

Out of this world at the edge of space.



In 2017 the communities of Harleston and district (a small market town and surrounding villages in Norfolk, England) resolved to send messages far and wide to voice their deep desire and hope for peace at home and abroad. 1,000 origami cranes, symbols of peace, each bearing a hand-drawn or hand-written message and an image of a swift, were made and their wingtips clipped to journey across continents, countries, towns and villages – in the same way that the vast migratory flights of Harleston’s cherished swift populations know no boundaries. Their ultimate destination is the Memorial Peace Garden in Hiroshima, Japan, via Ground Zero and the United Nation’s Peace Bell in New York. On the day that these cranes’ paper wingtips were launched on their astonishing 36km flight to the edge of space by the Earth to Sky project at Bishop, California, Harleston’s prayers for peace became undoubtedly the highest in the world that day.

The project is supported by the Rotary Club of Harleston and District and by community group, Harleston’s Future.

The photograph shows the 1000 wingtips in their clear sphere, set inside the United Nations wreath symbol and under the black canopy of space. The second sphere contains little cut-out swifts to flutter when the research balloon popped. The payload is topped by a small origami crane.