

HEX 2A **ROMAN CANDLE 100A**

The
second
one off
edition

A special edition of the Journal of The Bearly Made It Skydive Squad. The international Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna, Flora and Fugi and the U.K. Ted Devils. For this issue only to include The Ted Berets, The Rainbear Skydive Corps, P.A.W.S. and other various groups. Probably not quite the usual standard of mindless drivel but trying to get somewhere near, still doing our best to upset the Po-faced and brought in to the 21st Century by being set out on one of those new fangled computer things.



CONGRATULATIONS

Little did I expect to be doing this when 12 years ago when I wrote the "One Off Edition" for issue 50 of this iconic publication. Well-done John for keeping going for all this time. Sadly I hear that this is to be the last issue of Roman Candle and so this must also be the last one off edition. I have NO intention of trying to continue John's work, but if you see a funny bear story please send it to me and there may be an occasional new letter.

B.M.I.S.S. moves in to the 21st century.

When the previous "One off" edition was produced we were in the last throws of the twentieth century and it has to be admitted that all the clever stuff was done by Number two son, Martin, one of the younger generation who understood the technology and unlike then is now earning his daily crust with it. As this facility no longer lives with its parents they have been dragged in to the age when your abacus is the same as your John Bull printing set. So eventually after a little practice and obtaining the BOF's blessing www.bmiss.org.uk was born. Here you will find all the collected wisdom of John and his bears including such things as the rules governing the



classes of record drops and would you believe it, copies of every issue of "Roman Candle" ever produced. If you've got an on-line teddy site please contact us so that we can put a link on the pages. We are also trying to collect details of all records that have been set so that we can get them all in one place.

Teddy Christmas lunch

My teddy turned down his Christmas lunch!

He said he was stuffed.

The Bear Facts from the Travel Lodge

For some reason best known to them selves, The Travel Lodge Hotel chain conducted a survey in 2010, on Teddy Bears. This revealed the following results:-

25% of men take their teddy bears with them on business trips because it reminded them of home and sleeping with them was comforting. What one asks did the remaining 75% sleep with to get their comfort?

The age of the average teddy bear is 27. No comment!!!!

In a 12 month period they had re-united 75,000 bears with their owners. The other 75%'s wives were not impressed.

The 75% preferred the traditional followed by the traditional teddy bear, then Winnie-the-Pooh and Paddington Bear.

Travel Lodge seem to have a fixation with teddy bears as they are now using them in their adverts. I wonder if they were some of the lost ones? I look forward to the adverts for the other 75% of travellers!

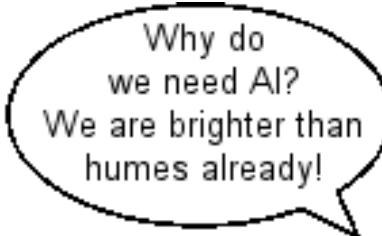
Make new friends at the age of 84

During the years when Winnie-the-Pooh appeared in The Hundred Acre Wood (1926 to 1928) he was known to be a very friendly soul easily making friends with various animals including pigs, tigers, rabbits and kangaroos. In 2010 he has not changed as he now makes friends with Lottie the otter in a new book "*Return to the Hundred Acre Wood*" by David Benedictus.

Thank goodness that Winnie was a bear with very little brain, otherwise it would have been "*Return to the 40.468564 hectare Wood*"!

Teddy bear gets AI

Fujitsu have announced a companion for the elderly. We have all heard about a second childhood, and now the Japanese have taken it one step too far with a teddy bear. This super bear is equipped with 13 sensors, motorised paws and face, a camera in the nose and more software than it took for the first moon landing. The more time you spend with it watching you the better it knows you and what you like. It responds to your facial expressions and your touch, laughing when you tickle him and complaining if you pinch him. Fortunately these are only to be marketed in Japan so I will be sticking to my 27 year old. (see Bare Facts above)



Why do we need AI?
We are brighter than humes already!



iPad app

If you speak this language apparently one of the top 50 iPad apps of last summer was Aury'n's "*What does my teddy do all day?*" They have now launched the sequel "*What does my teddy do all night?*" I'm not sure we want to know the answer. It does raise the question; are iPads as nice to cuddle as teddy bears? Or the other 75%. (see Travel Lodge report above)

THE END OF AN ERA

Since starting this issue I have heard that John is stopping producing Roman Candle. I can't let that go by un-noticed! I have had to make a couple of alterations to the earlier text to take account of this.

The Bearly Made it Skydive Squad was founded on May 31st 1981 and the first issue of Roman Candle appeared in July that year. Like other kite magazines this started as an occasional news letter expecting to run for a few issues. Who would have guessed that 30 years later, with very few breaks, we would be seeing the final issue Number 100? Least of all, I suspect, John.

I first got addicted to parachuting bears in about 1988 when I was flying with a group that later became White Horse Kite Flyers where one of the founders, Ron Gunter was entertaining the children with teddy drops. Having joined KSGB I got my first issue of Kite Flyer in April 1990 and inside found issue 16 of Roman Candle. That set the direction for the rest of my life. John's sense of humour has meant that like many other aficionados of para-bears I can't wait for my next fix. What will we be like when it gets to July?

Not long after this I first met John at Portsmouth and was delighted to find that he talked just like he wrote, there is certainly nothing false about him and he calls a spade a bl**dy shovel. Seeing what he did gave me many new ideas and so after a very busy day at Hengistbury Head I spent the winter coming up with my electric winch. This earned me the moniker of "Electric Arthur" from John. He also stopped me dead in my tracks when he presented me with one of the rare BMISS trophies for services to para-fauna.

It is only Roman Candle that has come to an end and not the BMISS. To ensure that this lives on I have, with John's permission, set up a web site where there are copies of every issue of RC and any other information I can get my paws on. It would be good if any one had pictures of John and his bears.

It has never ceased to amaze me that para-bears are so popular every where and even when I went to America one of the most prized possessions was a genuine JB bear. I also found that a number of people around the world get special copies of RC.

There can be very few people who can match John's achievements, 30 years of articles and acknowledged around the world as a very special person.

Very many congratulations John and thanks for giving so much enjoyment to so many people. We will miss your publications but wish you all the best in the future and hope that this may give you more time to see us on the kite fields.

So that's it from Electric Arthur and The Ted Berets but please keep in touch via arthur@tedberets.co.uk or the good old snail mail that has kept John going for the last 100 issues. Well done BOF. How the hell did you manage it? Sorry I haven't sent you any thing recently but I was saving for this issue.

