weight aloft was:

The four kites	35
Line, toggles, anemometer, and sling seat	7
Myself	166
Total	208

raised by the 232 sq. ft. of lifting surface in the four kites.

The angle at which A, B, and D were flying above was measured from E to be about 60 deg., and also the height from the sling seat to the ground 16 ft. The slope of the beach adds about 2 ft. to this; so that the angle of the tackle with the horizon may be said to have been 35 deg. A, B, and D were sloped to the horizon at about the same angle as E, i.e., 15 deg.; the forward ends of their cells being partly open to view from E.

On coming to the ground, I was able by means of the purchase to haul myself and kites to the moorings without leaving the seat. The line attached to the forward end of E from the seat is to enable me to move the centre of gravity forward, reducing the amount of lift, and so coming down. On this occasion it was unnecessary, as the wind fell lighter on every ascent, and I always alighted very gently.

I think this experiment marks an epoch in my work. Although the altitude attained was nothing to speak of, the conditions would be identical if the kites had been held by a mile of piano wire instead of the clothes-line.

The particular steps gained are, that an extremely simple and compact apparatus can be made, carried about, and flown by one man, and that a safe means of making an ascent with a flying machine, of trying the same without any risk of accident, and descending, is now at the service of any experimenter who wishes to use it.

Yours truly,

LAW. HADGRAVE.

Stanwell Park, Clifton, New South Wales, Dec. 15, 1894.



THE MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS OF GREAT BRITAIN
KITE FLIERS RETREAT - BROAD HAVEN, PEMBROKESHIRE
3rd, 4th & 5th MAY 2014

Two days of 'Blue Flag' beach flying at Broad Haven
One day of glorious scenic flying at Hilton Court Gardens

Come along and enjoy the kites and kite flying
Every one welcome!

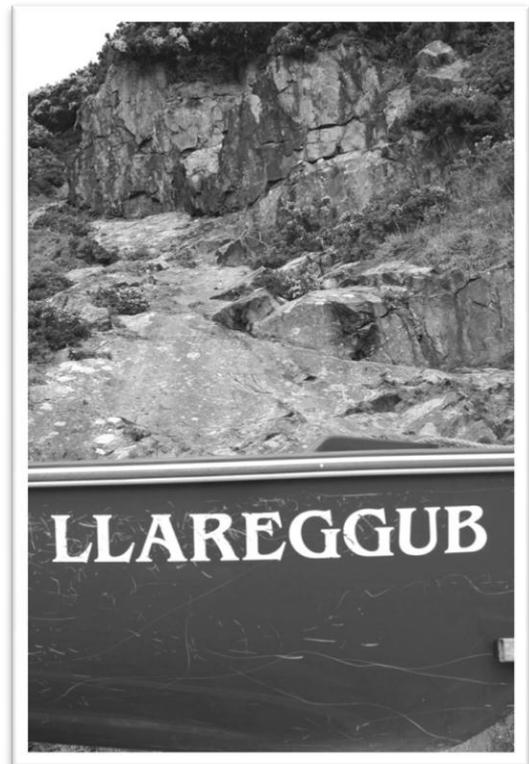


We would like to welcome your club to Hilton Court Gardens and Crafts. We are a family run business of 25 years providing a location of stunning natural beauty with coastal views overlooking St. Brides Bay.

There is something for everyone to make your day out, one to remember. Take a leisurely stroll around the Lakes, Gardens and Woodland and unwind in the Tropical Solar Dome.

Enjoy creative homemade meals in the Courtyard Restaurant and the Woodland Tearoom overlooking flowerbeds and Cobbled Courtyards. Enjoy some of Pembrokeshire's finest Art and Crafts from breathtaking coastal panoramic photos to silver jewelry and hand crafted pottery.

Hilton Court offers a warm welcome to your whole family, come and surround yourself in peaceful nature.



SEEN ON A BEACH NEAR BROAD HAVEN
I hope you had a good literary education!*

WHILE YOU ARE IN PEMBROKESHIRE!



Welcome to the Welsh Spitfire Museum

Our objective is to restore vintage aircraft and currently we are involved in the restoration of a MK VIII Spitfire. While we are fundraising we have built a museum around the Spitfire so that you can see the flying machine that so many brave men and women paid the ultimate price for in our country's hour of need.

The museum is open to visitors from 10 to 4 on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Presentations and visits by parties can be arranged.

Welsh Spitfire Museum. Haverfordwest Airport
Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire. SA62 4BN.
www.welshspitfire.com



Are you up to the challenge?

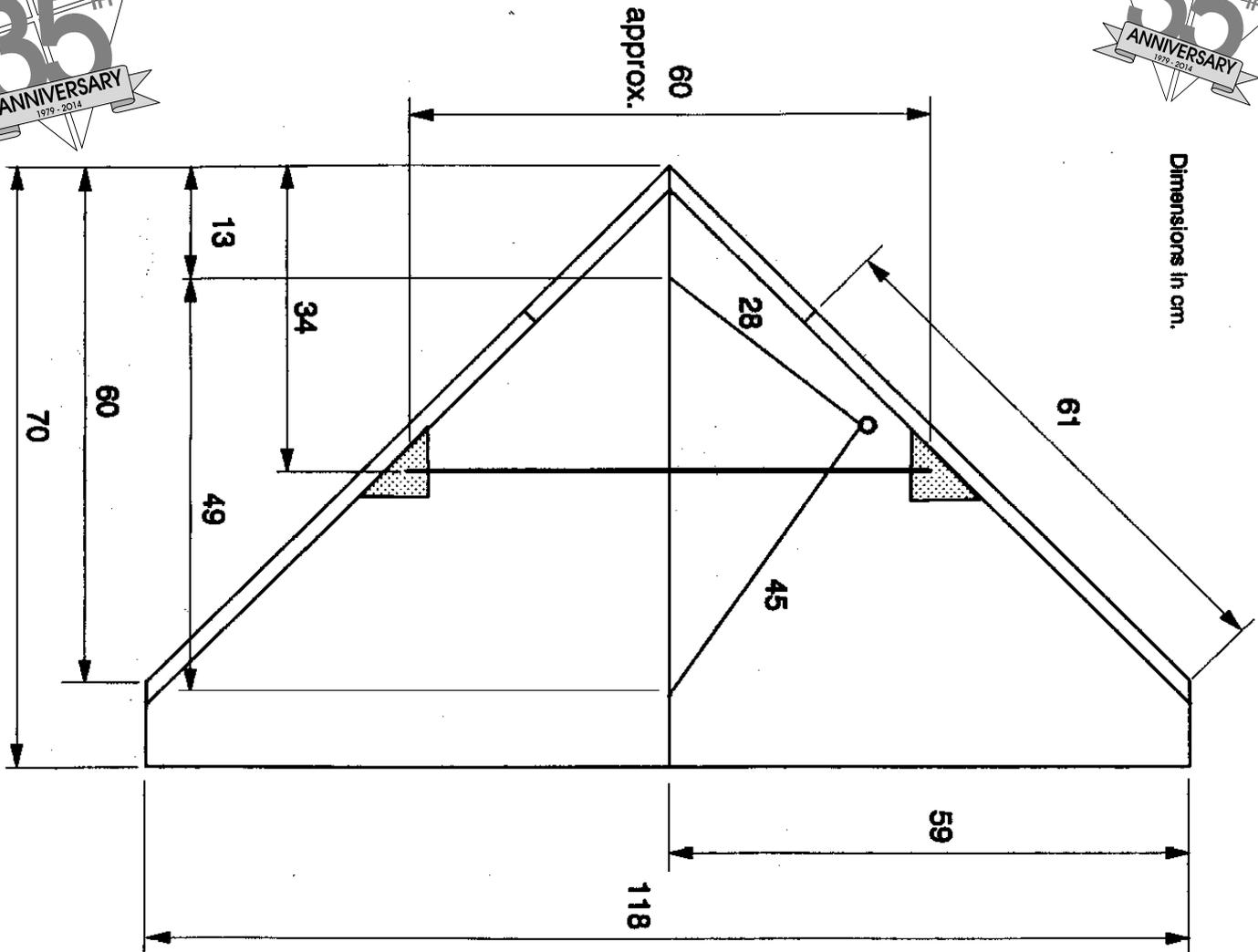
Using just a simple tea towel create your own flying sensation. Must fly to 200feet, and be fully stable in the wind conditions of the day.....

Contact Bill Souten for details.....

bill.souten@mkf.org.uk



DEREK'S DELTA - DEREK'S DELTA



Dimensions in cm.

The origins of this kite are shrouded in the mists of time - I know that it has been in my kite bag for several years, and has always been a reliable favourite.

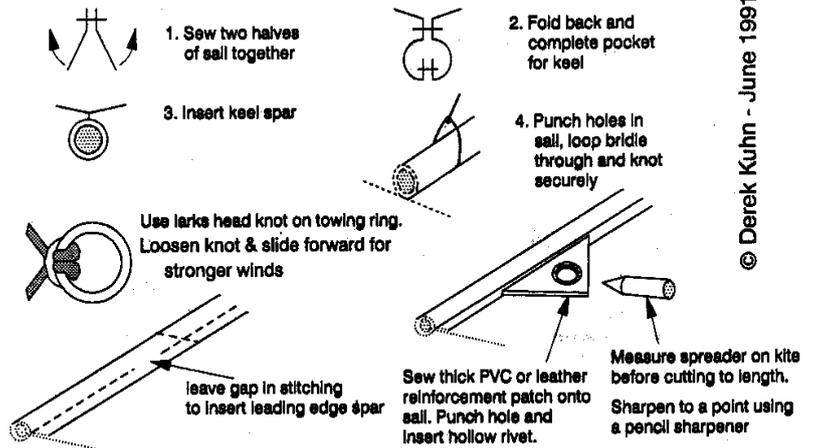
There are two unusual features about this design: Firstly, the keel is not material in the traditional manner, but a simple two leg bridle with an adjustable towing point which can be varied for the wind conditions on the flying field. The second feature is the method of attaching the spreader to the sail. A small piece of thick PVC, leather or similar material is sewn onto the sail at the appropriate point and a hollow riet is inserted. The end of the spreader is sharpened to a point which is simply located in the hollow rivet. The stretch of the material is sufficient to keep the ends located securely.

I have not included every single detail in the plan as all kite makers have their own favourite ways of hemming (or not hemming) and of providing pockets and reinforcements for spars.

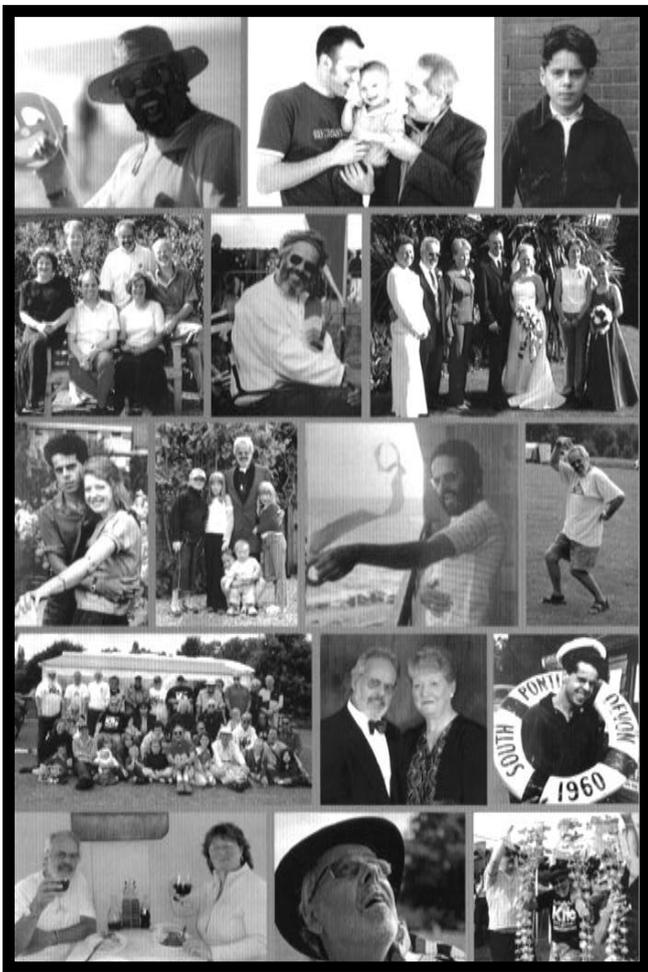
I have assumed that the kite will be made in two halves, but there is no reason why one single piece of material should not be used.

Dimensions are finished sizes—allow for hems and pockets. If kite is unstable (due to lack of solid keel) allow a little dihedral by shortening the spreader slightly.

Derek Khun



© Derek Kuhn - June 1991



'VIDEO TO DVD' Can you help?



There are a few old videos that might be of interest to other kite fliers. Can you help us to get them transferred from video tape to DVD. If you can please contact Bill Souten and we'll see what can be arranged.....



before it's too late.....I do have the owner's permission to convert them....

RON DELL OF KITEABILITY

15th September 1940 – 2nd February 2014

Ron passed away in February. He will be missed by kite fliers old and new for his ever present smile and the way that he would always make time for you to discuss anything. Condolences to the family

Malmesbury Kite Festival
2nd & 3rd August 2014
'The Worthes', Malmesbury

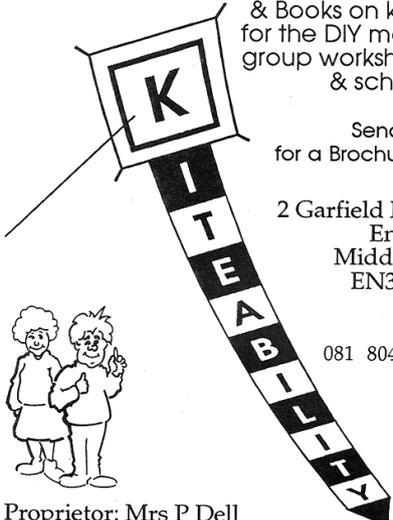


Further information from Jon Caton
jon@catons.freeserve.co.uk

Jon Caton has invited members to attend the Malmesbury Kite Festival, all are very welcome but he is particularly interested in fliers with large kites..... Get in touch for more details...

KITEABILITY

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& Books on kiting for the DIY maker, group workshops, & schools.



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Tel:
081 804 908



Proprietor: Mrs P Dell

Ron and Pats Advert as seen in many Editions of old kiting magazines..

'PARAFOILERS'

A request from Jonathan Mason of Carrington. He is interested in making contact with any keen 'Parafoilers' who live and or fly in the area Give me a ring or email and I'll pass on your details to Jonathan..

Bill Souten

19th Pasir Gudang World Kite Festival

PASIR GUDANG: EXPECT LED (light emitting diode) kites to dot the night skies tomorrow during the 19th Pasir Gudang World Kite Festival (PGWKF) again this year.

Pasir Gudang Municipal Council president Onn Jabbar said the night show, which was introduced last year, had received such overwhelming response that there will be another night kite-flying show this year.

"Adorned with LED, the kites in butterfly, bicycle and car shapes would look even more attractive against the backdrop of the night sky."

This year, the event is a joint collaboration among organisers from three different states -- Pasir Gudang, Johor; Alor Star, Kedah; and Satun, Thailand.

The festival in Pasir Gudang, Johor, will end on Sunday. It will then be held in Kedah from Feb 25 to 27, and end in Thailand on March 1 and 2.

The theme for the PGWKF is "Wind Garden". Participants had to invent and decorate their kites from recycled materials. There will also be various competitions, performances, workshops and exhibitions.

Other activities that will be held during the five-day festival include a fishing competition at Tasik Taman Bandar, Johor Baru, a blood donation campaign with free health checks and a children's colouring competition.

On Feb 22, popular artistes such as Aris Ariwatan, Indonesian Idol Yuka Kharisma, Tam Spider and Mak Ros (Kilauan Emas) will entertain visitors and participants.



Participants preparing to fly their LED kite

Posted: 8:00 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014

Kite causes a grass fire, multiple home damage



Fire crews stay busy all over the state
By Michael Purdy. Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA.

A kite flown near power lines is being blamed for a grass fire Saturday afternoon. Tulsa fire crews say the grass fire started around 1:30 p.m., near 46th and Union. It's believed two children were playing with a kite near power lines, and the wind carried the kite into the line starting a grass fire. Crews say the fire spread to two homes and a shed. There is no word on damage estimates. No one was injured in the fire.

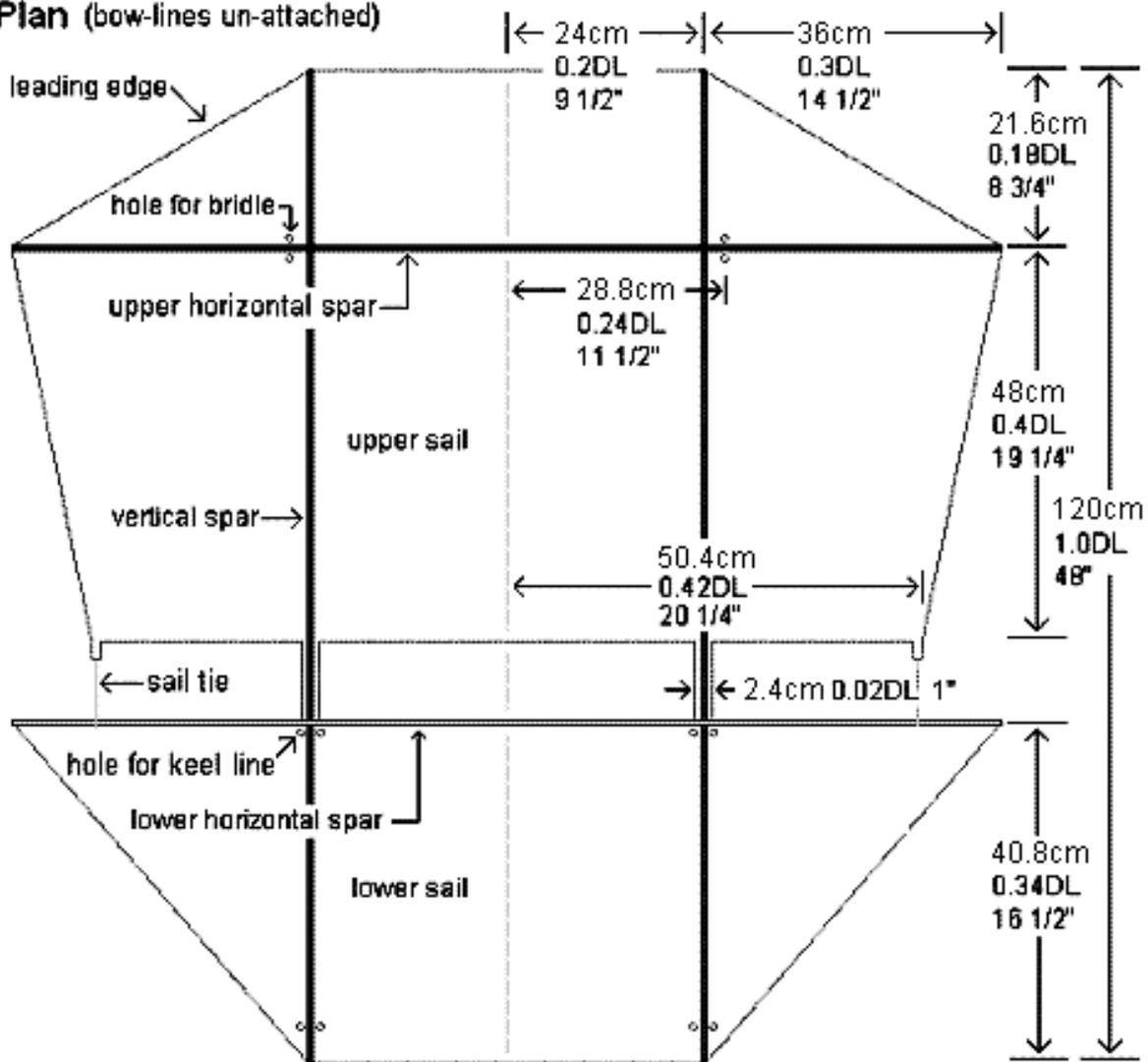
THINK POSITIVELY
STAY STRONG
WORK *have faith*
HARD
EAT HEALTHY
EXERCISE DAILY
LOVE FREELY
live in the moment
RELAX READ MORE
★ *laugh out load* ★
WORRY LESS FORGIVE & FORGET
give generously
BE GRATEFUL

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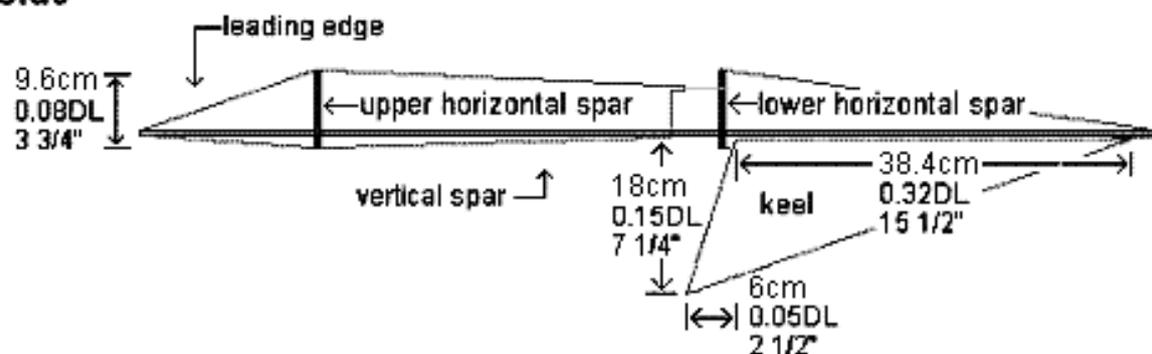
'DOPERO' PLANS

Designer unknown but reprinted with grateful thanks. Apologies for the poor quality.
See article from Alan Poxon in the last issue

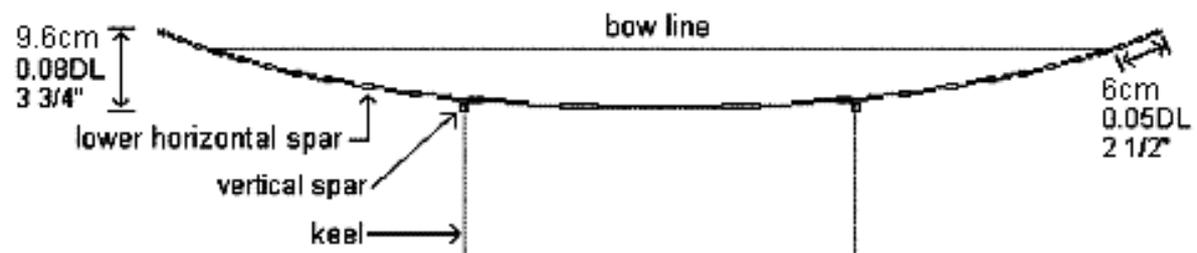
Plan (bow-lines un-attached)



Side

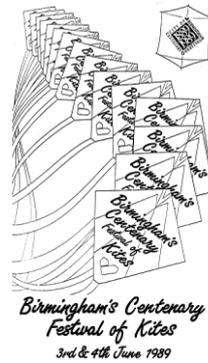


Front (only lower horizontal spar shown, to keep things clear)



DL = Dowel Length

RETURN TO COFTON PARK



EASTER MONDAY 20 APRIL 1992



Cofton Park in Longbridge, Birmingham has a long established connection with the Midlands kite fliers. It was the site of the Birmingham Centenary Festival of Kites way back in June 1989 when the club was just ten years old. It was also the site of the British Gas 'Kitefly' in 1992. Since then, as far as I am aware we have not used the park.

The club has now been approached by 'The Friends of Cofton Park' with the idea that we use the park again, initially for some fly-ins and then with the potential of holding another Festival in the future.

The park is large, well tended with some off road parking. However the big 'but' is that at present there are no toilets on site..... The Friends are hoping to attract some extra funding to build a purpose built pavilion that will contain the toilets everyone requires. With this in mind if we would like to use the park now, our usage will assist in attracting that necessary funding.

Its early days but it may be well worth the club becoming involved at this time.... Flying sites are becoming harder to find, this may be the ideal site for the Midlands Kite Fliers to call home in the future.....

Please let the members of the committee know your feelings in order for us to proceed. Without your commitment then we really do need to find other good flying sites.....

Bill Souten.



Where the wind sets the tone...or...

....a brief insight into the sound landscape of an Aeolian Instrument display....

....written by Michael Lowe.



The wind. We all know about it, feel it, try to visualise its paths, routes and moods. But it is a natural phenomenon: this air in movement. It has so many faces, kind as well as intimidating, dangerous and even deadly. As kite fliers we feel it's caress, try to use its power, try to harness, even control it. But in the end, it is nature in action and, from my own point of view, it is a great composer. Who has never listened to the broken melodies and swaying rhythms of the halyards and hooks in a port? Who has never heard the wind and its harmonics as it plays through gaps, cracks and small openings? So many gardens have bamboo or metal wind-chimes, possibly as scarecrows or just as sensory objects. Each tempo, beat and sound level changes with the swirling, ever altering wind patterns through the garden and around buildings and themselves.

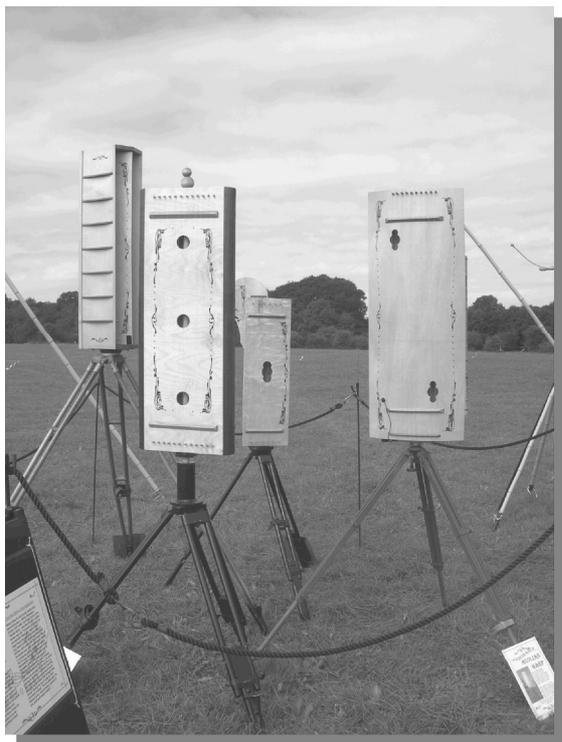
It is this natural way of making sound, each time unique in its form and style, that interests me. My display endeavours to show, in a small way, what can be achieved by simple and artistic use of various materials, shapes and designs and along the way, enlighten, possibly even encourage others to think about doing a similar thing themselves, or try something new. The wind is free (no taxes here yet!) so maybe use it for something else that's good, as well as flying kites. So how do I use it? I will try to explain.....



www.resonanceaeolian.co.uk

The focal points of my display are the ***Aeolian Harps***.

An Aeolian Harp (æolian harp or wind harp) is a musical instrument that is played by the wind. It is named after ***Aeolus***, the ancient Greek god of the wind. Simply put: hollow wooden boxes with tensioned strings on their faces. The wind 'plays' across the strings, setting them vibrating. The box then amplifies these sounds.



The strings can be made of different materials (or thickness's) and can all be tuned to the same pitch, or identical strings can be tuned to different pitches. I actually use mono-filament fishing line as it is cheap, simple and it works! Besides being the only strung instrument played solely by the wind, the ***Aeolian Harp*** is the only stringed instrument that plays solely harmonic frequencies. Harp styles, sizes, shapes and design detailing are many and numerous and really, anything is worth a try.

The quality of sound depends on many factors, including the lengths, gauges, and types of strings, the character of the wind, and the material of the resonating body. Oh, and obviously, if I have actually tuned them of course! The sounds produced (I like to call it 'music') are very distinctive. There is no percussive aspect to the sound like that produced by a wind chime; rather crescendos and decrescendos of harmonic frequencies are played in rhythm to the winds. Their vibrant timbres produce an ethereal, almost mystical, music that many people find alludes to higher realms. Some just say it reminds them of 'Star Trek', Doctor Who, or other various Sci-Fi themes. Some think it would be great as a background to forms of meditation or relaxation. Music is always a very personal thing.

I do not aim to go into the scientific and physical reasons for harmonic frequencies. I am not a physicist, but will add the following just as a 'taster'-

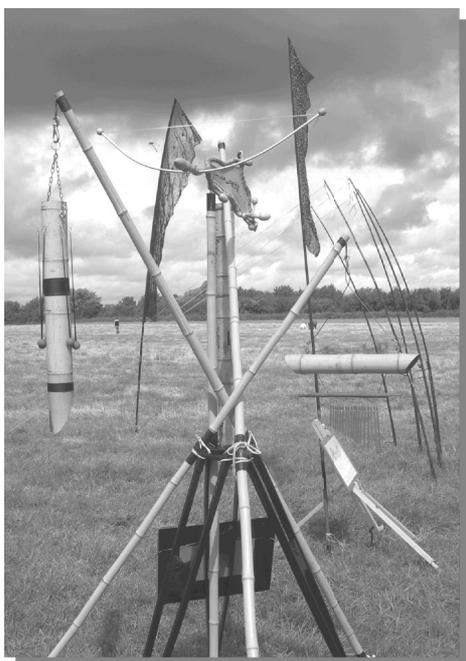
The harmonics always occur in a pattern. The first harmonic is an octave above the fundamental; the second is an octave and a fifth above; the third harmonic is two octaves above. Then two octaves and a third, a fifth, a flattened seventh. Then three octaves and a second, third and on and on. If the string is tuned to c, the harmonics are c, c, g, c, e, g, b flat, c, d, e, etc. When wind blows across strings it is not the fundamental that is heard, but one of the harmonics. I can't tell you how or why, but that is what happens. The same phenomenon can be heard when telephone wires sing in a strong wind.

If you want to know more on any of this science, the internet is a wondrous place!

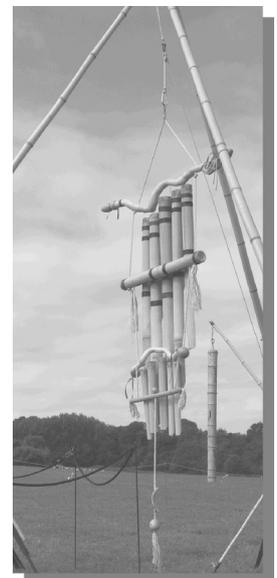
Of course it is possible to make an **Aeolian Harp** without any knowledge of physics, but one point is important to think about, the difference between laminar and turbulent flow. The strings will only respond to a steady and even flow of air. This is a laminar air flow. In a field, the wind is disturbed near to ground level by trees, bushes, grass and by many other things (such as people). Six feet off the ground there is much more likely to be a laminar air flow.

The harmonics will only occur if the strings are agitated by a laminar air flow. You begin to see why the harp won't play on a quiet summer evening in an enclosed garden, or when people stand close, or especially in front of them. So difficult to explain sometimes at events!

The **Aeolian Harps** in my display are usually behind a rope barrier. Such is human nature that things need to be touched! But these instruments are not played by the human hand, but by **Nature's touch**. Another thing that is so difficult to explain!

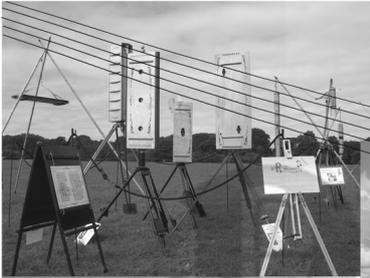


So what else makes up the display?

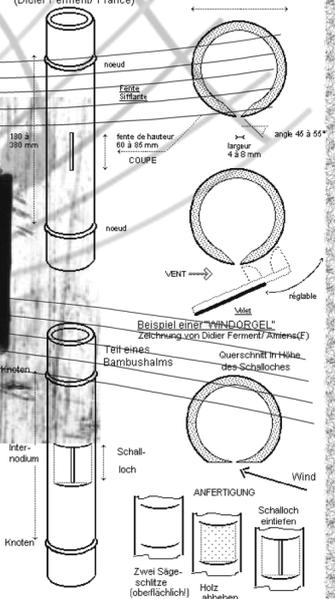


There are all of the bamboo pipes with slots cut in them. (These make the loud howling noises!) Then there are the bamboo and metal wind-chimes, the wind vane hummers and the curved line of bamboo and ribbon long string hummers. All of these, along with other instruments as space permits, make their own types, levels and styles of 'musical sounds', each requiring a different wind speed. Just some of the many ways to experiment and 'play' with the wind. I am sure you can think of many more.

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Aeolian Bamboo Organ
 (Didier Ferment/ France)



For more information (and my harp sound samples) on something Aeolian, you could look at my web site, www.resonanceaeolian.co.uk

or there are some wonderful other sites to look at and explore throughout the internet.

One of the best sources of information on all the aspects of Aeolian instruments, their history and types is at www.windmusik.com

I hope you find inspiration and enjoy the sounds that surround you.



.....A display of Aeolian Instruments.....
where the wind and air movement
 creates the music.....
Harps, Bamboo Pipes, Chimes & Whistles....

This display is owned and presented by Michael Lowe. Southampton. Hampshire.
 Please feel free to listen to all the instruments.....

.....but please do not touch them, as it is the wind that makes the music.



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