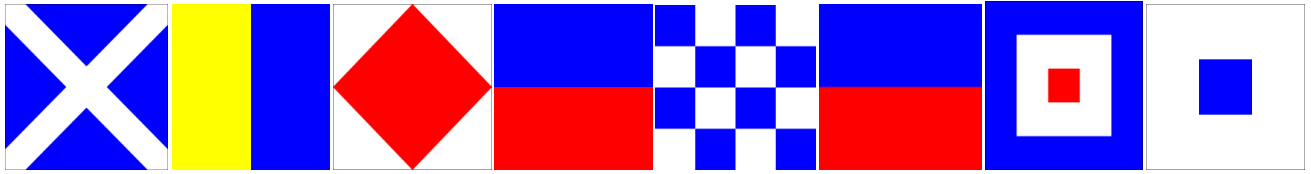


# MKF@NEWS

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE  
MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS OF GREAT BRITAIN



EXTRA CHRISTMAS FLYER 2016  
NOTHING TOO SERIOUS!!!



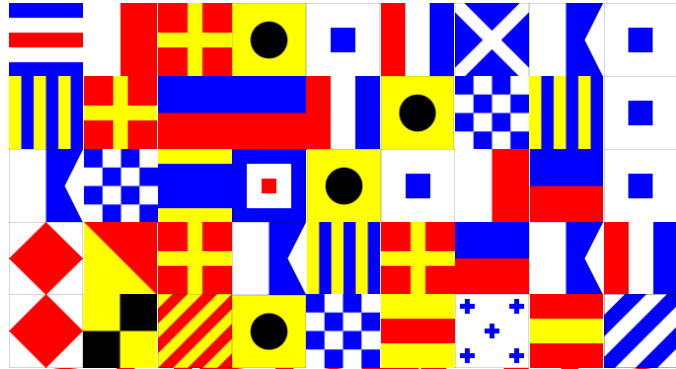
MR. WINDY OUT AT PLAY

# MKE@NEWS

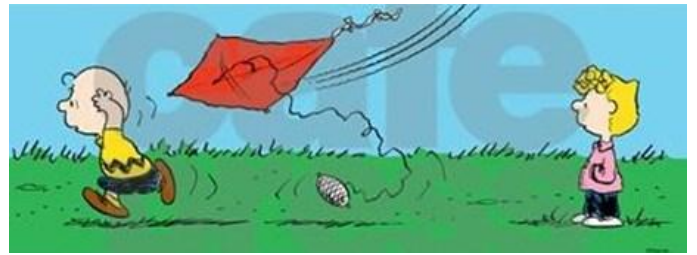
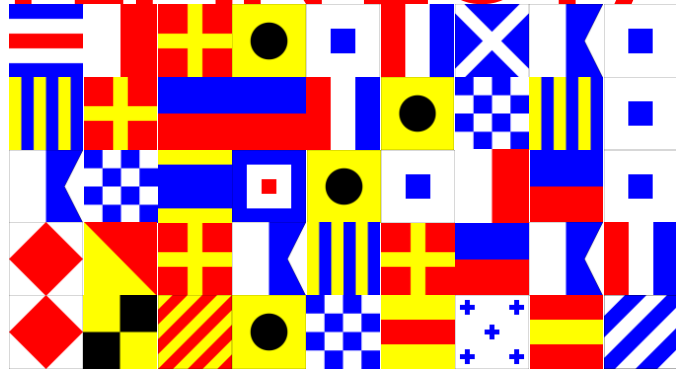
*Flyer*

INTERIM NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS

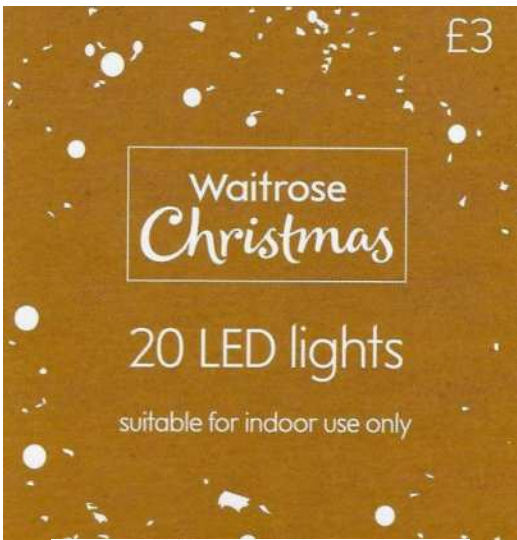
DECEMBER 2016



# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND WISHES FOR A GREAT FLY IN 2017







Waitrose Christmas  
LED lights

**!** FOR INDOOR USE ONLY.

**i** This is a decorative item. Keep away from young children. Adult supervision recommended. Product requires 2 x AA batteries. Batteries not included. These lights have non replaceable LED's (light emitting diodes). 2.7 m approximate length (from first to last LED). Colour of LED warm white. Please refer to the enclosed instruction leaflet.

We are committed to bringing you the best quality. Should you not be happy with this product, please bring the product back to any Waitrose branch and we'll replace your item or refund you.

Produced in China for Waitrose Limited  
Bracknell Berkshire RG12 8YA UK waitrose.com

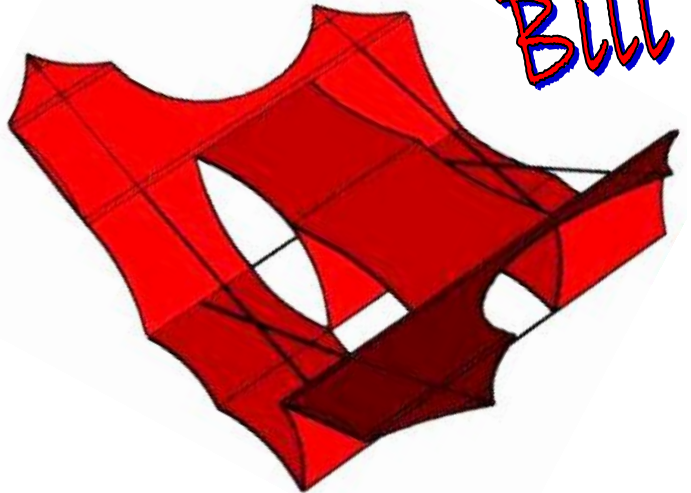


Weighs 95 grams with batteries.  
Weighs just 45 grams without batteries.  
Approximately 2.7 metres long.

*Ideal to secure to your kites for some night flying. ED*

# ONE PIECE CODY PLANS AVAILABLE FROM

*Bill*



Email for your copy today..... whilst stocks last



Mr Bill Souten  
 Midlands Kite Fliers  
 52 Shepherds Court  
 Droitwich Spa  
 Worcestershire  
 WR9 9DF



15 November 2016

Dear Bill and the Team at Midlands Kite Fliers

I am writing to officially thank you on behalf of all of the staff and patients here at Primrose Hospice for choosing to support us through the recent 'Fly a Kite' event at the Jinney Ring Craft Centre. I don't know if you are aware but the actual figure raised on the day which included kite making and merchandise sales was a grand total of £745.35. We really hope that this is the start of a great partnership and annual event for us all, and we are extremely grateful of your support of this event.

This kind donation means that we can provide our services to our patients and their families. Primrose Hospice Centre of Care is an independent charity. We provide free care, advice and support to patients living with life limiting illnesses and their families in North East Worcestershire. It currently costs £1.5 million per year to run all of the services which we have on offer at the Hospice, with just 19% funding coming from the NHS. Primrose hospice relies heavily on voluntary donations to provide the rest.

Patients are cared for in the day hospice which provides medical and emotional support for patients with a life limiting illness. Our family support team offers counselling in our Coppice Centre for patients, carers and loved ones. Primrose also runs a hospice at home service which gives support for people at the end stages of life who wish to be cared for in their own home. The service aims to complement and support the existing care being provided by the family and any other agencies.

I understand from Amanda that the date for next year maybe revised due to other commitments, however I look forward to working with you all again next year.

Yours sincerely,

*Kate Kelly*  
 Kate Kelly  
 Corporate Fundraiser  
 kate@primrose-hospice.org.uk

**TOTAL OF £745.35  
 FOR PRIMROSE HOSPICE**



**Sky Bums**

15 November 2016

In the run up to Christmas we have opened a unit in the Parade Shopping Centre in the centre of Shrewsbury (SY1 1DL). We are in the process of stocking up but if there is anything specific you might like please don't hesitate to contact us.



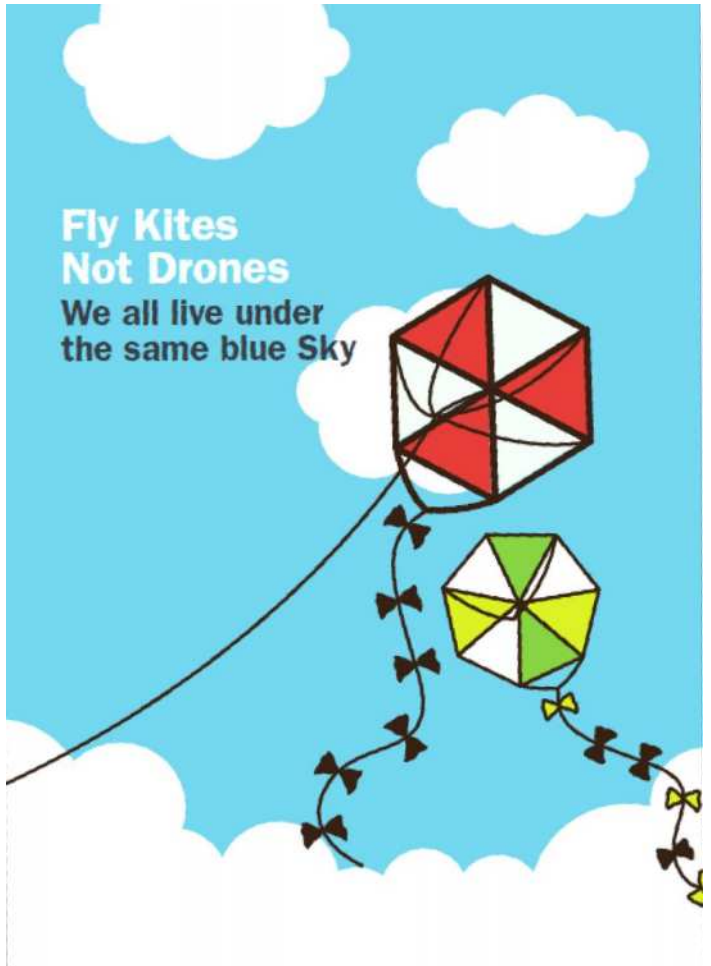
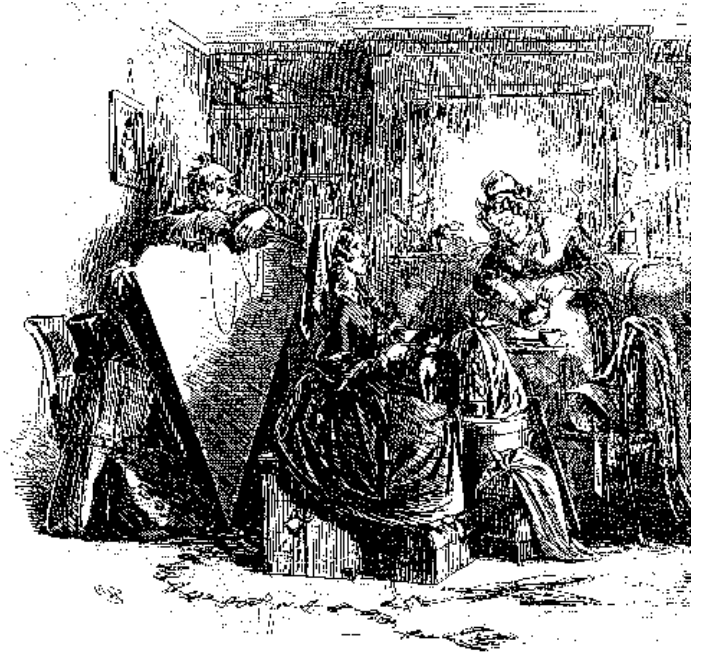
**Ken Savage**

12 November 2016

Congratulations to Colin, Dave, Angela, Rob, Ann, Alan & Ethan the Crosby Flyers for collecting £1.110.70 over the last six months for Zoe's Place, flying kites at Crosby. Thanks to all the public that donated.







I was very touched to receive a pair of socks from a member at the recent Annual General Meeting. Members will instantly realise the relevance of the gift..

I took them home and my daughter said , "What do the flags say Daddy?" I immediately rushed to the computer to translate.....On showing her the translation she asked " Does the person who gave them to you like you Daddy?"..... Thanks Kevin , the jury is still out.... However my daughter loves the socks.....



This certificate was awarded to

**Peter Spray**

for achieving the status of 'Midlands Kite Flier of the Year', acknowledging all the hard work and effort that they have put into their kite flying over the years.

It is with great pride and surprise that I accept the award of Kite Flier of the Year 2016. In the three years that I have been with the club it has given me immense joy to attend the various meetings and events we have held over the years and I look forward to the coming year with the same excitement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone I have met for their warmth, kindness, advice (even about kites and kite flying) and friendship.

It is lovely on a nice day surrounded by the beauty of nature and the great outdoors to see the kites in the air and the families who visit sharing in the spectacle we all, as members, aim to achieve.

Long live the club and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all and your families.

Peter Spray



This certificate was awarded to

**SKYBUMS**

Helene and Paul Morgan

for achieving the status of 'Midlands Kite Maker of the Year', acknowledging all the hard work and effort that they have put into their kite making over the years.





# Not just for Halloween.

I had liked the Skeleton kites sold, under license, by Premier kites since I first saw an



obscure video of one last year.

I knew who manufactured them but, despite the many favours I had done them in the past, they were not willing to give one up to me - even at a price!

I had corresponded many times with Premier Kites too but, historically, they have only ever contacted me when they wanted something - their customer service ethic doesn't appear to me to stretch to replying to emails - however, in other correspondence, a number of people have told me that I'm not lonely!

## UK Supplier

And then I saw [kiteworld.co.uk](http://kiteworld.co.uk) had got a stock of them in and I was swiftly on the phone to order up three ...

One 21ft long Black, a 21ft white pirate and the only 10ft pirate they had in stock.

It's OK - I had obtained pre-permission from Marilyn to buy them - well, for two of them anyway.

They arrived within two days - Happy Bunny!

## How do they fly?

I will say that didn't really expect these kites to fly as well as they do.

The head is the part that flies (the kite) - and the body is the tail held out by two connecting rods across the shoulder and two rods, under bowed tension, as the hips.

The head's are big and flat and don't look at all as if they will fly but once the 'bones' are unfurled and clipped and velcro'd on, everything makes extreme sense.

There have just got to be some other designs yet to be imagined using this same simple form - or perhaps there are?

We both think that they are quite amazing in the way that they fly and have no hesitation in recommending them.

Of course I didn't expect a flying line in the bag from Premier Kites but any light line will do as they launch easily and slowly with minimal pull before gently dancing, just like - well I suppose just a skeleton in the sky really?

## Over confidence

A word of warning though - Don't have your first assembly session out on the kite field.

There are a fair number of different sized rods to find a place for and a ribbon to tie them in place at the centre.

Some of the rods are supposed to go through sleeves that you don't notice until you've assembled past that stage and the odd shape will have you working harder than Lord Sugar's face cream in even the slightest breeze if you're not able to display positivity about what goes where!

Flatly refusing to look at the instructions (Marilyn is getting as bad as me now), we showed great teamwork in assembling the first head in our lounge.

Once we had finally sussed it, the second and third kites took no time at all.

The 'body' section just unrolls and is easy.

However, we still have not yet taken up the challenge of setting it up on the field and the kites are put in the car last, on top of the rest of the gear.

## Pressure on prices

By the time this article is published, kite buyers like myself will have noticed an increase to the cost of kites.

Yes, the dollar or euro price tag should be pretty much the same unless the greedy ones amongst the manufacturers continue on their upward path but the price UK traders have to pay leaves them in a difficult position.

As most of the raw materials have to cross water before they get here even kite makers and kite manufactures will be forced to look at costs too so maybe the companies that have so far thrived on our contributions should be taking a more long term view and not raining quite so hard on the fire that keeps them warm? (Well that's the polite version!).

# FROM CLOSE ENCOUNTER KITES



If I  
can

finish up with words of wisdom to reflect on for all those teaching or learning to fly multi-line or to those with kite making projects stuck halfway.

"You have only failed if you give up - until then it is just experience".

Happy New Year to all.

Allan and Marilyn

[kitedisplays.co.uk](http://kitedisplays.co.uk)

Hello All

After a weather-wise, wet and miserable weekend there follows the inevitable catch up of videos just edited - some filmed in warmer, more inviting climates!

All kite related, short and, we hope, entertaining.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IB5uMObfHKY>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mt6c3XVp\\_a2c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mt6c3XVp_a2c)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGxAN3C-3Fg>

Best regards

~ Allan and Marilyn

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





# Folding paper bike helmet wins James Dyson Award

Affordable bike helmet that could save lives wins prestigious design award.



17 November 2016

A rain-resistant, folding, paper bicycle helmet has won the prestigious international James Dyson Award for clever inventions.

The EcoHelmet is made from recycled paper woven into a honeycomb structure that protects the wearer's head from impact from any direction.

It is designed for those using bike-sharing schemes who may not always carry protective headwear.

World-famous inventor Dyson praised it as an "incredibly elegant" solution to an "obvious problem".



Isis with Sir James Dyson holding her invention (Kimberly Mufferi/Dyson)



The prize, which is open to university level students or recent graduates, was won by design grad Isis Shiffer, of the Pratt Institute of Design in New York, who bagged a cool £30,000 for claiming top spot.

It beat a wearable asthma management system and smart contact lenses that can measure glucose levels to the award.

Isis said: "I was lucky enough to be studying at Royal College of Art and the Imperial College of London for a semester, and was granted access to Imperial's crash lab.

"They had a European standard helmet crash set-up that allowed me to gather enough data on EcoHelmet's proprietary honeycomb configuration to know it was viable and worth developing."



Folded and unfolded versions side-by-side (Kimberly Mufferi/Dyson)

There were more than 3,200 serious injuries to cyclists on the roads in 2015, the Department for Transport said.

According to a 2016 study of 64,000 injured cyclists by the University of New South Wales in Australia, wearing a bike helmet can reduce the risk of serious head injury by almost 70%.

Dyson added: "EcoHelmet solves an obvious problem in an incredibly elegant way.

"But its simplicity belies an impressive amount of research and development. I look forward to seeing EcoHelmets used in bike shares across the world."



Perhaps this could be standard issue for the Rokkaku Challenge.....



# Fisherman's friend: space-age rod that's changing the sport

Simon de Bruxelles

A rod made from the revolutionary material graphene is transforming the sport of fly-fishing.

Graphene is one million times thinner than a human hair and 200 times stronger than steel.

The rod has been developed by a former world champion fly fisherman and a scientist who worked on the space shuttle for Nasa and a two leading Formula One motor racing teams.

The manufacturers have been unable to keep up with demand for the rod, even though it is retailing for over

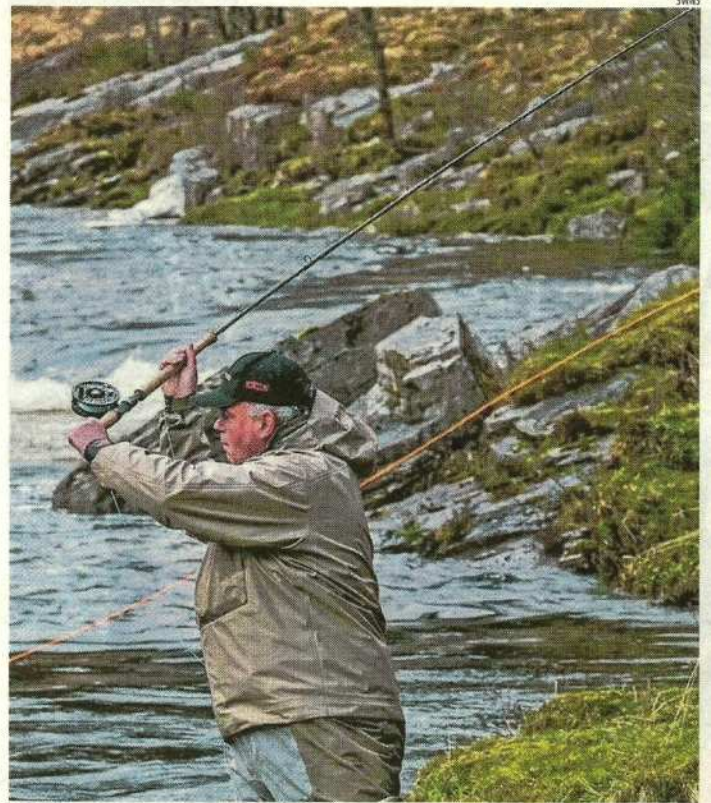
£1,000. The development of graphene won two scientists from Manchester University the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2010. It has been billed as a "miracle material" that could revolutionise computing and speed up the internet because of its qualities as a super efficient conductor of electricity.

It has already been incorporated into a tennis racquet used by Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic but has not previously been used to make a fishing rod.

The rod was developed by Scott Mackenzie, a three-times world spey-casting champion. Mr Mackenzie and Gary Savage, an engineering professor, claim the lightness and strength of the material adds yards to the casting ability of the rod, giving extra reach to salmon fishers.

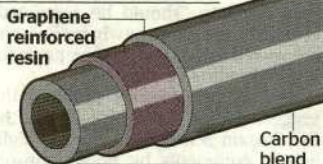
Mr Mackenzie, from Inverness, told *The Herald* in Glasgow: "We had an incredibly exciting opportunity to take the art of salmon fishing to a whole new level by harnessing graphene before anyone else, and the results are proving spectacular."

"The rod is a game-changer for expert and less experienced anglers. It not only flexes deeply at the beginning of a cast but it straightens again powerfully, which gives you distance, and critically it also retains the vital 'feel' that



Scott Mackenzie, a three-times fishing champion, casts his graphene-based rod

## The £1,000 rod



● Graphene is the thinnest and stiffest known material, making the rods strong, light and flexible

● Graphene can stretch up to 20 per cent of its length, helping to make the ultimate fly rod

salmon fishers need to adjust their technique and accuracy."

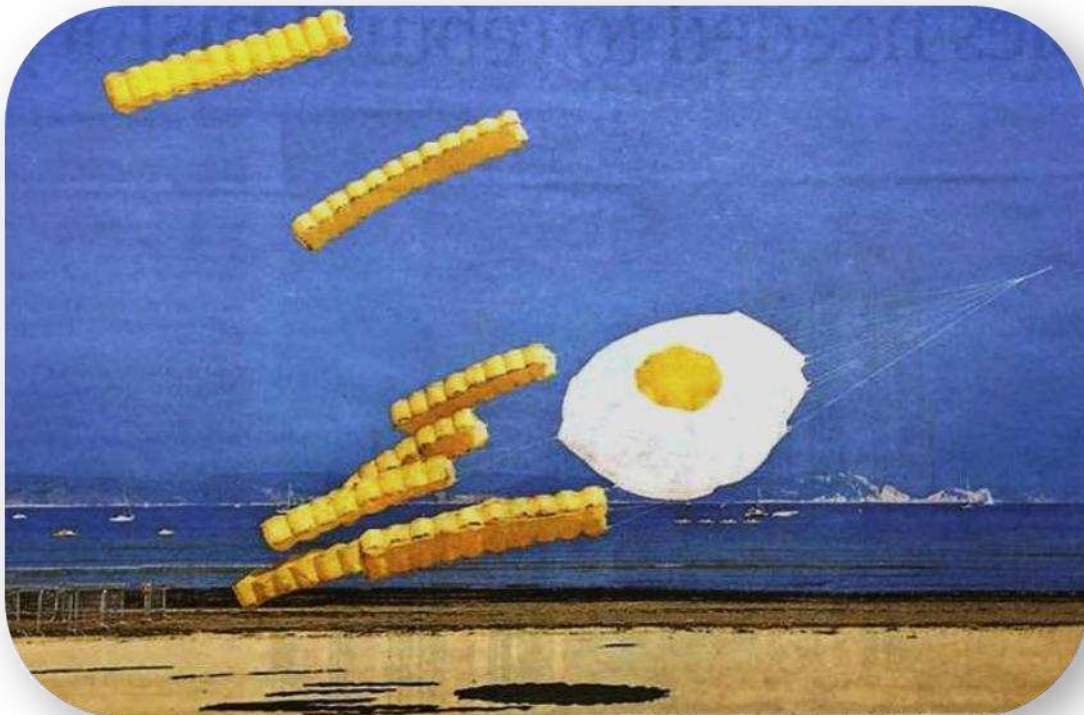
The Mackenzie FXI rods come in 13ft, 14ft and 15ft lengths.

Mr Mackenzie's partner, an Oxfordshire-based professor, Gary Savage, worked on Nasa's space shuttle heat

shields, and played leading roles in Honda and McLaren F1 teams that

achieved three drivers' and three constructors' world championships. He said: "We have taken the best of everything we have learned in Formula One to create the best fly rod ever made."

Not being an expert on 'modern' materials I found this article of interest. Lets hope kite spars don't get this expensive.!!! Ed.



The Times Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017

## A Light Lunch.

This photograph of a novelty kite at Boscombe beach in Bournemouth is on show at the 'Photomonth' exhibition in Bethnal Green, east Londo

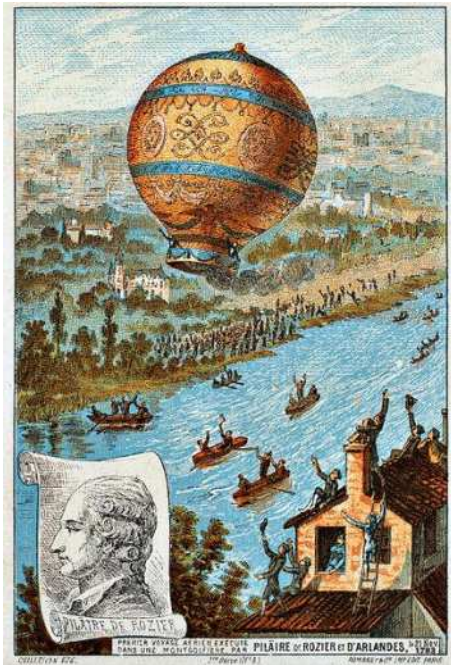




LE PREMIER VOL DE LA BALLOON (1783)



ZAMBICCARI ET SES DEUX COMPAGNONS DANS L'ADRIATIQUE (1804)



FRANÇOIS VOISSE AU DÉPART DE LA MONTAGNE ROZIER, PAR LA MONTAGNE ROZIER, LE 24 MARS 1783



DESCENTE DE JACQUES GARNIERIN EN PARACHUTE (1797)



ARBAN EST RECUEILLI PAR DES PÊCHEURS ITALIENS (1846)



LES UTOPIES DE LA NAVIGATION AÉRIENNE AU SIÈCLE DERNIER.



