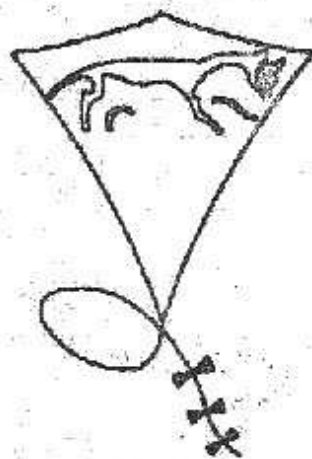


Cowpat Hill

White Horse Kite Flyers
Summer Issue 2000
July - September



The Kenny Fund

Hi Kite friends

On behalf of the "Fund managers" we thank the WIHKF for the start to the fund of £167.70 + the 20 Dm note from the Grimsals.

We have tried to contact Kenny by phone but all we got was a BT voicemail, so we will write to him to see if that gets through.

One again a big thank you to all for getting the fund off the ground, we have opened a bank account so it is in a good home..

Bless you all.

Pat & Ron Kiteability.....

White Horse Kite Flyers
PO Box 585
SWINDON
SN3 4YR

Dates for your Diary

9 July	Petworth Kite Day	
15/16 July	Kennet Kite Festival	WS, demo & bears
23 July	Wroughton Family Day	Details later
5/6 August	Middle Wallop	WS
13 Aug	Blackwater Kite Festival	WS, demo & bears
20 Aug	Hengistbury Head Kite Festival	WS, demo & bears
20 Aug	Lackham College	WS, demo & bears
26/27/28 August	Portsmouth Kite Festival	
2/3 Sept	Bristol Kite Festival	
9/17 Sept	Dieppe	
17 Sept	Highworth Show	WS & demo
24 Sept	Old Warden	

All events are liable to alteration or change, please check with Dave, Janet, Neil or Arthur if you intend to go.

Stickability

I thought that the W.H.K.F. Club members might be interested in the following write-up, regarding some excellent glue.

I lost track of how many times that this word was drummed into my brain, whilst I was growing up seventy odd years ago. In those days, it meant 'keeping your nose to the grindstone in order that you complete the job in hand, with a satisfactory result.

'Stickability' came to my aid recently, when I accidentally broke the handle of my Dyson cleaner. Immediately expense sprang to my mind, but a friend came to the rescue with half a tube of plastics glue. Obviously, I was apprehensive of the ultimate result, but it worked, I mean it really worked, and I have not had any concern over the result.

My friend could not remember from where he had obtained this glue, and after many enquiries, including the net, I have found a source. Obviously, any order to them would incur the normal posting and packing charge, this can be arranged by the supplier, address below.

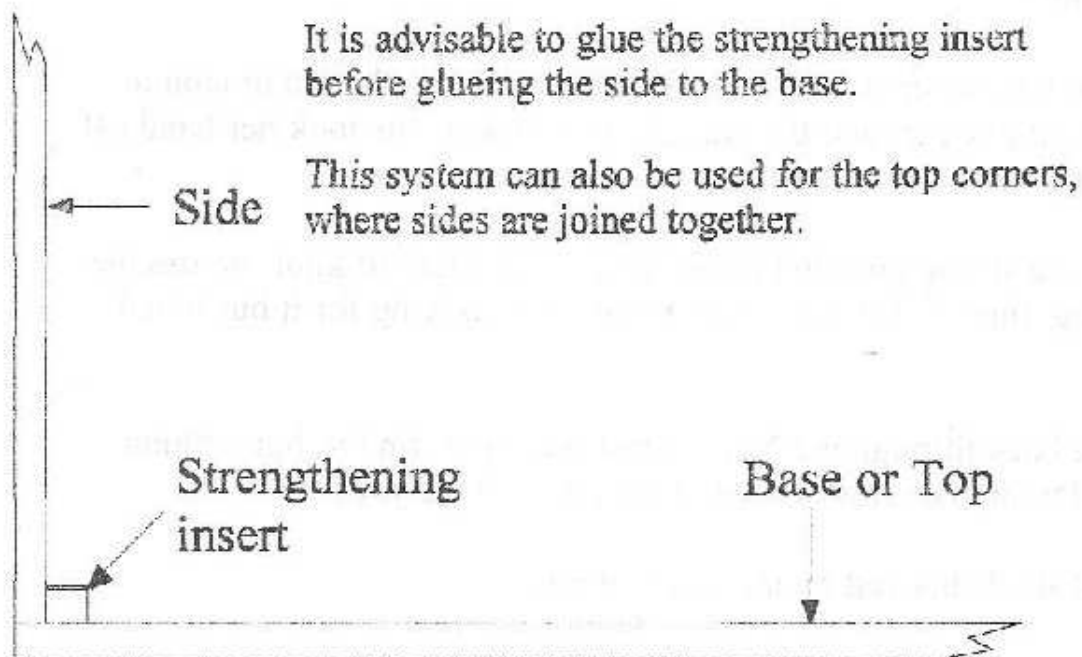
Two months ago, I made a box size approximately 5ft x 18in x 10in, complete with a lid, using plastic sheeting obtained from a Sign Company. The sheets were 1/4in thick and glued on the edges supported by a previously glued strip of plastic sheeting to aid the positioning of the sides, see sketch attached.

The box, when completed, was left in the open to test weathering for two days, then

carried on my roof rack for three days, whilst containing eight pieces of 4ft6in x 3in x 2in timber. The box has stood the test. It is light, durable and waterproof and the glue stood the rest, because I cannot find any separation anywhere on the box. As the sheeting was originally white, I have used black matt paint to cover it, finally using two coats of varnish.

The glue is "Bison" Hard Plastics Glue, available in tubes, £2.20 per tube from:-

W.E. Dayman and Sons, D.I.Y. Shop, 103 King Richards Road, Leicester.



Incidentally, four modelling clubs have published this glue in their magazines, so obviously I am not the only one satisfied.

Leslie W^m Gillman.

Homing Kite's 16-mile Flight.

Daily Echo (04.05.00) -

article by Rachael Garnett

As coincidences go, it takes some beating.

Margaret Waddicor was left stunned when a kite last seen flying off into the blue yonder 16 miles away at Stoney Cross was found caught up in her neighbour's tree back in Hayes Close, Colchill.

On rescuing the 6ft-wide flyer, kite enthusiast Margaret was astonished to find it

was completely intact with its string still attached.

She said: "We were returning home from Stoney Cross and as we drove towards the house we could see it and we just roared with laughter - we couldn't believe it."

The unique handmade Delta kite featuring a red dragon belongs to Margaret's brother Bill Dykes, who had been visiting for the weekend with his wife Rose.

Together with Margaret's friend, Babs Doswell, the four went to Stoney Cross for a last-minute kite-flying session on Monday before Bill and Rose returned home to Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

Babs, of Merley, who had never flown a kite before, was given the red dragon to hold but as the wind whipped up and the kite climbed higher, she took her hand off the spool as she went to grab the string.

She said: "There was a strong gust and it just took off at a rate of knots across the field with Bill running after it. He was gone a long time looking for it but it had vanished.

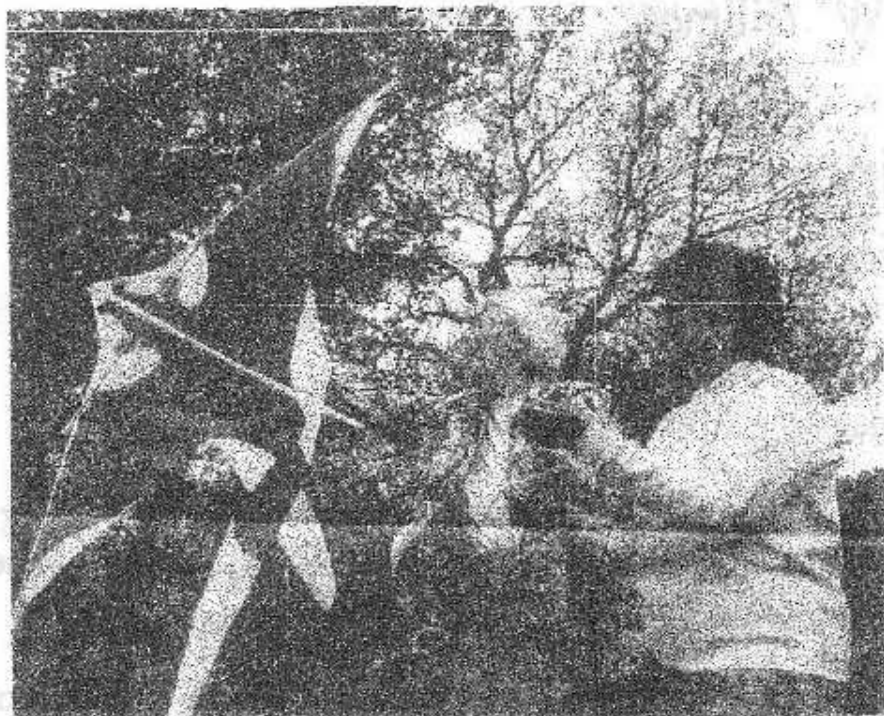
Margaret and I drove back through the New Forest hoping to find it, but nothing, and as we got near Margaret's house we could see a kite in the sky."

She added: "I'm just shell shocked by the whole thing."

After getting the binoculars out the pair realised it was the red dragon kite and went in search of the tree it was stuck in to retrieve it.

Margaret said: "I just can't believe the chance of it happening. I rang my brother up and told him and he thought I was winding him up

Just think it could have gone anywhere or hit power cables but it missed everything and landed in my road."



WHKF on the telly

Hi all just a little something that mite interested you when we were at Stowe on the Sunday a film crew from Channel Five came a long and put some of us on film.

I know they did a general look round, but they also filmed the stunt team and the teddies.

And just for fun we lifted one of their cameras to 150ft (you should have seen the look on the director's face). I think he was happier when it came back down, so was I when he told me it was worth about £4000. But anyway, the young lady in charge said it would be on soon in June some time and agreed to e-mail the club when this will take place. If we know before Cowpat is printed we will put it in, if not I am sure Pete Dawson will put it on the web site for those who can get it. If you really want it let me have your phone number and I will ring you, mine is 01793 706516.

See you all soon

Pete Willis

Hi All...

Thought you might like to know that the Brighton Kite Festival website at: <http://www.whizzieworld.free-online.co.uk/> has just been updated with info re our Festival 2000.

The site now also includes additional content, new refined page navigation functions and has a new overall style. Please feel free to include a link to it from your website (if you have one).

We hope you like it!

Ciao4now...

Toody & Mik

Robinson's Ramblings

I keep pinching myself, was the sun really shining all week-end at our festival. I don't believe it, but Janet keeps telling me it was true! It was hot on Saturday without much wind, so the socialising was fantastic! Strange how there wasn't any wind during the day and then it picks up at about 10 o'clock at night, this culminated in the best night fly ever, at Swindon. According to those who took part. Mad John, from the British Buggy Club, seemed to be enjoying himself bugging up & down the runway. showing off his Buggy. With full independent suspension, I'm not into bugging (with a figure like mine I would spend all day getting in and out of the thing!!!) but Mad John's machine is a beautiful looking piece of equipment.

Of course the other feature of Saturday, was that Marla Miller, the wife of our American Representative, Ron. Asked if she could introduce the Fort Worden style raffle to our event. As she is the World's best "Ticket Chick" we agreed! I'm glad we did. It turned our raffle into a fantastic success. Tracy Willis did a wonderful job last year, in raising over £200. But with the new style raffle, and Marla's persistence, and the help of Tracy and Co. We made nearly £500. All I can say is well done! And of course thanks to everyone for their donations. The raffle was our biggest "Moneymaker" this year! To have sun on the Saturday and then wake up to see it still shining on Sunday. With the added bonus, of the wind blowing gently, across the site, was more than we have become accustomed to, at our festival. I think we can safely say that this was the BEST Festival since our move to Wroughton. I would like to thank all of our members for helping towards this, especially all of those who work at getting the site ready, and breaking it down at the end. I would also like to thank our guests and members of visiting clubs. That's enough about the festival, one of my other hobbies is scouring second-hand book shops for old kite books. I recently had a very good find: It's simply called "Flying Kites" written by James Wagenvoord, it was published in the USA in 1969. It's an excellent book, mainly about the History of kites, with 12 classic kite designs. The main reason for me mentioning this book, is the Preface; it sums up kite flying, for me!

"Kites & kiteflyers have a history, but it isn't purely chronological. Although people have been flying kites for more than three thousand years, each new year contains all of the elements of all time.

No kite as ever been made obsolete, and the basic kite, two sticks and a light fabric covering, continues to be sent up at the end of a string. The experience, the frustration of trying to make something fly, and the sheer fun of succeeding, remains fresh and successfully resists sophistication and posturing.

Adults tend to deal conversationally with kites in terms of children's fun. But every

year when the weather is warm and the wind is soft, millions of children discover, while watching grown-ups, that the bigger and older one is, the easier it is to keep a hand on the kite string.

The book is about a number of people of all ages, interests, and directions who have at least two things in common. They like kites and they share a broad smile. When they send their kites up in search of the wind, they give nearly every person whose eyes spot the kites floating in the sky, a brief return to a much simpler time: A time when it wasn't considered necessary to be conscious or apologetic about fun. It's difficult to be self-conscious when your eyes are fixed on a kite moving with the wind and the sky. It's a lot easier just to let a smile happen."

David Robinson

"One Sky One World" events?

Dear Fellow Kite-Flyer,

I'd appreciate you taking the time to read this.

You'll probably have seen my letter in "The Kiteflier" (page 9, April edition) - regarding my desire to collect / collate / provide, UK "One Sky One World" event information via the web.

Take a look at my website:

www.jims-place.org.uk to see what's been achieved so far.

This is a genuine, voluntary, attempt, to provide what I believe to be a much needed service, to both fliers and OSOW event organisers (and done with the blessing of Jane Parker-Ambrose, in the US).

I've received positive responses from fliers, but unfortunately event details are slower in coming.

I was asked just yesterday, if I knew of an event being run in Wales? I'll bet there is, but had to admit, "I don't know".

So if you, or someone you know, are/is planning an OSOW event - please supply me with details as soon as practicable, along with a contact email add and/or phone no - a bit of free publicity for the event, if nothing else!

If you intend running an event, but haven't sorted things yet, give me what you

have and send the finalised details later - I really don't mind how often I have to update the site.

Also send any available results / totals from last year's events, I'd like to be able to provide those too. All correspondence will receive a prompt reply.

Forward this mail to any fliers you know, or print it out and pass on to anyone not "on-line" who may be involved in UK OSOW events. I need all the publicity I can get to make this work! Information can be faxed to me on (024) 7633 8979 for those without access to the net.

If you have a kite-related website, please consider a link to mine - I'll happily reciprocate. If you'd rather link directly to my OSOW pages www.jims-place.net will bypass the rest of the site - and it's easier to remember.

Please send OSOW information to osow@jims-place.org.uk - anything else, just reply to this mail (it makes my mailbox easier to organise).

In closing, may I thank you for your time, and assure you that I won't bother you again.

If sufficient responses are not forthcoming by October - I'll have to assume that my services are not wanted, will scrap the idea, delete the pages from the site and go back to quietly flying kites. If I get a decent response, on the other hand - I'll do my best to provide a useful, efficient service to fliers - as I believe this cause deserves.

It's up to you.....

Thanks again.

Jim Cronin
(Coventry)

Improved opening reliability

For some years I have found that, particularly after the winter hibernation, some Bears are reluctant to open their 'chutes, resulting in the dreaded "Roman Candle". There seem to be two major factors. The first is the canopy stiffens up unless used regularly so refuses to deploy on the first few attempts of the new season. This is easily overcome by giving each 'chute a good shake out before first use and then repacking tidily.

The second problem is caused by rusting of the eyelets on the pack stopping the

closure loop slipping through. This can be remedied by replacing the eyelets and the loop but this can be a lengthy job especially if you have a large number of packed 'chutes which we all like to use. To get around this problem I have started replacing the fixed loop on the pack with a further eyelet and forming a loop in an extended static line. By judicious setting of the position of this loop and length of the line, when the bear drops it will first pull the closing pin and then put its full weight on to pulling the loop out of the pack before pulling the 'chute from its tube. I have also done this successfully with the release line through the centre of the 'chute rather than the tube packed method. This has proved so reliable and popular with the bears that in the future I shall be using it on all my new packs.

Arthur

Words from Willis

Well, here we are again into another busy year of shows. Started with Farmer Giles at the beginning of April, which was a good test for the new lifting rig that Arthur made me and a nice day out to start the year. Next on to one at Salisbury but the less said the better! If you were there you would know! And then Weymouth. Well the best-laid plans never work. We were going down on Thursday and going to stay till Monday but after Tracy's brother sprang a wedding on us on the Friday we had to change it to a one day visit, on the Sunday. But a good day was had and it was nice to catch up with some old faces and make some new friends.

And then to Stowe, this time the plans went well. We left on Friday night after work, had pitched the tent by 8.00pm and then had few drinks, a chat and so to bed. Saturday morning started with a W.H.K.F breakfast, a good wind and the sun was shining.

I set up the teddy rig with my new Mega Delta and started dropping. We dropped and dropped and dropped. If it hadn't been for an afternoon display by the stunt team we would have been there all day. The same was going on in the workshop. So it was a well-earned rest and fry up that night. After some good night flying it was off to bed! Sunday came all too soon, and was just as nice as the day before. As the day before, all that were there worked as hard again in the workshop and again we dropped bears all day. A great day was had by all, just had to pack up rope, tents and set off home. (Thanks to Don and Di for bringing the rest of the family up on Sunday). Then on to Swindon's long weekend, Thursday putting out the road signs and then Friday for the usually thing work, work and more work then down the pub!

Saturday came and, at first. I thought we were going to fly with fog lights on but it cleared up and a nice day followed minus the wind but a good day was had and an even better evening (and I still have not got my hands on the sweatshirts) with a

good night fly. Sunday was a bit better, at least some kite flew and the sun was shining.

After a good day it was time to pack up and go home till Monday and then down with the signs and up to help Neil and the other Pete clear up. That was Swindon for this year. I would just like to add my thanks to all who helped manually and behind the scenes before and after the weekend (what are we doing next year?)

Then a weekend off for me, I thought (nearly - helped Jane & Dave at a school workshop) the Club went north and I was at a 60th party.

And so to this weekend first scout camp teddy dropping 200 I think I lost count and then we were going to Bath but had a ride to Tewkesbury instead to fly and meet some new faces and that's about it at this time but with Basingstoke and the rest of the year's shows and festivals to come there's a lot more fun to be had. See you all soon somewhere around.

Pete Willis

Hi Folks

O.K. I admit this is a bit of a junk mail, I'm not one to hassle everyone I know in the UK over a crazy idea, but this 'could' be a nice idea!

What am I rambling on about? I've heard a number of people mention that "wouldn't it be a nice idea for a newsgroup for just the UK flying scene", well, I've opened one!!!! it's e-mail based (like alt-kites if you've seen it) so you e-mail the site and it mails everyone on the list, but the site can also hold diary dates, questionnaires, and documents.

Do log on to the site and have a play, I intend not to moderate the site if I can help it! Perhaps that should be the first discussion?

Have a look see, tell me if it's worth a go.

Peter Dawson

The Wind

As my dog and I walked on our regular walks across the hilly fields near our home, we have often had to contend with the wind. Of course there are times when I love the wind on the hills, because I am a kite addict, and it is the adjustments that kite flying requires that made me think about the wind. Sometimes the wind is light, therefore larger kites cannot be flown, and sometimes the wind is so strong that kite flying is impossible. These thoughts made me think also of how our lives are like the wind, as the following words will explain.

Grief is like the wind. When it is blowing hard, you adjust your sails and run before it. If it blows too hard you stay in harbour, close the hatches and do not take any calls. When it is gentle you go sailing, have a picnic or take a swim. I know how the winds of mourning can blow hard and long, and never entirely die. All we can do is be grateful for the days when the breeze is gentle and pray that as the years pass, these will be more frequent than the storms.

When I am enjoying the "tranquility of the hill", with my dog sleeping by the kite bag, I can become quite lost in their union of myself and the kite, joined by the thin lines. Sometimes I can be there all afternoon and not see anyone, but as I had finished packing the kite one day last year I marvelled at the setting sun.

From the hilltop I had a spectacular view of the sun going down, in all its fiery glory, reaching out right across the sky. As the dusk began to gather about us I began to think of those for whom the day had ended and wished them "a quiet night's rest". Looking in the direction of the setting sun, now just a glow across the horizon, I prayed that those for whom the day was now beginning would have their dreams fulfilled.

Maybe you too would like to pause and give them a thought.

Happy memories are pictures, that you can hold
To help you through a weary day, when you are growing old.
So, whenever you feel lonely, or your thoughts are filled with sadness,
Reach for some happy memory, to replace your gloom with gladness.

**" some lives, like evening primroses,
blossom most beautifully late in life's day".**

The Old Man

Skychat

Well here we are halfway through the season and going on at a fair rate of knots. We have been fairly lucky with the weather in spite of the poor summer. Our own Festival was fine, but could have done with a bit more wind. Least it was not "SWIMDON" for a change. Many thanks to all of you that helped over the Festival in all your various ways. Many hands make light work. I must mention Marla and her band of helpers on the raffle and to all those of you who donated prizes. It was the best raffle yet, can we do better? To those that were not 'Marlaized' how did you escape? The sad thing about Our Festival was that Madge missed it. Honestly going into hospital just to get out of buying raffle tickets. Still it's great to know that you are now feeling better, but not quite up to coming out to the meetings yet! We miss you.

The weekend after our festival we had Cleethorpes. Wooooow!!! What a workshop, talking about working non-stop in a sweatshop, that's nothing after Cleethorpes. Over the weekend we made over a thousand kites, green tadpoles everywhere. We even had Doug Jones, Martin Croxton and Phil Scarfe helping on Sunday morning to get enough bits and pieces to last the day out. Again Ron and Marla Miller did sterling work (or should we say dollar work) helping inside and out. They also enjoyed the Fish and Chips at 'Becketts' and want to do Cleethorpes Again! Is there no limit to endurance of pain they can take?

The pace slowed a little after Cleethorpes, but only just. Workshops this year seem to be going from strength to strength, more and more kites being made and flying. Just as Dave R was worried earlier in the year that bookings were light, his phone just does not stop ringing and we are having to say no to some organizers because we are already booked. Mind some people ring up literally a few days before the event. Others are booking us up for next year already.

As always we can do with more help with workshops and the more helping hands means that some of us could fly kites now and again, even if it was for a short time. Still the best comment for a long time came from Dave R the other day at Barbury when talking about EMI Family Day wanting us to fly in their car park and he said "We can't fly in the car park" when somebody said, "Why not you do it up here?" Poor old Dave clobbered again.

I must congratulate all those of you with your newly-made kites. There is a wealth of talent out there, just keep it coming out and astounding us.

I have rabbitied on long enough for this issue and before you all drop off to sleep, I will wish you tight lines and clean winds.

Neil

Kennet Valley Festival

At last it has happened. A festival with sun and wind, well at least on Saturday and on Sunday enough to keep the multi-liners flying even if it proved difficult for those of us stupid enough to want to fly big kites or lift Teddy Bears.

Saturday started off with bright sun over the excellent site at Henwick Field and having said good morning and received the usual insults from Mr Harvey I stacked a pair of mega-deltas at about 400ft. which lifted the teddy gear very well and during the day we easily lifted Pete's large Pooh with packed 3m 'chute on several occasions.

Once setting up was complete it was time for bacon roll and coffee. Have you ever seen a frying pan that big? Then it's more verbal abuse, this time from George because I had been independent and brought my own coffee; but one gets used to it. Lunch was taken at the Mexican food wagon and washed down with a nice cold shandy from the beer tent and an hour later pudding was one of George's best.

In between all this food we did actually find time to parachute some poor unsuspecting fauna and were embarrassed when a 6 year old pointed out that the certificates had a spelling mistake, so now Neil can't say it and Dave T. can't spell it. The normal maléc took place when we did the sweetie drops but we had no reports of injury this time.

As I live very close I did not stop for the evening bash but hear it was good fun but no wind for flying, unless you were in the work-shop tent.

Sunday the wind was much lighter so we set up the pole for the teddies and dropped about 100 during the day, each one going twice so once again the Club's investment in this piece of kit proved well worth while.

The work-shop did roaring trade both days once the smoke had cleared from Neil's breakfast and although I do not have figures for how many sleds were built the sky seemed to fill up with them as usual including a stack of 3 and some at very high altitude which must have meant an extra number of lines being purchased.

All in all a very enjoyable festival so thanks to Kennet for all the hard work they put in to make it so good.

Arthur

A final note from the Editors

The time has come to say goodbye, well almost, the next issue will be out last. We really do not have the time any more. We have enjoyed our stint in charge and hope we hand over the magazine in better shape than we received it. Not even Maria will persuade us to change our mind. Thanks to all members who have supported us over the years, especially Arthur Dibble.

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 aeriads.
- 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 lonsby 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

COWPAT HILL

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