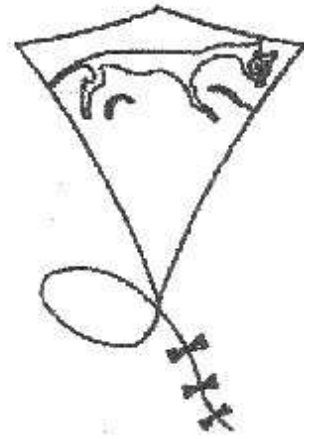


# cowpat hill



WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS  
AUTUMN ISSUE 2001  
OCTOBER - DECEMBER

## A.G.M

Don't forget it's the A.G.M on the 4<sup>th</sup> November so be there to have your say!

## LIGHT UP THE SKY

Some of us have been contacted on the email by Lloyd Kirton following some night flying at Portsmouth. He has suggested that a Nation wide night fly is held on 16 November along the lines of One Sky One World with every one registering having done some night flying with lights that evening, and any monies raised going to Children in Need which is on that day. I have proposed that we join in with this instead of our Halloween night fly.

All we require is a suitably public place to fly where we can set up and have our usual rain dance close enough to other people to raise some money and have a bit of fun doing it. Please let's hear YOUR ideas. I would certainly like to see WHKF support this new venture by another kite flyer.

Lloyd can be contacted at [l.kirton@ntlworld.com](mailto:l.kirton@ntlworld.com) and I would be pleased to hear from any one with suggestion (polite ones) via any of the usual routes.

Arthur

White horse kite flyers  
PO Box 585  
SWINDON  
SN3 4YR

## Dates

	November	
4th	AGM	White Hart Inn
11 <sup>th</sup>	Barbury	
16 <sup>th</sup>	Light up the sky	More info to pass on as soon as we sort something out
	December	
9 <sup>th</sup>	Barbury	
<b>Sat 29th</b>	Mince pie fly	Meadowlands Cotts, BIBURY
	Merry Christmas and Happy	New year to all

## For sale

1, Dragon-approximate wing span 14'-6" £100.00

All the special duty plastic materials are ready cut to enable the roof rack/carrying box for above kite to be assembled £40.00

2, Eagle - approximate wing span 24" £20.00

3, Bat - approximate wing span 30" £20.00

4, Butterfly - approximate wing span 36" £30.00

Special duty plastic roof rack/carrying box ready made and painted black complete with carrying straps. this box is designed to carry above three kites £30.00

5, wooden roof rack boxes complete with two locks internal sizes Length 7'10 1/2 width 15 1/4 height 6 3/4 £60.00

This box has only been used on approximately ten occasions

6, two sets of roof rack bars

1, one set complete with four locks to suit car with gutters. £30.00

2, one set complete with two locks to suit car with in laid gutters £30.00

7, Prism Kite Bag -- this is the normal roll up type of kite bag, with long pockets for the kites, also has pockets for the lines etc. £50-00

Sale of these items has been brought about by 'old age'

So may I please ask buyer to collect,

Please telephone Mr Gillman 01509 816192

## ROBINSON'S RAMBLE

Well what a year for kite flying with loads of events having to be cancelled due to the Foot & Mouth epidemic, we must thank all of those organisers who managed to still get their event up and running, it can be very hard making the decision, of, "should we go ahead or should we cancel" if like our club you run your event on a shoestring budget it makes the decision even harder when your "Gambling" with the club funds. Well those of you who managed to get to those events that did still go ahead I hope you thanked the event organiser, because it's been a very difficult year!!

At Middle Wallop kite festival we held a Committee meeting to make some decisions for our Festival next year, we have accepted an invitation to organise a Kite Festival, to run along-side the Oxford Balloon Festival, subject to a site inspection by Neil & Myself, the site inspection went well but when I wrote to our contact at Oxford Council, confirming in writing the subjects raised at our site meeting, she had some problems with on site camping, (she had agreed to this at the meeting!) She said they would only allow the essential organisers to camp, obviously, we couldn't agree to this. So at this moment in time She is looking locally to see if they could find a suitable camp-site very close to the festival site: if She doesn't find anywhere suitable then, unfortunately, it will mean that we will have to seek an alternative site for our festival. This would be a shame because this event wouldn't cost the club as much money as it would normally cost, to run our own festival.

At the committee meeting Janet & Myself asked if it were possible for the AGM to be moved to the first Sunday in November, rather than the second, this was because we will be on holiday on the date of the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, the committee very kindly agreed to move it to SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> it will still be held at the White Hart, in Wroughton, from 1pm, the bar will be open all afternoon and we will be providing the normal sandwiches & chips. The "Ticket Chick" Marla Miller will be over from the States, to run the raffle, please be as generous as you can! This usually covers the cost of running the AGM.

Elsewhere in this issue you will see an article taken from a 1904 edition of "Cassell's Sports & Pastimes" I found the article very interesting, and a great insight into our hobby in times past! Thanks to Jane Jones for the scanning of this article.

Regards  
Dave Robinson

# BRIGHTON FESTIVAL REPORT

There I was looking forward to the laid back festival at Tewksbury when on the Wednesday evening the phone goes and it is our chairman asking for some help at Brighton where we are supposed to be flying big kites. He knows that I cover a lot of miles during the week so try to minimise it at weekends and therefore offers to pick me up and travel together.

This is an offer I can't refuse particularly as I had never been to Brighton festival before. We had a very good run down and so decided to put up the tent before we went for something to eat. That was a mistake. We still cannot understand what they do in that part of the world to get a meal on a Friday night. Coming from Berks. /Wilts. We expect a pub on every corner serving food until 10 o'clock. Not there we travelled over 20 miles and eventually found one pub that stopped serving food at 9. half an hour later we gave up and went into a chippy that was about to close. Odd people!!!

We returned to site and being an experienced camper put my clothes on the chair so as not to get them damp on the ground. That night it precipitated heavily. Which corner of the tent sagged and filled with water? You've got it, the one over my chair so by morning they are soaked. Fortunately I had some spares so was OK the next day and with good weather was able to dry out. I can't say it was my favourite camping spot due to the proximity of the main road where boy racers and HGVs go on all night.

All day Saturday we try to fly but the wind and the location make this virtually impossible. Be fair about it, gusty flat calm in the bottom of a bucket is not easy so it's back to the usual socialising. Lots of good friends to chat to and with enough line and lots of running we get a mega-delta into some clean, moving air but this is about as good as it gets.

Never mind there is a cider wagon on site and a bar-B-Q is planned for the evening. Oh dear no one has got the licence so no cider. One of the traders manages to purchase a barrel of scrumpy before the wagon leaves site. Lucky him! But what about me? A dry weekend? Thank goodness there is a bottle of medicinal scotch in my first aid kit.

The level in the bottle dropped while we waited for the bar-B-Q and waited and waited. The meat had not arrived. When it eventually did turn up Alan and his assistants did a great job of cooking and a very good meal was had but the level was seriously low.

Sunday dawned through a thick haze (see previous paragraph) and I was once again persuaded to produce the morning's ration of cholesterol. Even after that the wind proved difficult but all was well. The secretary was due any minute with a car full of kites. Slight problem, the lines were still on the garage floor. Fortunately we did have some to try and after much exertion we did get a parafoil into the air.

At this point I must say that people who climbed to the rim of the bucket did put on a very good show with a large flowform and selection of Peter Lynne soft kites. (Oh to be young and fit)

Overall not my favourite site for flying or camping so next year it is back to Tewksbury.

Arthur

## Light up the sky

Hi All,

I hope you will take the above idea onboard and organise "Light Up The Sky" to raise money for Children In Need.

As I said in my original post "I need help with this" as I am not in a position to organise an event in your area. This will be down to the club and its members.

The Kite Society have agreed to help and details will go to print in the next issue of The Kiteflier, as well as a posting to the group.

I have spoken with the charity and they will help also.

An Information pack is available from this link

<http://www.clanvis.com/loc/cin1.htm#.F>

But what I really need is feedback from you.

Do you like the idea?

Will your club be able to take part and if so on how many sites?

Do you have any night fliers already that can help you?

How many kite members in your club?

Fundraising ideas.

Just anything that may help in collating information across the UK about the event to put on a website.

Time is ticking away, so the quicker the better.

Thanks for your help.

Lloyd

[l.kirton@ntlworld.com](mailto:l.kirton@ntlworld.com)

## 2001 a Competition Odyssey

Or

## Did we really do that?

The UK 2001 National Sport Kite championships have finished and the European finals are still to be held. I'm still trying to work out exactly what 3D (Doug Manners and myself) actually did in 2001. Our season actually started in November 2000 at the STACK UK Boot Camp where Doug and I decided that we were going to enter the UK Nationals and compete as a pair. We've flown together for a while now and have done some demonstrations both as the Matrix Management team and as the 3D pair but this was going to be different. Boot Camp teaches you how STACK competitions work. Each competition is divided into disciplines and levels. We were going to enter the Dual Line Pair discipline at Novice level (as this was our first year of competition). STACK held three rounds during the year and to place we had to enter two. The first round was to be held at our festival at Wroughton but as we all know that wasn't to be so we went to Headlands (and had a great time) and put our faith in the last two rounds.

In competition you have to fly a number of differing events. The first is 'set figures' where you have to describe shapes from the STACK figures book in the sky. Marks are deducted from your score if you don't fly the 'key elements' of each figure (square corners, equal sides etc). Following this is a freestyle precision routine, where you have to impress the judges with your flying skills. Both these events are flown without music but the third 'ballet', as its name suggests, is flown to music. In ballet you are marked on your ability to choreograph your flying to the music you choose. The marks for each event are added together and a final score deduced. The marks are awarded: 30% figures, 20% freestyle, 50% ballet.

The first event we flew at was at the Thatcham festival, the wind was light and we hadn't practiced as much as we had wanted. The figures started badly when I couldn't remember how to enter the first one and we missed half the figure! On the last figure I nearly flew outside of the arena and we were almost disqualified! The freestyle went o.k. but we were still hampered by lack of wind. Then came the ballet, 3D fly to an instrumental track by The Corrs (which I've edited). We took off and immediately found we had no wind to fly in. As Novice competitors the minimum wind speed to compete is 4 MPH. I called for a 'wind check' and luckily we were told we could fly again due to low wind. The wind came up and we flew again, much better. At the end of the day we found we had placed fourth out of a field of seven pairs, we wanted to know how we could improve our score so Doug went and asked for help from Susan

Hoath (Steven 'Sky Dance' Hoath's wife). Susan spent a long time telling us where we were going wrong and made suggestions on how we could improve our ballet routine. We only had three weeks until the finals and so we rapidly re-wrote everything in site. We next flew at the Tewkesbury festival where we spent most of the weekend working on our routine in very high winds. We were invited into the arena to fly and managed to remember the whole routine.

The finals were at Middle Wallop, we went to the pilots meeting and found that the Pairs event was scheduled to fly first, this meant no practice time! The wind was quite strong but very changeable. We decided to use our mega vented kites but took our standard vented kites into the arena (just in case). As soon as we started the wind dropped and we had to work really hard just to stay air borne, not the best way to do precision. After making a mess of the figures we decided to change kites to the standard vents. You have 90 seconds between figures and freestyle; we made the swap with five seconds to go! As soon as we launched the wind came up and we had to hang on like crazy. Things stayed the same for the ballet but we felt that we had flown the best ever, so we went off and flew an impromptu team for the rest of the day. We were so engrossed we missed the prize giving but were told afterwards that we had placed fourth overall, third in ballet (a one place improvement over Thatcham and second in Novice)

Two weeks later I received an email from Kathy Jarvis (STACK UK National Director) apologising, apparently the first placed Novice team had been disqualified in two events due to flying out of the arena, which meant that 3D had won UK Novice Pairs. We are still waiting for the trophy; we should be presented with it at Eurocup. Finishing first means we have to move up to Experienced class next season, the rules get harder and we have to get better. We are off to Boot Camp again in November and are looking forward to a winter preparing for the 2002 season. Competitive sport kite flying is different to any other sport I know. All teams help each other out and there is a great atmosphere between flyers. If you want to know more come and find us at club meeting (you can't miss the two rainbow Matrix) or check out the STACK web site.

Doug Irvine

# Well !

Well folks, the day has finally arrived when Dave and I came to realise just how little we are worth in the eyes of our esteemed Kite Society. Having sent off the renewal form, complete with cheque, we awaited our little sticky labels with eager anticipation. Good, reliable members that we are, we don't send our cheque off late, it doesn't bounce and is always neatly and correctly filled in.

Imagine how we felt when the aforementioned envelope plopped through our door today. There was only one way to describe - a disgusting tatty mess. The name and address were so poorly written that they could hardly be read, the envelope itself had been recycled twice and had originally been a business reply service article. The previous addresses had been covered up using a mixture of brown and white tape. We rapidly came to the conclusion that our standards must be higher than most. When you're paying £11 for an annual family renewal, is a new envelope, neatly printed, really too much to ask?

Yours in disgust,  
Jane and Dave Jones.

## HENGISTBURY REPORT

I haven't been to this event for a few years as it has coincided with the Aldershot kite and juggling festival that Martin likes to do. In fact the last time we parachuted so many bears that it led to the design of the electric winch, now such an integral part of my kit. The same year also involved my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations and Dave was hoping for the Buck's Fizz again. Sorry Dave still a few years to go for the next one.

Having managed to get Martin out of bed at an hour he did not know existed on Sundays we had a good run down before getting lost in the last few miles and found others had beaten us there. I had not been warned but Dave had had his arm twisted to do a workshop as well as the usual display and bear bung. Donald and his truck had been pressed into service to bring the gear and we soon had the tents up and the kettle on.

The organisers had arranged for some helpers in the workshop and these proved to be a group of young dancers (mainly female). I don't know if Dave has recovered yet but they managed to produce about 130 kites during the day.

As the wind was a bit strong we tried a small parafoil for the bear rig but this prove too much for the pulleys so we went back to the good old reliable mega delta which took on some very odd shapes and flight angles but did sturdy service all day. When we eventually got it down the trailing edge was in tatters so a replacement has been obtained from Mr 'see me dance under my new design' Morgan. During the day we dropped about 150 fauna into the car park or across the road onto the golf course managing to hit the one puddle fairly



regularly. People seemed to be very generous and St John Ambulance should have benefited quite nicely from the charity box they put on our table.

The other Martin, Doug and Phil after some discussion with the organisers managed to get a separate arena where The Big Legs and others made a good display. The most amazing part of the day was that we had all travelled down though heavy rain and all day we could see the storm clouds all round us then on the way home it was wet again but during the day not a drop of rain on site. What is that saying about "The rain it raineth on the just" We must be evil. But you all know about that.

Arthur

## PORTSMOUTH

This seems to be my year for finding the wet. Dam yachties booked every bit of accommodation in Portsmouth months in advance so I was only going to go down for the Saturday. Oh how I wish I had but as always I bowed to pressure from other people. A late 'phone call from Mr. Swill saying his wife wanted some one to play with whilst he was doing his Gofer thing. Who can resist an offer like that so into the car goes the tent and off I go Saturday morning.

A fantastic day once the wind has made up its mind which way to blow and brilliant view of the Red Arrows display, then a few drinks and good Bar-B-Q courtesy of Force 9. Some of us got a relatively early night and heard a few drops of rain during the night. Sunday morning dawned dull and the loos are not open. (panic into the car and round to the public ones where the locals are just getting up. Never mind that, any port in a storm as they say). Bacon roll and coffee was available and very welcome even at the prices being charged and with the look of the weather the tent is put away damp.

At 9.40 the Red Arrows swoop in and out of the clouds and that is the good part of the day over. It went down hill from then on. By lunchtime it is getting distinctly damp and the first rumbles of thunder can be heard in the distance. My shelter is not designed for 50 people and more coming as it gets wetter. We all know about clearing up storms so we waited until it was really soaking and the organisers 'phoned the met office then cancelled the remainder of the event for safety as a few people were still trying to fly in a thunder storm. They should have listened better in physics lessons and they would have heard about Mr Franklin. All that is left to do is to get really wet packing up wet kites, lines, bears, parachutes, gazebo and all the other paraphernalia we carry.

The one good thing that could be said about the weekend was that Monday was a dry Bank Holiday so we could get every thing dry. I must leave it there as I have to go and book my accommodation for next year. (and perhaps 2003 if that is the next Festival of the Sea)

Arthur

# Hello cowpat

We are very sad that Neil, Sue, Amie and Carl did not make their holiday in the Great Northwest and of course the Miller House. It was 2 frightening days wondering where their plane had taken them and if they were ok. We knew that they had taken off that morning, but had only been in the air about one hour. I was so relieved to hear Neil's wonderful voice. They returned home within 2 days and had made it all the way to Belfast, Ireland. They have re-booked and will be coming to visit in spring.

It has been very interesting here and we are doing fine. We met one man that had been in the world trade center working on Monday and was taking the red eye flight home to Tacoma. Well, the red eye special sat on the tarmac for 2 ½ hours due to weather. He and his business partner said if the plane did not leave they would go back and stay in the corporate apartment in the center and look around the building the next day. Well the plane took off just a few minutes later and he got home in time to celebrate his 24-wedding anniversary, and was thankful to be alive. There are lots of sad stories, but there are some happy one. We thank God that our friends the Harvey's and Carl are home safe and coming another time, and that others have good stories to tell. All our lives have changed, but maybe we can reach out to others and teach them how to fly a kite and take a break from such sad happenings.

I will see you at the AGM!

Love,

Marla

## HEREFORD FESTIVAL REPORT

Great site, great facilities, great camping great food, great friends, lousy wind. What more can I say? I was very sorry for the organisers, MKF, that the Sports Centre messed them about and let people play foot ball there on the Sunday without notice but any organiser who does not get this sort of treatment must have divine assistance.

I travelled over on the Friday afternoon and the instructions I had been given took me straight to the campsite even though the entrance is a little difficult to find. There is a huge field for camping with toilets and showers at one end. (A little far in the middle of the night bur otherwise very good) There is a Beef Eater about 5min walk away and the food in there was well above average and I have found some distinctly average ones in my travels.

From 9am the Sports Centre serves breakfast for £2.50 which will satisfy even the healthiest appetite. Then it is just across the racetrack to get to the flying site where the poor traders have had to spend an evening that far away from the bar. All this is within a 250m radius.

Friday night the wind rattled the windows of the tent so that you could not sleep and all day Saturday it continued to get stronger until most people gave up and took down shelters etc. before they were blown down. However during the day a number of fauna were dropped to the amusement of the locals.

A group got together and went out for a Thai meal that evening and a good time was had except for the other clientele who were treated to the usual rowdiness of a happy group of kities.

Sundays wind proved to be even stronger and after good bunging off Carls power sled a large coming together gave me the opportunity to get away before such energetic games as the cider lift.

I realise that this was only a second one off event but I for one hope there will be an other and will definitely attend.

So thanks to Karl and Sara for a great weekend.

Arthur

## A young out look

Have you ever though of flying a sports kite! Well you should its fun, as I have found out over the years. I started with impacts and moved up to an alpha and then to a matrix. You may be sitting there thinking that it is to hard to learn, but I'm only ten and I can do it if you are stuck or don't know where to start ask for advice like I did and soon maybe? you could be as good as Doug I and Doug M. The next thing is to learn to fly with the rest of them to make a WHKF mega team so the next time you see us tying the lines in knots (or that's what it looks like) and running around come and say Hi can I have a fly and soon you to could Be hooked and we could have a mega mega team

Karen Willis

Hello,

We are looking for 40 t-shirts?

OK, I'll back up. Sue Clark makes a wonderful Kite Quilt out of t-shirts from kite clubs or festivals that you have attend. I told her that I would help collect them and get them to her. Once she has made the quilt, it will be put in the raffle or auction at the White Horse Kite Festival.

These do not have to be new shirts, can be old but usable for the quilt. You know those shirts you bought and love that don't fit any more.

You may give them to David and Janet Robinson and I will collect them from them. Their address is 61 Bridge End Road, Stratton Saint Margaret, Swindon Wilts SN3 4PD.

Ron and I have a quilt that she made for us and it is absolutely, not only wonderful, but also very special, made with lots of love and wonderful memories.

Come on give me the shirt off you back, out of you closet or your dresser and I'll make sure they get to Sue.

Thanks,

Love and miss my British Kite Family,  
Marla Miller



# The trip to England

## by Dan (Good-looking) Kurahashi

In May, I was invited to England to attend two kite festivals.

The idea started several years ago when I started meeting David Robinson from England at the Fort Worden Kite Conference. When I mentioned the trip to my wife Mitsue, she said, I will come, if it's England. I was not prepared for that answer. I was in a state of shock for a while. What's she going to do while I am flying kites? She had heard many interesting things about England from our eldest daughter Yukie who had made several trips to London. Mitsue was quite impressed with the British Museum and reading about other old buildings and the countryside in the books that Yukie had brought back.

Art Ross and Don Mock went a few years back, and I heard many good things about the people and festivals.

Ron and Marla Miller from Tacoma convinced me that it would be great trip and Marla promised to keep Mitsue busy - which she did. So, I thought I should jump in. Dave and I had exchanged a few e-mails over the last year. Then Dave and I met again at the Fort Worden Kite Conference. I made the commitment and arranged my vacation with my employer. Dave also found a second sponsor for me at Cleethorpes. Malcolm Goodman contacted me and we arranged to have the demo/workshop. My wife needed to find someone to take care of her mother who is half paralyzed from a stroke a few years back. We had a new emergency panic button device installed and made arrangements with our daughters and their husbands to phone a couple of times and visit our house at least once a day to check her and to take Cookie (our Yellow Lab dog) for a walk. During this process, I don't know what went wrong, but our youngest daughter Elina somehow convinced Mitsue to come along instead of staying and looking after her grandmother. She got herself a trip - fully paid by me. Is she a good negotiator or what?

Then the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak happened, and access to the kite flying field was prohibited. But I had my tickets purchased and I could not back down. After a few more e-mails things looked bleak, but finally the Swindon people found an alternative site.

The Cleethorpes Kite Festival was not affected, however, a few fellow workers warned me that I would have to eat Fish and Chips for the entire two weeks!

We did have one set-back: my wife accidentally dropped my favourite digital camera. So I HAD to buy another one. When I bought that first one I knew I was going to have to buy a second one in two or three years, so that time just came about one year early. This time I bought an Olympus C2100UZ, which has 10 times optical zoom with optical stabilization. This trip made for a good test of the camera. (more about that later)

Anyway, the day finally came and we left on May 8th, 2001.

We seemed to be traveling along with the Sun, it tried to set for almost three hours.

In England, we were greeted by Marla Miller who had been there for a month already, and Neil Harvey who became my chauffeur. I was quite impressed with the English landscape and the local buildings. I guess it was because everything looked so established. I did not see anything out of place, or spot anything dirty. I was sure we would see at least one junked car the distance we covered. It was a clean sight everywhere. We saw a lot of empty green fields, I don't know if that was the result of the earlier Mad Cow disease and all the cows had been destroyed or perhaps the fields were meant to be empty to grow hay.

We stopped for lunch and I was quite surprised that the food was very good, in spite of what we had heard about English cooking and I did not have to order Fish and Chips.

We checked into a motel in Swindon. The first of many small accidents occurred. My wife left the key for one of our suitcases at home. I had to borrow a screwdriver to force it open.

The next day, we were surprised again with the English meals. The motel offered us bed and breakfast. The food was very good and plentiful. My wife and daughter and Marla went sightseeing in Swindon. Neil picked me up and he and I taught kite making to a small group of students at one of the local elementary schools.

Dave Robinson picked us up after work and went for drive. I was really enjoying seeing the old country side up close.

He took us to the Three Crowns restaurant. I think it was one of the best restaurants I've ever been to - and I do mean ever. I had not expected that in England.

At Marla and the others suggestion, we decided to visit Bath next day. The city is about one hour east of Swindon by train. Marla came to the motel to pick us up, then we went to Swindon Station. In Bath we rode on one of those double-decker Open top tour buses. The city is full of historical sights. This was one of the highlights of our sightseeing. It took me quite by surprise that we should find so many interesting places to see in a place with only a few lines in the tour book.

I imagine I was like a kid who'd been born and grown up in a small village and who then came to a big city like New York. I read about it, even looked at the pictures in a tour book, but I had no idea what to expect. This city deserves better attention.

After we came back to Swindon. Dave took us out for a drive around Stone Henge, we could not get in because it was closed for the day but nevertheless it was quite an impressive sight even from a distance.

The next two days were kite fly/workshops. They found a local school ground and classrooms to teach a kite class as an alternative to regular flying field, which had been closed because of the foot-and-mouth disease. It was very convenient. I could walk from one to the other in just a few minutes. I could not imagine a better situation for me. The height limit for kite flying anywhere in England is 200 feet. Yes, only two hundred feet. What can I fly lower than that? I had only part of my kite train out but still I was sure I was breaking the law.

Again my wife and daughter went sight seeing, this time to the local cathedral and Stone Henge.

I was kept busy teaching and kite flying but it was fun. All the students were very serious and productive. No one really had had any experience with bamboo but they did well - much better than I would have expected. After my wife came back, she was also flying kites - a very rare sight!

Marla held a raffle and everybody won something. She was also very busy making sure everybody emptied their wallet. She is so efficient that I think only a pick-pocket can compete with her, except in her case, she will leave you with your empty wallet so you can fill it up for next year! Those who are regulars at the Fort Worden Kite Conference know how she does it.

On Monday morning, May 14th, we took the train to London where Doug Jones waited to take us on a sightseeing tour of London. He took several days off from work to show us around London. What a kindness. This was the beginning of a marvelous three day trip in London.

We checked in to our hotel since I had a lot of luggage.

(We found this hotel on the Internet. It is hard to find a hotel in England that will take more than two people in a room. We also wanted to stay in a hotel within walking distance of the British Museum.

The hotel had been converted from an old townhouse style building. It was reasonable for three people, old but very clean and served us very good breakfasts.)

Doug took us on buses so we could see better than if we had traveled by underground trains. We went to St. Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London (spent three hours there), Tower Bridge (crossed on foot), Southwark Cathedral and then the Shakespeare Globe Theatre (replica built in London).

I felt it was a good thing that we had seen the countryside, before arriving in London. We could compare the two very different faces of England very well. Later I found that Mitsue felt exactly the same way.

You have to remember to look the Wrong way before crossing a road!

I learned their strange traffic rules.

Traffic Rule 1: Drive on the wrong side of the street. So you can trick pedestrians. Pretend you are coming from the right and then approach from the left and take them by complete surprise.

Traffic Rule 2: Obey the traffic lights when you feel like it, or when a policeman is around; otherwise just treat them as part of the road illumination.

Traffic Rule 3: If you are a pedestrian. (They call us Pelicans) Do not step into the car lane, even at a pedestrian crossing. Drivers have to completely ignore pedestrians. If they step into your way, you have the right to drive over them. Right? Or maybe they get credit points by doing so. Or it just seemed that way to us.

The next day, Doug picked us up at the hotel and we went to the London Eye. He knows London so well he does not need to use a map. But for those trips that Doug did not take us, I had to use a map and took a few wrong turns in the subway (or as they call it The Tube). It was clean and not smelly as some tourist books warned.

The London Eye is an enormous ferris wheel. It was quite an impressive structure which must have cost the engineers to lose a few hairs! We fully enjoyed the wheel. It was a good way to see the general orientation of London. I have to say this is a must when you visit London.

Doug took us to Greenwich by tube and we came back to London on the River Thames by boat. Again, Doug knew that this was the best way to see a different view of this historical city. From the tour book, I thought that Greenwich was much farther and I would have omitted it from spots to visit. We visited Green Park and Doug showed me the by-law sign stating Kite flying prohibited in the parks I have a picture to prove it.

On our third day in London, it was raining as if it had been planned. We left all our indoor sightseeing spots for a rainy day. We visited Westminster Abbey and the British Museum. We ended up spending all day in them. Far too much to see in such a short period of time.

On the 18th I went to Heathrow airport to see off my wife and daughter who went to visit Pierre Fabre and his girlfriend in Paris. They had planned to spend four nights with them. Pierre had kindly invited them to stay with him instead of hotels, which were expensive.

After they left, Neil picked me up again at the airport to go to Cleethorpes. This time with Phil Scarffe. We stopped at an old Rockingham castle where a kite fly is planned for summer and Neil needed to discuss the details. The stop was a very good opportunity for me to take a close look at an old castle. I had never seen a real one other than the Tower of London a few days before. But this was the one a real Lord had lived in and it was prepared all the time to fight a war. The quick tour inside was quite informative and educational. It will give me better eyes when I watch movies like Robin Hood next time. I learnt how they collected water from the roofs to use inside the castle, how they dried wet salt in a special compartment in the wall beside the fireplace, etc. These things are never shown in movies but are all necessary parts of every day living. Thus I felt close to the people who lived here many hundreds of years ago.

Driving in England takes guts. Neil driving and Phil navigating seemed to work very well. It was quite a smooth ride in the back seat, so smooth in fact that I slept half the time. I still could not get used to their roundabouts yet.

Traffic Rule 4: You ignore car coming from your left. Treat them as if they are not there. Don't even look, they will cut in.

I was glad I do not have to do any of that crazy driving.

Neil had a print out of how to get to our destination. It listed all the details of what we will see at certain mileage and direct you where to turn. It must have been downloaded from the Internet. Back in Canada, if I know the address and have a map, I can go to the place. Not in England. The street can change its name so often as you go along, and street numbers are all over the place. When you ask, they say go straight until you come to a church, turn left then go straight until you come to pub....

They are always very kind. They will stop what they were doing and even come out to the street to explain. But you got to have a very good memory. I gave up.

I was quite hungry by the time we got Cleethorpes. We went and had FISH-and-CHIPS. There are several sizes on the menu, Senior, Regular, Large and Jumbo. I ordered Large. Unlike FISH-and-CHIPS in North America, it comes with one piece of fish, but it overhung a 12" plate. You can imagine how big Jumbo will be. (I found out next day.) Since I am diabetic and have high cholesterol, I could not eat crust or many of the chips, but it satisfied my hunger. I did not know, though, this was the first of every meal is FISH-and-CHIPS while in Cleethorpes. Well except for the very good quality breakfast at the bed and breakfast.

We had a local school kids class next day. One in the morning and one in the afternoon. It went fairly smoothly with Neil and Phil's help.

Saturday and Sunday were quite good kite flies two days. I did not like the wind though. It comes and goes. The wind changes quite rapidly in both direction and velocity. From 0 mile to 20 miles per hour. I am sure that at one time for a few seconds it even blew backwards! As always, I flew several of my kite trains and had to leave some unattended while I was doing a demonstration. When I checked one time, both trains had tangled up on their own. Three or four kites near the top were bundled up on both trains. I have not seen this before. The wind must have blown back for a few seconds to do this trick.

I had not expected this wind condition. Even my kite trains were made to suit certain wind speeds. One for light winds, the other for stronger winds however they have a much wider range of winds so the kites have to be self-adjusting. After I came back to Canada, I decided to make a different kind to withstand stronger winds even if I have to sacrifice the ability to fly in the lighter winds. I made modifications to a few of my kite train designs. I moved the bridle point higher and put on a longer tail, or a longer frill.

So, you can say, we keep learning.

I met Mr. and Mrs. Ohashi from Tokyo. They too were invited to Cleethorpes by Malcolm. So we ate lunch together and had a chance to talk to each other on several other occasions.

The folks from Swindon had a kite workshop going for the children. They were busy, and there were always children lined up. It is one of the most important sources of income for their club. It was similar to our BCKA workshop and we exchanged a few tips and suggestions.

After the festival, we went back to Reading, near to London where we stayed at Phil's house overnight.

Neil took me to the hotel in London next morning because I had three big suitcases and I would not have been able to manage on my own.

Since Mitsue and Elina were not due back from Paris till that afternoon, I went to the Natural History Museum and the Science Museum. They said they would skip those two and as I was the only one interested in these two Museums the plan went quite well.

The next day (May 22nd) was our last day before the flight. We went to the British Museum again and spent a half day there. There was still a lot to see. We had a light lunch before we went to Paddington station to check our luggage and very pleasant ride the train to the airport only 15 minutes away.

This was the true test of my new (second) digital camera, Olympus C-2100UZ. This camera has optically stabilized 10x zoom (38mm to 380mm - I call it 400 mm for ease), and 2.7 times digital zoom. Digital zoom is not very good since it just crops the image, but together it can shoot at 1000mm at compromise resolution. It seems that optical stabilization works well. I took many shots with the 400 mm end, building details, kites in the sky, birds in the distance and people from far away without letting them notice. It has become the most useful camera I have ever bought. I even used the remote



control unit, which came with the camera many times though I never thought previously that I would have any need for such a 'frill'. It became quite handy when I was alone or when I wanted to take a group picture. It is a lot better than a self-timer.

On this trip, I took more than 1300 pictures.

The memory card I purchased holds 128 pictures, and if I shoot same colour back ground (like sky), it compresses more and may hold 160 or more pictures. I had a few more smaller memory cards as spares but one day in London, I had to use all four cards. I still needed to download the pictures to my Powerbook computer every night and charge up the batteries for the next day.

I showed the pictures to one of my friends, who grew up in London who gave us many hints about places to visit ( many were overlapped with Doug's suggestion), and he said that the London buildings look much whiter than he remembered. Doug told us that since they had stopped using coal as a heating source, they have less and less fog and the air has got cleaner year by year. I guess the buildings were blacker and the air was more polluted because of the coal. So the famous London fog is disappearing.

This trip was near perfect (except small surprises then laughs, here and there). The only thing that went really wrong was when Air Canada lost one of my pieces of luggage. My kite toolbox and other items did not arrive with us at Vancouver Airport. We wasted two hours in vain at the Airport. It showed up two days later with damage to the toolbox. I phoned Air Canada but to make a claim I would have had to bring them the luggage and make a report. It sounded like at least a half day job. Air Canada could not seat us together on the way to England in spite of the seating reservation number we had. I was more than frustrated with Air Canada and did not wish to waste any more of my time. So I simply gave up. At least I had all of my kite tools back.

I thank all of you who helped me and made this trip possible and so pleasant. I saw at least three to four times more of England than the normal tourist would have done. Also, I did not need to drive an inch in England!

My wife was also very impressed with the kite people's kindness and now knows why I always talked about it.

See you folks.

Dan Kurahashi

## Another year

Well that's it nearly another year gone and we round to the agm again. A mixed year of shows and displays due to foot and mouth but we can't complain as at least we could still fly some where and do not have to make a living from it as some have to. So here to a new year for all in 2002 and a lot better one I am sure we will be a busy as ever.

Well as for the AGM I will not be there this year as I am off to pasture new as they say. As some of you know I have got very interested in team flying this year, so for a late birthday present its off to boot camp in Weston for me.but I am sure Tracy will fill me in when I get home.See you all for December second Sunday and if not Merry Christmas to you all

Pete Willis

## Skychat

Here we go again, the season is nearly over and the A.G.M. is nearly upon us. Do not forget it is a week earlier, same place "The White Hart" Wroughton on the 4<sup>th</sup> of Nov. We will not say anything about our treasurer's fiftieth birthday being spent down under, but we can think it.

Things never seem to go completely to plan and this year is no exception, in fact it probably has been the most disrupted year since the Club has been running. It has not been the fault of the Club or it's members. The biggest problem has been the dreaded Foot and Mouth, it has caused problems far wider than in just the farming world. What with our own Festival going by the wayside, plus Stowe that we were directly involved with, but also others like Bristol, Vintage and Steam, Tri-drive and others. Some were due to the fact that the organisers could not risk going ahead with the pre-running expenses to have cancel at the last minute. Let us all hope that next year runs smoothly.

By the time you read this we should have had "One Sky One World" and this year it will have a more poignant message and our thoughts go out to all those who lost their lives and those that mourn their losses. My family and I have something to be grateful for in so much that we were in the air at that awful time, but we could turn around and have a second chance. Those who died did not get that chance.

Now too more enjoyable things. There is talk of trying to run a night-fly to coincide with "Children in Need" night. The idea is for groups around the country to fly kite and donate a fee for flying to "Children in Need". I think it is a great idea but not at Barbury Castle. It wants somewhere so the general public can view it and also donate. Any bright ideas, there is still time till 16<sup>th</sup> NOV.

Also do not forget the Kathy Goodwin workshop in Feb, Dave will furnish full details.

It was great to be back at Barbury for the Sept. meeting, first time since Feb. and the wind did blow. It has been a very trying time for Brian, Lynne and family over theses last few months. Let us hope their luck will change now.

If I carry on much longer there will be nothing to say at the A.G.M. (now don't all cheer at the same time) so please bring yourselves along and a raffle prize if possible and your ideas for the Club in 2002

See you there plus the "Ticket Chick"

P.S. I almost forgot. All the best to Ken and Rachael for the future after their recent nuptials.

Neil.

## KITE-FLYING.

### ABOUT MAKING CALICO AND PAPER KITES.

HAVING decided upon the size, the skeleton is to be prepared in the following manner (see Fig. 1). A straight, strong but light lath should be obtained, of the required length, to form the backbone of the kite; it should be shaped to a point at the top. A small piece should be notched out of the lath a short way from the top on each side, and also on each side a little way from the bottom. A notch is also to be cut at the point H in the figure. The backbone is marked in the diagram A B. The "bow" or "bender," marked c D, should be of a piece of

pliant wood, such as may be obtained from the ash or hazel, should a piece of cane not be readily procurable. A piece of a wooden hoop, thinned down to the thickness of a common cane, will be found useful out of which to form the bow. Whatever it be, it is essential that it be of equal thickness and weight throughout its whole extent, and that its length be about the same as that of the backbone. The exact centre of the bow should next be ascertained, and fastened with thin string to that point of the backbone where the first two notches were cut. A small notch is then to be cut at each end of the bow, and the bow bent down to the points marked E and F. In the diagram the thick lines represent the bow and the backbone of the kite, which are made of wood, as above described; the thin lines represent string, and should be secured to the wooden frame as follows:—Secure the end of the string at the point E, pass it on then in succession to the points B, F, E, A, F, H, and E, fastening the string at each point, and upon passing the string from F to E twist it once round the backbone at the point G. The skeleton is then complete; but if the balance is not quite

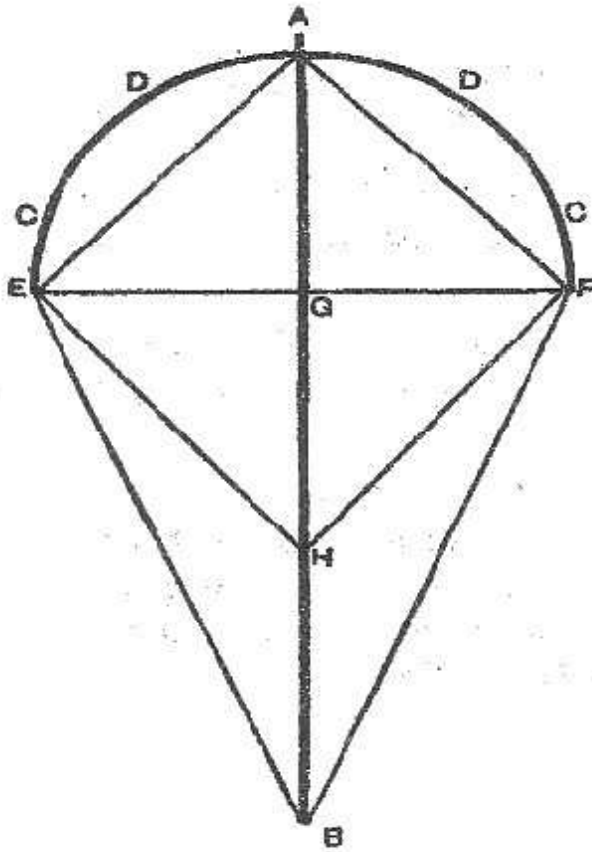


Fig. 1.—SKELETON OF KITE.

true, shavings from the heavier side should be sufficient to remedy the defect.

Having agreed to use paper as the covering, it should be cut of the shape of the kite, leaving a margin just sufficient to overlap the bow and the strings, so as to curl round; the edges of the paper should then be fastened to the frame of the skeleton by means of gum or paste, and left to dry. The covering is to be secured to the back-bone of the kite by pasting some slips of paper across the back of the kite. If the kite is large it is also well to secure the covering to the cross strings in the same manner. Should it be found that one sheet of paper is of insufficient size, two or more sheets may be pasted together, the edges of which should overlap about an inch. Calico, or materials of that nature, may be sewn on the strings and bow instead of being pasted on, and should in that way also be secured at the back to the cross strings and the back-bone. Before securing the covering to the back-bone two holes should be pierced therein, the one at the fifth of the whole length from the top, the other at a trifle less than the same distance from the bottom. Through these holes a string is to be passed

More to come next mag!!!!

## And finally

I can't believe the year has gone so quickly and I've been editor for nearly a year it has been a funny sort of year with many events cancelled due to foot and mouth but we have attended new events and new friends have been made. Don't forget the new A.G.M date hope to see many of you there. Well it seems a long way off but may I take this chance to wish you all a very happy Christmas and new year, on that note the cut off date for the next mag is 30<sup>th</sup> December. See you all soon Tracy.

## 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!
  - These kite eating trees.
  - Animals, they can be frightened by kites.
- Remember... your kites can get really quite lanchy up high in the sky, just occasionally, look up and give them a little SMILE.*

... 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

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