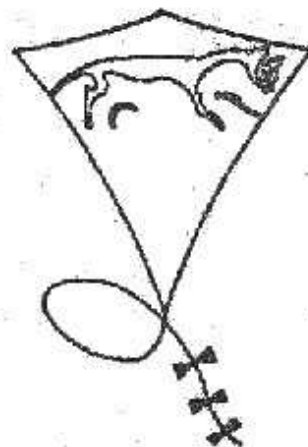


Cowpat Hill

White Horse Kite Flyers
Autumn Issue 2000
October - December



Robinson's Ramblings

I would like to thank Dave & Jane for producing "COWPAT" for the past 9 years, this club newsletter was first produced by Richard Everett, it was conceived one wet Sunday afternoon, when we had to retire to the local pub from a very wet Barbury Castle, I wrote the first article! Not dissimilar to the drivel I have been writing ever since. I wanted to name it Private Skye, (having been an avid reader of Private Eye for the last 20 years) the idea being that we could take a tongue in cheek view of the kiting fraternity, however this was over-ruled by Richard in favour of "COWPAT HILL", a name given to Barbury Castle, by Doug Jones, when he first visited the site. Richard eventually left the club and Dave & Jane stepped forward, it's never easy writing club magazines because they rely totally on YOU! the members keeping a constant flow of articles, I know that sometimes articles have been in very short supply (thank God for Arthur Dibble). Don't forget it's your magazine, it doesn't matter if your article is large or small it all helps! The new Editor will be Tracy Willis (she volunteered, honestly no arm twisting whatsoever!) she will need all the help she can get. It doesn't matter what it is, a kite plan, a story, a recipe, how about writing a profile of yourself and how you got into this absorbing hobby of ours!

Regards

Dave Robinson

White Horse Kite Flyers
PO Box 585
SWINDON
SN3 3YR

Ireland 2000

We'd made it through to Friday without managing to do it. What, you might ask? The answer is - spend a day on the beach in Ireland. The weather hadn't been dreadful but there'd been some of the damp stuff every day so far. Ardmore, County Waterford was duly graced with the Joneses' presence, somewhat diminished, there being only the two of us - but we were there!

It was good kite flying weather so it just had to be done. Complete with cabana, windmills and kites, we settled on a suitable spot on the beach and opened up some bags.

With Dave flying a Della Porta picture and myself a pair of legs, we first of all made an old Irishman very happy (even if he did think we were Americans at first). He managed to do something he'd not done since he was a boy - he flew a kite (our legs). His face was a picture when I did a 'Don Mock' on him and just handed the kite over for him to enjoy. Fan number 1!

Later on, an old lady thought that we'd set up a stall and tried to buy one of our windmills. "To be sure, t'would look grand in my garden."

We then spent a fairly quiet afternoon and were on the point of packing away, when we were approached by a large, extended Irish family. One of the women first asked if we'd flown all our kites or if there were still more to come. We'd been entertaining them all afternoon, it turned out, without even realising it as they were sitting behind us. They asked us all sorts of questions about the kites and were fascinated by what we had to tell. The Joneses do there publicity job again! It was much later when we did finally manage to pack up, having got yet more kites out for them to see.

We'd tried setting up a world record by this time. They all wanted a picture of themselves flying one of our kites. Luckily, the kites behaved themselves so the record "largest number of people to be photographed flying a Jones kite", was duly set".

I'm sure that they'll be looking out for us again, if we're brave enough to risk a part two to this story.

We'd been to Ardmore, met the locals and collected some fans!

Jane and Dave Jones.

Thanks (rev2)

I am getting fed up writing the same article again but Dave and Jane are giving up and are even determined not to bow to Marla pressure this year. However I can't let this pass without saying a final thanks for the wonderful job they have done all these years. I understand we have a volunteer to take over and I do not envy her task of maintaining the standard Dave and Jane have set.

I believe that I kept up my record of not letting them publish a Dibble free issue even though in the earlier part of this year family commitments combined with time consuming work load and the usual frantic kiting schedule made it a little difficult to maintain the usual stream of garbage. I intend to try and continue my record unless the new editor has a more selective technique.

How about the rest of you, where, what, how have you flown in the new millennium? Let's have some articles to get the next issue off to a roaring start! (I've got at least one started thanks to an idea from Francesca)

At least the new editor should be able to depend on regular articles from one source who know just how frustrating it can be to produce a magazine with no copy. Are members aware how close we were to not getting the third issue this year? Do you really want to end up with a news letter published in Kite Flier?

So for the very last time from me, thank you both for the great job you have done for the last nine years.

Arthur

Swindon 2001

Here we go again, its time to announce the date of next year's Swindon Kite Festival. It's on the second weekend in May. May 12/13th. The normal laid back format, except for the first time STACK will be at the event, all of you out there who like "Swindon" because of its laid back style, please don't be worried about the addition of STACK, they will have their own arenas, and will only be giving demonstrations in the main arena, all competitive events will be held in separate arenas!

At next year's event we are holding a competition for a kite made from newspaper. I got the idea from a festival that Janet, myself and other members of the WHKF, attended in New Zealand, about 7 years ago. On the plane, on the way to the festival, I thought it would be novel to make a sled from a Financial Times, we

couldn't because there wasn't one on the plane! However I'm glad there wasn't, how embarrassing it would have been. I was completely knocked back with the entries, Lots of Eddys, Deltas & Sleds etc but I didn't expect to see a Cody with about a 4ft wingspan, needless to say it won! However, whilst flying, it started to rain, the maker didn't bother to bring it in, and eventually it fell out of the sky, in many pieces, looking more like papier maché, than a kite. So to the rules: it has to be made from newspaper, you can use wood for the spars, No Carbon Fibre!! also in view of what happened to the one in New Zealand you can use model aircraft dope (that's if it works on newspaper?) There will be a prize for the winner, however it won't be a big one! unless some kind soul wants to come forward with a big prize, it will be a voucher for £25 to be spent at one of the trade stalls.

Our main guest at next year's Festival will be Dan Kurahashi from Canada. Dan originates from Japan, and is an expert at many traditional kite making methods, especially kite trains, he also exceptionally skilful at making miniature kites, not only will he be flying, he will be demonstrating some of his kite-making skills.

Regards

Dave Robinson

Duck Foot Festivals

Next time anyone makes a comment about wet festivals at Swindon just remind them about the millennium ones. Swindon was great but how about Portsmouth and Bristol?

Southsea Common takes some beating as the place not to be on a wet windy Saturday morning. And that is what we got this year. I went down on the Friday evening which was glorious and strolled across the grass to meet up with many friends who had arrived earlier. Very windy but sunny with lovely white clouds. Out to a meal that evening and whilst we waited and waited and waited for the food to arrive along comes the rain. It poured all night and after a good breakfast in Rees Hall we realised that the parking meter had to be fed or the car moved. The latter was chosen and so we headed to the field where for a while we sat in the car until some idiot who had driven down for the day 'phoned me to say where was I. Parked in the car next to you dummy. We ran across to the marquee to find various wet hopefuls standing looking out at the rain. After a while some of the organisers turned up to deliver chairs for the work shop and we gladly put these to use and sat looking out at the rain.

After lunch(ate) it did dry up and with the site so well drained the 3 cm. of standing water in the main arena did disappear (we did suggest a display of kite

surfing) and the remainder of the weekend was glorious.

Bristol was a different matter, I arrived early Saturday morning after encountering a little rain on the journey to find parts of the site very wet and this did not drain. They tried hard to make some of the public areas usable by putting down wooden boards but why put the main marquee and beer tent in the middle of a pond? The evening meal was made a real trial as the tables were on these boards and if any one trod on a board supporting one leg of the table the whole thing went unstable.

The weather stayed dry and the usual spectacular festival was a pleasure to be part of. The BIG legs did their thing as usual attempting to wipe out the rest of the kites in the arena display but every one expects this in the lumpy winds which one gets at Ashton Court.

Despite the weather I enjoyed both festivals and would recommend them to anyone who has not all ready experienced them. They are great events to meet friends old and new and see the latest innovations in kiting. Perhaps one day I will get to Dieppe which I understand is even better.

Arthur

Sky Chat

Well here we are at the end of the Season, the end of our year and the end of an era. Sadly this is the last issue of "Cowpat Hill" edited by Dave and Jane Jones. Over the years of the Club the "Cowpat" has risen from a single sheet newsletter into a full-blown many-paged magazine. This is due to the hard work of Dave and Jane in getting articles in, sorting them out into some order and in my case, better grammar. I know this is a thankless task and very difficult to get it ready on deadlines, but you have succeeded and produced a magazine which is the envy of many other clubs. Thank you again Dave and Jane and I hope you can now sit back and read the "Cowpat" at your leisure.

To the future we are grateful that Tracey Willis has offered to take over the editorship of "Cowpat" and we wish her all the best. But be warned she is on the lookout for slips of the month, oh! Sorry Quote of the month. There may be changes to the layout of the magazine, but that's the editor's prerogative. Here's looking forward to the New Year.

Well now back to the kite flying at the end of the summer, busy as usual with workshops going well throughout the season with just One Sky, One World to finish on at Barbury. The last few Festivals were for pleasure, or that was the hope.

The weather could have played a better part, but that's Kite Flying. Portsmouth was a bit wet on Saturday, then cleared and ended up on Monday with Martin giving a virtuoso performance with the big kites abounding. Bristol started in chaos on Friday because of an accident on the Avon Bridge which gridlocked Bristol for around 20 miles at least, plus heavy rain all day. An organisers' nightmare, but the show must go on and it did. Well done to Avril and the Avon group. Kite flying at Bristol was by and large a little better than usual. The wind did blow but it could have been a lot better. By this time the American contingent was growing daily, Marla and Rob Pratt had been with us since before Portsmouth to be followed by Ron and Lisa (Ron & Marla's other daughter) and Greg and Sue Clarke. These were added to by the time of Dieppe with Sam and Dawn Ziler and Little Vic Eshpeter. Now we come to Dieppe, as usual a grand display of Nations present, thirty-one at the last count. Something for everyone and if anybody ever says that they never saw much at Dieppe, they must have too dark a glasses on. Weather was fine on arrival till Friday late afternoon and we caught the end of the storm that flooded the South of England, which in turn spoilt Saturday. Sunday turned out fine and The Starving Horse International Team put on a display till the wind vanished. Final on Festivals it was the last Old Warden Festival on the 24th Sept. With fond memories I went for a last fly. I think it was my second festival, not quite back in the year dot, long enough. It is where I first met a young lad flying or trying to fly the largest kite I'd seen before on sash cord. After helping him get this monster (a Strat 7) into the sky he told me that was the only line he could afford. That lad has moved on since then and is probably one of the best large kite flyers in the country and by now you have guessed it was our Martin.

Now as usual I am on my hobby horse, the AGM is coming up fast and as I always say the strength of any club is in its members and the AGM is your time to have your say. Be there!

During the year many things have happened and I am not going to say anything now or I will not have a report for the AGM. But there is one thing that I am going to raise now so you all have time to think on it. I know last year you all told me I have got to ease up and delegate more work out. Well I have eased back, done less and delegated more, but I am afraid I will have to do even less in the future, they say it is old age and it comes very hard for me to ease off. If you as the Club feel that you want a more active Chairman, PLEASE, PLEASE elect a new Chairman, I will not be offended only be honoured to have served the Club and to do so in the future.

See you at the AGM and in the meantime Clean Winds and Tight Lines.

Don't forget the Mince Pie Fly in. This year it will be on December 27th, at Bibury, 10.00am until dusk.

Neil

Highworth Festival 2000

Sunday 17th September the second 'day' of the Highworth Festival main weekend featured the White Horse Kite Flyers occupying the prime site on the immense showground ! What a super sight met visitors as they walked in to the Rec with Colourful Kites zooming above them, the Silver Band playing.... The Club Tent and headquarters was placed healthily next to the Ice Cream van and in full view of the Goat Race track and bookmakers tent. The football pitch became a Kite Flying zone and the Musical Kite Display took precedence over the eagerly awaited goat races. No visitors on the day came to see the kites, the owls, the tennis tournament, the silver band, the classic cars BUT they did come to "gamble on the goats" !!! In fact the goats were far slower than the 5 pigs who were engaged for 2 short sprints.

Unfortunately the organiser found that the pig pens at either end of the racetrack next to the cricket square were left in a disastrous state by the marauding snouts of the bored pigs ! Thus we are especially grateful to the WHKF for making such good use of the football pitch and keeping all other humans and animals well away from Highworth Town FC's hallowed turf!

The Highworth Festival takes place in each Olympic year and this year we have in fact held over 30 separate events. The Festival Committee has enjoyed wonderful support from the whole community but is most grateful for the involvement of the White Horse Kite Flyers and all you did to make "Fun for all the Family" just that!

The Mad Hatter

Workshops

Whilst reading this newsletter you will obviously realise that there has been no Workshop this October. We asked Wolfgang & Constanz Grimsell, in May, to come up with some prices, unfortunately they got back to us a bit late, so we have had to put it back until February, the 2nd or 3rd weekend. The cost will be £40. You will go away with a kite you will be proud of.

Neil Harvey did their workshop at Fort Worden last year. He was full of praise for it. I can't give you the name of the kite you will be making, because you take a given shape and then design a kite of your own. The concept is different but very interesting.

We need at least 20 participants to make this workshop viable, so please get back to

me ASAP if you are interested, we will then send you a booking form. I need to know by the end of November!!

Regards

Dave Robinson

Bristol

On behalf of Avon Kite Flyers may I take this opportunity to thank all the White Horse Kite Fliers for both your participation in the Bristol Festival and also for the very kind loan of your trestle tables whilst the Festival ones were still stuck on the back of a lorry. The offer was very much appreciated and of invaluable assistance in the circumstances. Thank you all again. I trust you all enjoyed yourselves and look forward to seeing you all at the Mince-Pie Fly-In if not before.

Kind Regards,

David Johnson

PS Please pass on my commiserations to Martin Croxton - we haven't located his reel or hammer yet - I'll put a plea out in the next AKF Newsletter for any info.

Can I Help

I have recently joined WHKF but I find weekends taken up with childminding so Barbury is difficult. I do however have some spare time, and wondered if there were any little tasks the club required help with. If so just e-mail (pdemuth@yahoo.com) me or give me a call on 01793 829189 and I will see what I can do.

Regards

Paul D

(I'm sure we can find lots for you to do - Ed.)

Best Wishes

We have just read the Cowpat and are very sorry to hear that you have decided to resign as editors. It must have been a difficult job to keep going for as long as you have done. We know we are as guilty as the next person for not giving you copy for the magazine, so can we just say a big thank you from all thirteen members of the family who are members and wish you well for the future.

Brenda, John and the Mob

Where have you flown a Green Tadpole?

The first in a new series

We have heard about the Swifts parachuting bears in Tianamen Square and countless people flying kites various from the back of the ferry from Dieppe but where have you flown one of the infamous Workshop Sleds?

Mr. Harvey started the challenge when he presented me with a ready made one to take on our anniversary trip to Egypt. I now have photo' evidence of one flying in front of The Great Pyramid and also from the back of a Nile Cruiser. I am now looking for sponsors so that I can fly at the Taj Mahal and Ayres Rock as starters, so if you don't fancy writing an article your self perhaps you could send us instead.

Whilst in Cairo I was pleased to see that kite flying is a common past time with the children. Due to the heat people tend to start their day early and take a long break during the hottest part of the day. This means that they frequently start their social times mid evening. One of the main roads from Cairo to Giza has a very wide, fenced central reservation which is grassed and families go there for picnics and barbecues. As with children every where they take their footballs etc. There seems to be a continuous wind there, so many take kites and it gave some of the best night flying I have seen with the three stick hexagons illuminated by the head lights of passing vehicles.

Unfortunately I was not allowed to stop and play and was unable to find where to buy one. As for the one I took it was great and I was offered a bottle of water in exchange (worth about £1.50). I wish I had taken it as during the next leg of the journey one of the spines got broken. I am having a bit of trouble getting this back from the insurance.

Well that's where I flew mine. How about you?

Arthur

Word Search

C X W O I S E K A L F W O N S O
B C O E E C E L K I T E S Z S C
A D O W E L T L G E Y B I U S T
W J I G P F I I F R L R T G A S
I J K V G E K H H B X I U N L J
N Q L D H O R T I I S D Q B G R
D E D G L Z E A C F O L J E E I
S N A J T J T P O N O E R E R P
O X A Q D Z H W D O E J R R B S
C S E V D C G O Y B B N G S I T
K A Q W W Y I C F R I G L U F O
S R V B D R F P B A D E L T A P
R O K K A K U F R C D V J A W E
P A R A C H U T I N G T E D D Y
S O F T K I T E B O X K I T E I
C E T I K S T R O P S V B T W A

BEER

BOXKITE

BRIDLE

CARBONFIBRE

CODY

COWPATHILL

DELTA

DOWEL

FIBREGLASS

FIGHTERKITE

KITES

PARACHUTINGTEDDY

RIPSTOP

ROKKAKU

SLED

SNOWFLAKE

SOFTKITE

SPORTSKITE

TRAIN

WINDSOCKS

Kathryn Jones

(Interesting thoughts on kite fliers when you consider her first word - Ed)

High Into the Heavens

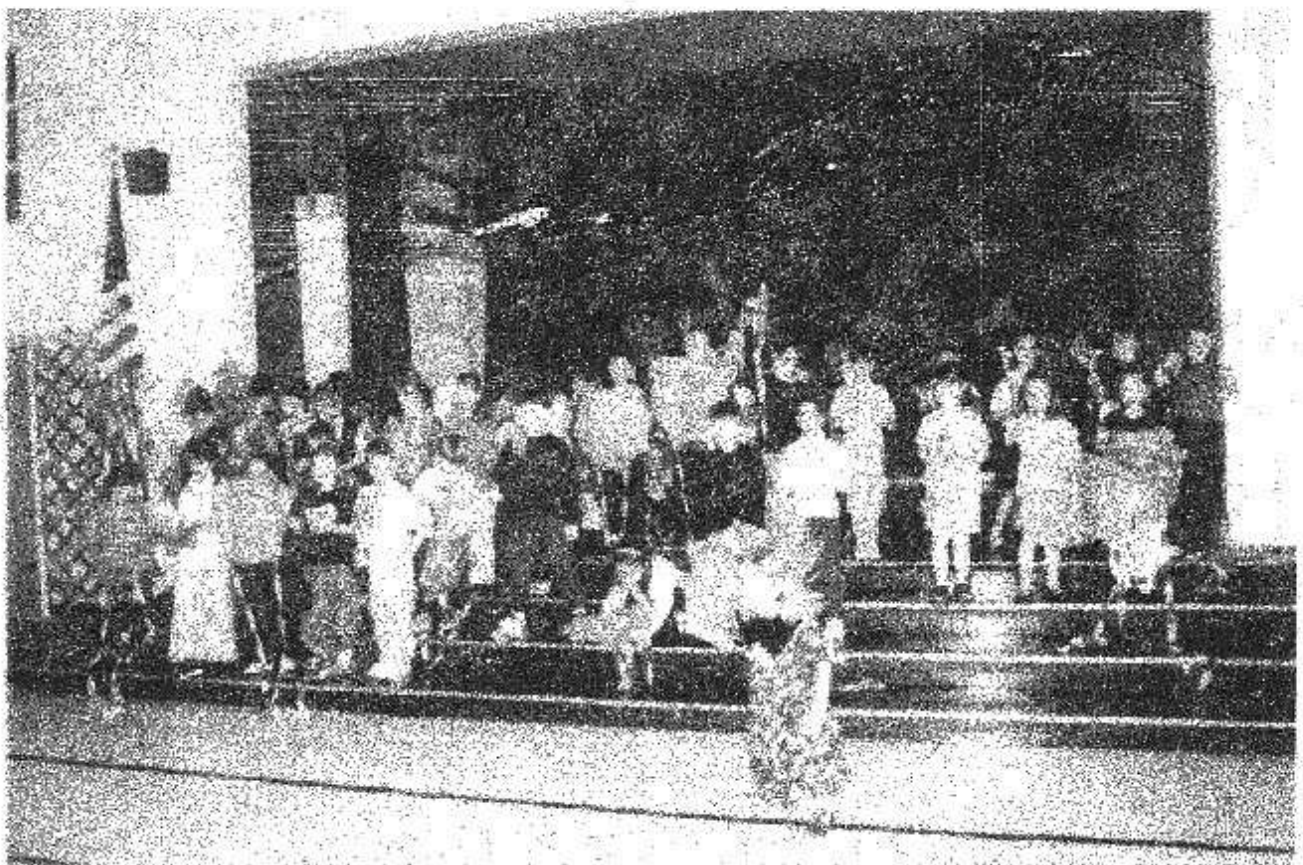
Many of you, I am sure, have had many happy hours, peaceful hours, just following your childhood delights of flying your kite. This soaring paper bird, that you tend to talk to, sometimes kindly with affection, other times with anger, perhaps your kite speaks back to you.

"I'm flying high and gracefully, despite that person down there hanging onto the line, without that handicap I could float high onto the heavens".

Could it though? Whenever you let go of the line, the kite crashes to the ground, collides with your neighbour's kite or just gets tangled in that tree.

Just like that kite, we need a tether to keep us sensibly grounded, but we benefit by raising our eyes from the earth-bound at least once a day. Spirits are made for soaring into the heavens!

The Old Man.



Ron and Marla's grandson Mason and his school mates after a WHKF workshop.

A final note from the Editors

This is the last time I will have to sit an puzzle about what to write. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as editor and I'm sure that Jane would say the same. Thanks to all of you who have supported in the last nine years, both by providing articles and by your kind words. Good luck to Tracy, I hope you all will support her, we certainly will. It will make a pleasant change to receive a magazine, I'm looking forward to getting my first ever Cowpat.

See you all at the AGM, I can only assume it's in the usual place (White Hart, Wroughton) on the second Sunday in November.

dajjmj@tesco.net

Kite Flying Safety Tips

The NEVERS of Kite Flying

- Fly a kite in wet or stormy weather, try to keep your kite line dry.
 - Fly a kite near power lines, transmission towers or aerials.
 - Fly a kite with wire or anything metallic in the line.
 - Fly a strong pulling kite without wearing GLOVES.
 - Leave odd bits of flying line etc on the flying site.
 - Fly a kite at over 200 feet*.
- *Kite festivals may have C.A.A. clearance to fly higher... ASK!

The Things to AVOID

- Motorways, roads, car parks railway lines or buildings.
 - Airfields and low flying air traffic patterns.
 - Members of the public...stunt flyers please take care!
 - Those kite eating trees.
 - Animals, they can be frightened by kites.
- Remember...your kites can get really quite lonely up high in the sky, just occasionally, look up and give them a little SHAKE.*

...AND PLEASE, MIND THOSE POWER LINES!

Where the WHKF go to fly their kites

WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS fly at Barbury Castle Country Park, Wroughton, Swindon, Wilts on the SECOND Sunday of each month
Will YOU be there?

Local WHKF contacts are:

Neil Harvey on: (01285) 740295
Arthur Dibble on: (01635) 865976
Dave Robinson on: (01793) 824208
and

Lynn & Brian Simpson on: (01793) 845346

COWPAT HILL

Journal of the White Horse Kite Flyers
Editorial Team: Dave & Jane Jones
15 Bucklebury Close, Stratton St. Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4JH
Tel: 01793 823493

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