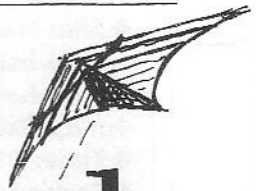


ROMAN CANDLE 58.



The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad. The International Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils.... Truly a little bit of the fun has gone now, but we'll carry on regardless, 'cos thats what the little bit of fun would have wanted.....

Leap of faith for a student of Leonardo



Seen on T.V. it was very apparent just how stable Leo's design was. Obviously with the benefit of modern experience as to how various Chutes perform the makers pretty well knew what to expect, plus they had the get out of a modern chute if it had gone bad...

A BIZARRE contraption of wooden poles, canvas and ropes was launched from two miles high yesterday by a Briton who had nursed a lifelong ambition to prove that Leonardo da Vinci invented the first working parachute.

Adrian Nicholas ignored the advice of experts who told him that the 1871b design would not fly.

Strapped in a harness to which four thick ropes were strung beneath a frame of pine poles covered in canvas, Mr Nicholas was hoisted by a balloon 10,000ft above southern Africa.

The balloon dropped altitude for a few seconds, filling the parachute with air, before the harness was released. There was no sudden fall or dramatic swinging and the parachute floated gently through the skies. Its descent was so slow that two parachutists accompanying

Mr Nicholas's attempt twice had to brake to stay level.

"The whole experience was incredibly moving," said Mr Nicholas. "Looking down I could see Mozambique and the sugar cane and fruit plantations below us.

"It didn't feel like I was under a modern parachute at all. They descend forward and push wind into your face. The sensation was like floating under a balloon. It gently suspended me and it didn't twist and turn."

Mr Nicholas, 38, fell for around 7,000ft, with a black box recorder measuring his five-minute descent, before cutting himself free and releasing a conventional parachute. The Leonardo device floated to the ground and was not badly damaged.

Last night, its builder and Mr Nicholas's girlfriend, Katarina Ollikainen, was checking it before a repeat drop

today in the Mpumalanga province of South Africa.

Mr Nicholas, from London, who holds the world record for the longest freefall — a 10-mile descent — said: "I think Leonardo da Vinci would have been pleased. Parachute designers, balloonists, helicopter experts and pilots all told me that it wouldn't work and that it would be unstable. It's taken 500 years to find out, but it seems they are all wrong."

Leonardo, who scribbled down his design in a notebook in Milan in 1485, envisaged a four-sided linen pyramid, 24ft square at the base.

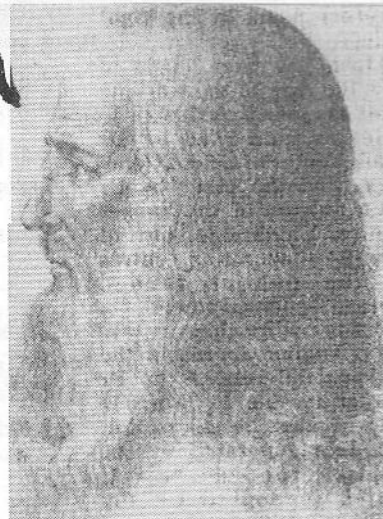
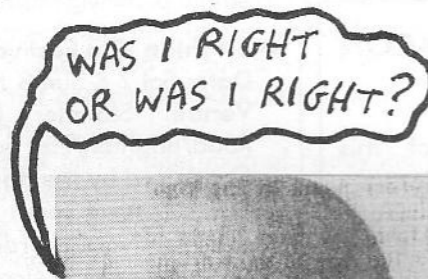
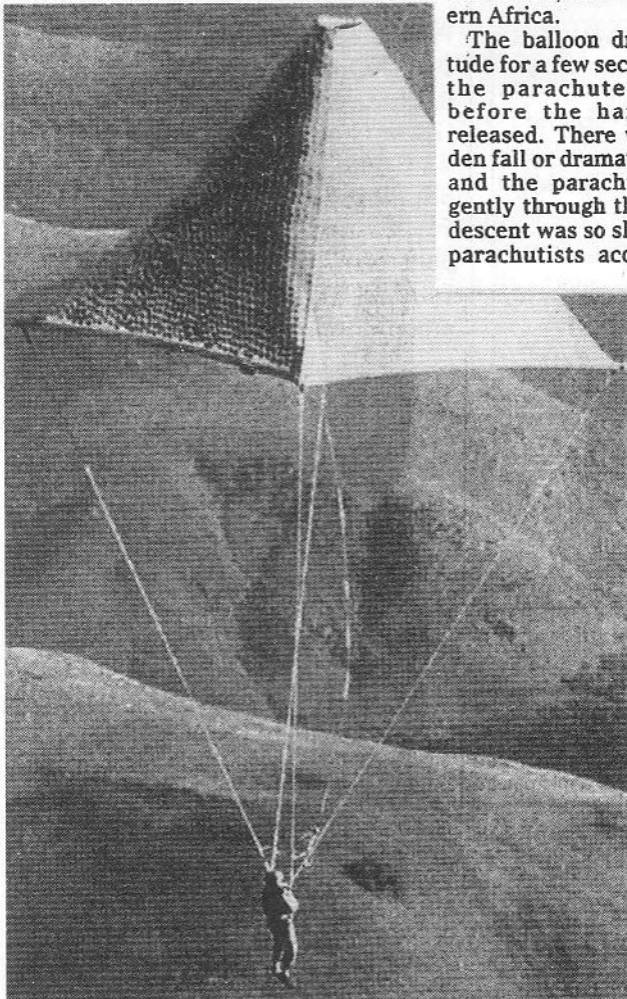
Yesterday's parachute was made using tools and materials which would have been available in 15th-century Milan and the only concession to the 21st century was the use of thick hot air balloon tapes to prevent the canvas ripping when it was being lifted by the balloon.

The descent was studied by a team of computer scientists from Salford University, who plan to create a three-dimensional computer model of the parachute in flight.

Although Leonardo sketched many designs for flying machines, it is likely that the parachute was designed as a quick escape from a bridge or tower.

Alongside his drawing he wrote: "If a man is provided with a length of gummed linen cloth with a length of 12 yards on each side and 12 yards high, he can jump from any great height whatsoever without any injury."

Without a means of getting into the air, however, the parachute had no practicable value. In 1783 a Frenchman, Louis-Sebastien Lenormand, was said to have made the first parachute jump when he leaped from a tree with two parasols.



Inventor: Leonardo da Vinci

Brown bears reprieved in French Pyrenees

A Group of Slovenian Bears from the French Pyrenees has won a reprieve from deportation.

The bears lucky escape only happened after a Conservationist took the case to the highest court in France.

Impoverished farmers in the Ariège area claimed that the bears were responsible for killing 200 sheep in the last year.

The bears were turned loose in the mountains in 1996 as part of an attempt to restore the native population after ruthless hunting led to the bears disappearing from the Pyrenean Area in the eighties. Apprehensive farmers had lobbied the French government to insert a clause in the latest hunting bill, which would enable local mayors to capture and deport any bear considered to be a danger to the local domestic livestock.

However the highest court in France has decreed that this would be against EEC rules on conservation, and now the farmers are up in arms. There are only about 10 bears in the area and the conservationists would like this number to rise to about 100.

Roland Guichard of Artus, the organisation trying to protect the bears said, The hunters are furious, we are happy. The bear was always part of the pyrenean landscape before they were exterminated, reintroduction on a larger scale would be good for tourism, but the bears opponents dont understand this, they just see them as a wild animal, there to be killed.

Trouble is , that whenever a sheep is killed, the locals immediately say it was a bear that did it and yes, baers are responsible for about 60 sheep deaths a year, whilst domestic dogs on the rampage, kill more than a 1000.

The European brown bear (URSUS ARCTUS) is a cousin of the North American Grizzly and can weigh up to 900lb and reach 7ft in height. Essentially vegetarian, the bears is not above opportunistic animal kills. It is however in a catastrophic plight according to the World Wide Fund for Nature, and is in greater danger of extinction than the giant Panda. The bears have been under attack ever since they were reintroduced, a protest march in the small town of Foix even had people carrying placards reading quite openly TUONS l'ours (Lets kill the bear) By 1999 the local mood had grown so ugly that Lionel Jospin the Prime Minister felt obliged to visit the region to try and calm things down.

It is now argued that the key to man and bear living in harmony is the return of the PATOU the Pyrenean guard dog which became much less used by shepheds as bear numbers dwindled. Consevatinsts say that if the dogs are on guard then the opportunistic bears will not go after the sheep.

Local farmers however remain far from convinced Jose Barbosa who manages a flock of 250 sheep in the Orlu valley where 54 sheep were mauled last year, said The bear is bloodthirsty and carnivorous, it is'nt a Teddy Bear.

**TOO RIGHT, BUT SURELY THE POOR CREATURES
HAVE TO LIVE SOMEWHERE, IS THAT TOO MUCH
TO ASK ?.....**



OH CHUTE! SKYDIVER LANDS CLINGING TO PLANE AFTER HIS LEG IS TRAPPED.....

Skydiver Andy Judy of Morgantown, Pennsylvania had a lucky escape when he survived a landing whilst clinging to the underside of a Plane, after getting hung up.

It all started to go Pear shaped at an altitude of 10500ft as Andy attempted to leave the Aircraft. Somehow a foot got caught in the ladder beneath the door and for thirty minutes Andy was bashed and battered by the slipstream as he struggled to free himself.

Even though Any unfastened his jump suit and removed his boot, hewas unable to release and fall free. The Pilot of the Aircraft finally decided to attempt a landing on the grass alongside the paved runway at Connellsville Airport, fully expecting the unwilling passenger not to survive Funnily enough, although Andy suffered cuts and bruises all over, he walked away from being part of the Aircrafts undercarriage. Although this was a pretty good Parachuting go wrong, it still does'nt qualify Andy for membership of BMISS.

CHINESE TO RELEASE 500 BEARS.....ABOUT TIME TOO.....

After a Seven Year Campaign, British conservationist Jill Robinson was in a celebratory mood after the Chinese Government signed an agreement, releasing the 500 bears

Jill, the founder of the "Animals Asia Foundation" had long campaigned against the somewhat dubiouspractice of holding the endangered Asiatic Black Bears in captivity on primitive farms, where they were fitted with catheters in order to extract the poor creatures bile from their gall bladders, for use in traditional Chinese medicines.

good on yer Jill, more power to your elbow.

MURDER BY PARACHUTE.....WEIRD OR WHAT?.....

A man who murdered a nurse by sabotaging her Parachute after learning that she would never return his affection has been jailed for life by a court in Germany.

Ralph Kasperek denied the charge but was convicted after a nine day trial on the charge of sabotaging both the main and reserve canopies of Andrea Ulrich, leaving her to plummet 10,000ft to her death after a routine jump at the Skydiving club in Munster where they were both members

From Roman Candle 50 Years ago, he lied.....

GRADINGS GRADINGS GRADINGS GRADINGS GRADINGS GRADINGS GRADINGS

New Members are hereby advised of the official B.M.I.S.S. Gradings. these have been developed over a long priod and are to be rigidly adhered to. There are no shortcuts

Zero to 10 jumps, NOVICE, The member must be under supervision of an expert at all times; 11 to 20 jumps, IMPROVER, The member is allowed to jump alone and to plan basic cock ups and go wrongs; 21 to 50 jumps, EXPERT, The member has a full grasp of tactics and techniques and can train and supervise the two lower grades; 51 jumps onwards, PRO, The member on attaining this grade is adjudged to be in total command on every jump. He or She is Master of every tactical situation and can Direct, Train and Supervise all lower grades.

Members of the two lowest grades are reminded that they should at all times heed the advice of a PRO if they are desirous of attaining the first rank of Parachuting Fauna.

B.M.I.S.S. as a brother and Sisterhood are a particularly self effacing group, but we do have one award and one only, it is "THE BROWN SKIDMARK" awarded for Valour and Devotion above and beyond the call of duty. The very first recipient of this was Gamley Bear, awarded the TBS for his conspicuous gallantry whilst testing the Fiendish GL SMOKEFLARE, It nearly blew the poor sods bum off.

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FAREWELL DROPNIK RON

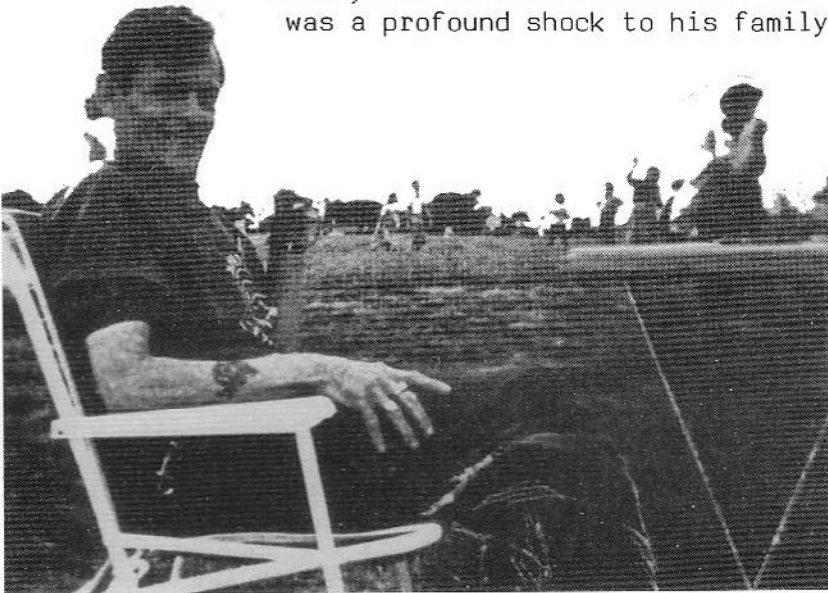
SO THERE WE WAS, BACK IN THE MISTS OF TIME, EIGHTYONE TO BE PRECISE, 'COR WAS IT THAT LONG AGO ?, BOMBING THE ODD BEAR, AS YER DO, WHEN THOUGHTS OF FORMING A PARACHUTING CLUB OR WOTEVER FOR PARACHUTING TEDDY BEARS CAME UP.....

Forming a club is one thing but, said club could really do with a snappy title and whilst quite a few had rattled around the bonce non had really caught what passes for the Boring Old Farts imagination.

Until that is one memorable day at Blackheath, or was it Thorndon ? who knows, when Rusty, one of Ron Macey's bears pulled off the pretty neat trick of delaying the deployment of his chute until he was about 20 ft from the ground,

All of a sudden a voice boomed out "*****' ***, 'e bearley made it" Bingo! Ronnie had just named the club. Unfortunately we were never able to use the full title in print, and ever since we have had to be content with the truncated version, though lots of you out there do know the full unexpurgated one.

Retired ex postal supervisor Ron Macey quit this vale of tears on June 20th this year. He had'nt been well for some time, but his passing was a profound shock to his family and friends. He was 70.



Ron Macey 1930-2000

achuting Rat, horrible looking thing but it did the para bizzo.

Ron was actually born in Wales, but would have made a better cockney than many born within the sound of Bow Bells.

He was an accomplished Kite maker, but actually bought far more than he ever made, but that was Ronnie, he just had to have them.

But, if Ron loved Kites , then he loved bombing fauna even more. First I know of to use a Radio Controlled release for his 'Tottnam' mob he was also the first and only Dropnik to have a Par-

With Rons passing, BMISS will never be the same thats for sure, but there again thats life. I for one will miss our face to face and telephonic rants as we tried to set the world to rights.....Farewell Ronnie, you was a good 'un boy.

Not really much more to be said, so as ever its the usual to the usual at ye olde Teddy torial, c/o THE BORING OLD FART, 48 Laurel Lane, West Drayton, Middx, UB7. 7TY. in what forever will be ENGLAND no matter what the traitors have planned, Bah! may their certain parts fester.

P.S. We have been asked, what is the significance of 42 in the R.C. logo, and at risk of boring the pants off those of you who know, we'll tell you that ts the answer to the ultimate question. "What is the meaning of life, the Universe, everything."

YEAH THEY TRULY DID BREAK THE MOULD

