

COWPAT HILL



Issue No: 4, Vol 1.

NEWS SHEET of the WHITE HORSE KITE FLIERS

May 1990

Those High Winds... Again!

Well April's Fly-In was, as with previous months dominated by too much wind. Very high winds again meant that for the most part the only kites that could get up and stay up were Parafoils, although as the day went on and the winds varied (gusts on several occasions of up to 35mph! Doug had his handy wind meter!) other kites did manage to get flying.

Crossed Legs... AGAIN!

One of the reasons for the Barbury Castle site being so popular both with kite fliers and walkers is the ample parking and it's handy toilets, and there's the problem. On both the March and April's monthly fly-in a number of people discovered that the toilets were **LOCKED!** After finding them locked last month several letters were sent to the 'Wilts Council. David Robinson amongst others, received an assurance that they would be open at weekends. Well the council got it wrong **AGAIN!** Several people had travelled well over 60/70 miles to fly and walk on this site but felt that if they had to sit in cars with their legs crossed it was not worth the effort. So, um "... hello Wiltshire County Council" could perhaps just one of the many organisations that use the site have access to those keys of yours?

Going Potty?

A short poem found by Ron Gunter.

POTTY ABOUT HER

I peeped into lassies bedroom,

Cos I just wanted to see,

If she was settled comfy like

An sleepin peacefully,

But she were'nt in her bed at all,

She were kneeling t'other side.

I thowt "My lass is prayin"

And my heart just swelled wi pride.

So in I crept, and knelt me down

On this side of her bed.

I closed my eyes, and joined my hands

And then I bowed my head.

And as I knelt there prayin

Little lassie up't and cried

Why art tha crouching there our dad

The potty's on this side.

By Jor Kelly, Heywood, Lancs.

Though not really to do with kiting, Ron thought we might need to know just what to do when those Barbury toilets are locked!

So David, Over To You...

By David Robinson... It's Sunday 8th April 1990 and here we are again, winds blowing hard so not too many fliers at first because of the cold North Easterly wind. But Doug and Martin were down from London, Vic Walker from Oxford, Richard, Sandra and Karl Everett from North Oxfordshire, Neil Harvey from Bibury, David, Lorraine and Emma Tomlinson from Thatcham. Myself, Janet and Madge and the boss Ron Gunter with his good lady Betty from Swindon all flying kites along with other people on the site using Deltas and stunt kites. Doug had brought along his new legs (a definite improvement on the normal hairy ones he travels with) he also brought along his new Polaroid camera rig and promptly took an instant picture of himself whilst setting it all up. A chap called Dave had his boot up again along with the usual attendant queue, is someone making very large kites?

Sent Flying By A Kite

Just a short piece about what **CAN** happen with kites. On the Sunday fly-in Martin Croxton and myself (Richard Everett) were launching a 9x7 Parafoil for the second time that day, not that big a kite perhaps but in the strong winds a real handful, Martin was at the bridle and myself some 20 or so feet behind him, as Martin prepared to sort the bridle lines a strong gust pulled the kite airborne with Martin still on the ground and holding on! but the pain became so strong that Martin had to let go, this had the affect of a catapult sending me 6 feet up into the air then dropped me back on the ground, this all happened so quickly that Martin didn't have time to shout any warning! This time, although I was shaken and had the wind knocked out of me I was able to walk away.... but, another time!

Who's He? A Flying Profile

Little did a senior kite flier who took his niece's small children out with their kites know but this rather peaceful pastime would turn into a profitable hobby. Who's He? He is **Ron Gunter**, Ron discovered kiting when he saw a kite flier with a stack of twelve Red Arrow kites, Ron brought three from the maker Dave and Carol (he now has twelve of his own). Once he had mastered the art of flying kites Ron turned his talents to making them. His many Kite Workshops at schools and shows have seen Delta's and Box kites made by small children and senior citizens alike. With his engineering background Ron is well positioned to design and make many small kiting items. A member of many kite societies and a founder member of the White Horse (Wilts) Kite Fliers, Ron tells me that the membership slips that were returned at the "One Sky, One World" number in excess of sixty! So there you are, life begins at sixty plus!

All Flare In Love And High Winds

David Tomlinson arrived on Sunday with his recently completed **MultiFlare**, he would have just loved to fly it on Sunday but the high winds made that an impossible aim. Not dropping any parachutes yet David? Talking of parachutes and things I understand that a set of rules may exist regarding packs and sizes of parachutes. Any news on that one Vic?

Jest Picture That

Doog Jones, as mentioned earlier, made an attempt at taking an aerial Polaroid photograph of the normal crew, only he missed us and photographed some watching spectators, mind you the spectators thought the picture was Nice. The radio controlled shutter release on the rig was ~~not~~ and after initial problems and ~~being up~~ worked very well.

Bermuda Kites... Again

In last months 'COWPAT HILL' we mentioned that one of David Robinsons kites was to end up in Bermuda Well

kites in Bermuda came up on the National Television News. Messrs Bush and Thatcher were over there for a summit thing, and Easter Good Friday on Bermuda is one of it's major kite days and the two leaders were shown having a go at flying kites. (Apart from the sun, sand, warm blue sea it could have been the Barbury site!)

Old Warden

Well the White Horse Fliers were at Old Warden in force, Vic Walker Enterprises selling (after his plug in R.C.) his cargo parachutes, Dave (snowflake) and Janet Robinson along with Mum in the new Dinkey Toy™ Suzuki Jeep thingie, Richard Everett plc, Dave Tomlinson and Co, Neil Harvey & Associates and Martin "Just how high do you want to drop it from" Croston.

Old Warden... Rockets

Old Warden has been associated with aviation in one form or another for a very long time and kite flying is, if you will, a form of tethered aviation, but there were mutterings from several people, myself in-

cluded about the use of Rockets on the site whilst kites were being flown. Although spectacular to watch, the launch site for these missiles was upwind of the kite area which meant that when the Rockets deployed their parachutes/streamers etc they drifted down amongst the kites, perhaps they could have been situated down wind of the kite flying area.

Old Warden... A Monster Sled

Vic brought along his finished though not bridled large sled. Later in the day Paul Morgan was talked into getting the lines set onto the monster. Several of us then took this potential Man/Car lifter out onto a quiet area of the Old Warden field and after some false starts and bridle setting, the monster took to the air. This unbridled beast was kept to about fifty feet (although Martin wanted to let it go higher), allowing for the ground and air turbulence it flew very well. Vic's first attempt at major kite sewing looked good and it flew. Well done!

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News, Comments and Stories

We would be pleased to see items for inclusion in "COWPAT HILL". Please send them to the publisher:

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