

# COWPAT HILL

*The Quarterly Kite  
Journal of the...  
White Horse Kite Flyers.*

*Published during the  
Spring, Summer,  
Autumn and Winter.*

COWPAT HILL has been written, edited, produced, published and  
printed entirely by WHKF members.





SUNBURST

*Custom Colour Schemes Available*

CONTACT  
DAVE TOMLINSON  
225 LOWER WAY  
THATCHAM  
BERKSHIRE  
RG13 4TP  
TEL: 0635 72186

KREATIVE KITES

# SUMMER QUARTER 1991\*

*July - October*

*Volume 2.0, Issue 2.0*

## COWPAT HILL

*The Kite Journal Of The  
White Horse Kite Flyers*

*\*WHKF regret the late appearance of this issue due unfortunately, to our  
printers being unable to fit us in.*

*Our thanks to Neil Harvey and his "JOHN BULL PRINTING SET" for  
getting this issue out.*

**Kite n. light papered frame flown in  
wind.**

### *Discounts on kite sales from:*

*Dave Tomlinson of KREATIVE KITES (inside cover),  
offering WHKF members 5% discount.*

*Richard Marsh of TRADEWINDS KITES (back cover)  
will allow WHKF members 10% discount with 6% on  
all credit card transactions.*



## COWPAT HILL - The WHKF Journal

### Kite Festivals Etc...

July 21st	Huddersfield Family Kite Day.
August 4th	Middle Wallop Kite Festival.
August 8th	Hengistbury Head, Bournemouth.
August 24th - 26th	Chelmsford Spectacular Kite Festival?
September 7th - 8th	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court.
September 14th - 15th	Sports Kite Chamionship, Ashton Court, Bristol.
October 13th	Old Warden Aerodrome, Biggleswade, Beds.

*Working on the basis that you will need wind to fly kites...  
All the above events must be subject to local weather/flying conditions.*

### Kite And Material Stores To Fly Try

#### THE KITE STORE

48 Neal Street, LONDON WC2

#### KITE and BALLOON Co

813 Garratt Lane, LONDON SW 18

#### MALVERN KITES

The Warehouse, StAnnes Road, Gt. Malvern

#### KITEABILITY

2 Garfield Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 4RP

#### DUNFORD KITES

Cochrans of Oxford Ltd, Leefield, OXON

*Any of all of the above kite suppliers should be able to supply materials etc. that you may require to build your kites, why not send for a catalogue and see.  
Essentially, send a stamped & addressed envelope.*

# Private Sky and Your Letters

HELLO...

After a short period of not existing, COWPAT HILL is back!

I've mentioned it before, but moving my job location and changing my computer all added to make the editing and production of the News Sheet more than just a small problem.

I have now acquired yet another computer (number three since I started as editor) and this one has the capacity I need to produce the COWPAT HILL Journal.

After several discussions with Ron, Neil, David and others it was decided to produce a quarterly journal on a trial basis, this will help me by now having three months to produce it in rather than the usual three weeks!

The unfortunate thing is that we shall now have to make a small charge for it. This will take the form of a subscription fee based on the cost of:

(a) The Journal

(b) Kite Flying Insurance

I understand from Ron G. that we have over a hundred members and friends, so as before, COWPAT HILL will be produced by the WHKF for the WHKF and as always people...

**IT'S UP TO YOU, THE KITEFLYERS!**

News, plans, tips, views and any general rubbish to me on any second Sunday at Barbury Castle.

Richard Everett - Editor.

THE EDITOR - COWPAT HILL

115 Watertrush Road,

Chipping Norton,

OXON, OX7 5DQ.

Power To A Kite Flyer?

(A letter from Arthur Dibble)

Dear Richard,

A small contribution for our illustrious publication! (Not I didn't slip him a Fiver! - Ed)

Some months before the festive season I was informed that number one kite flying son required the old white bearded gent to deliver upon the 25th of December a train of kites. So out came the patterns, Ripstop and dowel, oiled up the 'Singer' and after bedtime for the next six weeks it was 'work the fingers to the bone'!

On the appointed day with large quantities of sherry and turkey inside us the serious business of parcel opening began. The son mentioned was pleased to locate a small Parafoll (purchased ready made, I'm not that good on the 'Singer' yet!) but it was not until much later that a train of seven Hexagons really made things right.

As some of you may have noticed Michael Fish was not very helpful over the holiday. However, after a few days we managed to get a short dry spell (actually about 40 minutes) and we tried the new Parafoll which was a bit unstable so father took over (an hour later we managed to get it out of the tree undamaged).

After this kites were left until we were at the Grandparents in South

Wales. A few dry hours, a light wind with a local flat field and up goes the Hexagon train, first time, one small problem, the son holding the train line (there's a joke there people... think about it! - Ed) is not heavy enough. Guess who takes over? Yep, it's dad. This all goes well until at 200 feet a swivel lets go!

Across the fields we go chasing the kite train, and pull up to a full stop! Horror! We see the kite train meet an eleven thousand volt power line.

Fortunately we know about this electricity stuff so we don't touch. We now have one very upset son minus seven kites!

The Electricity Board are called at Seven o'clock on New Years Eve and they inspected the problem. At Six o'clock the following morning all power is out in the area for two hours. To our surprise and much joy to number one son six kites complete with tails but minus bridles are returned to the house without the slightest reprimand. The train has now been rebuilt and ready to fly... Well done South Wales Electric!

Arthur Dibble

Reading.

See later article

## COWPAT HILL - The Kite Festival

And they said it COULDN'T be done!

Well we *DID* it! The first WHKF Kite Festival.

The six long months of planning by Dave Robinson, Neil Harvey and others showed through as the First Thamesdown Kite Festival became a reality at the Lydiard Country Park on the 11th and 12th of May.

Friday the 10th of May saw the Festival Committee hammering stakes into the ground, marking out the four arenas and setting up litter bins that we hoped would be in use over the following two days.

By early afternoon most of the major work had been done and Dave Robinson left for Bristol to fetch one of the festival's possible attractions... from America Doug Hagaman and his wife Jody!

By the time David arrived back from Bristol we had Pat and Ron Delf from Kitability on site and looking very hungry, the fact that Jody Hagaman was starving as well still didn't stop Doug Hagaman from putting up his latest Raspberry coloured Parafoil (*actually it was one that Jon Bloom had ordered!*) to test the wind.

During a lull in activity on site Dave Robinson asked about my Teddy dropping rig, it was then that I mentioned the small fact that I hadn't *actually* tried the rig out. I didn't know Dave's face could change to so many colours!

Just after Paul Morgan arrived on site (*and purely by coincidence Paul!*) twelve of us piled into four cars and headed for a meal at a local pub leaving Arthur Dibble in charge of the Raspberry Parafoil which was still flying in the failing light.

Well you may have heard of night flying but this was ridiculous, arriving back on site at about midnight saw the Raspberry Parafoil *STILL* flying! This was all rather difficult to understand as there just wasn't a breath of wind at ground level but the pull on Mr Hagaman's kite had to be felt to be believed.

Martin Croxton obliged us with some light on the subject from his powerful spot lamp and the Raspberry Parafoil was brought down to safety allowing some of us to get to bed at one o'clock.

Saturday started off nice although an iffy wind did just allow a test trial of the Teddy dropping rig which much to David's (*and my*) relief actually worked! By midday we had quite a gathering of kite flyers in the various arenas. Neil Harvey looking very fashionable in his WHKF green hat with the orange kite on top became the 'MC' for the festival and I have to say his

Gloucestershire accent gave some real meaning to the weekend (*even if we did call him 'The Frat in The Hat'!*)... well done our Neill!

Martin Lester brought along what must be the worlds largest runners legs flying! Over sixty feet long and quit capable of lifting a man on the line! With applied shorts they were the nicest pair of legs on the site! (*the exception perhaps being Doug Jones's (Mull - CAN CAN' legs).*)

Several WHKF's were interviewed by BBC Radio Wiltshire, I gave a four or five minute out of breath talk on the virtues of parachuting teddies (*I think we should have got John Barker from BMISS to have given them the low down.*)

Tony Slatter from the Shropshire Kite Group was working well, giving a running commentary on the Rokkaku Challenges which were recorded by Central Television and transmitted over the weekend, did anyone see it? Video it?

Sunday saw the general public on site in their thousands, was it the National Power Hot Air Balloon or did they want to just fly kites? Whatever, turn up they did. The Army Cadets worked well controlling the traffic along with members of the Thamesdown Rotary. Oh, we had Police help on site as well... *mainly flying kites!*

Throughout the day we had continuing Rokkaku challenges, the challenge trophy being later won by the Peacock Family. Indian fighting kites were on display and flown showing just how good these small kites actually are. The many kite stands on the festival site reported continuous trading, with the food and drink stands looking as if they might run out of stock.

Six o'clock came and our two thousand feet CAA height clearance went, leaving kites at about two hundred feet. As the park reverted back to it's normal state many people asked the WHKF when the next festival was going to be? Well, watch out in 1992. Possibility of a Euro Kite Festival?... *You never know.*

*Richard Everett*

## *Kite Festival Letters (start blushing team)*

21 Widham, Purton,

Swindon Wilts.

14th May 1991

Dear David,

I would like to thank you very much indeed for a splendid festival last weekend, and I am only sorry that I missed you on Sunday afternoon to thank you and Neil in person. Were you satisfied with the event? Is it going to become an annual event? At the moment you must be reeling from the effort you all put in. For my own part I was amazed at the display of veritable sky hooks you produced.

You may be interested in one small incident on the Sunday morning that, for me, brought all aspects of the event together. A young man came into the Heart Foundation tent pushing a little buggy with a small baby and a proud five year old sister walking alongside. They were enjoying the kites. 'I'm glad it's in aid of the Heart Foundation' he said, 'little Thomas here is ten weeks old and at eleven days he had a hole repaired and a new heart valve fitted at the JOHN RADCLIFFE Hospital in Oxford'. The British Heart Foundation fund research into this aspect of congenital heart disease.

Once again, my thanks to you and your team.

Best Wishes,

*Roger W Dutton*

Hon. Chairman, British Heart Foundation, (Swindon).

---

An open letter in praise of the First Thamesdown Kite Festival.

What a super festival. Thank you White Horse Kite Flyers. You made a wonderful SUCCESS of it.

What made the success?

Organisation - Hard work.

People - A friendly welcome.

Place - Room for everyone, high and low tech.

Weather - At last, an end to freezing gales.

Magic Ingredient - Everyone I saw was having a good time.

Thank you White Horse Kite Flyers.

*John Browning*

---

22 Eden Crescent,

Leeds LS4 2TW.

Dear Janet and David,

Just a note to once again thank you all for a very enjoyable weekend we spent at your festival. We had a great time and met many very nice pleasant people. The friendly atmosphere at your event was one of the things we will remember, along with the warm reception we received.

Regards and best wishes to you all.

*Barbara and John Baker*

LEEDS KITES.

---

## *Festival Letters (blushing... continued)*

128 Meadow Farm Drive,  
Harlescott,  
Shrewsbury.

20th May 1991.

Dear Dave,

Just a short note from our kite group to yours to tell you how much we enjoyed last weekend's kite festival. Your hospitality was much appreciated.

The camping facilities were first class and the flying areas were ideal.

One thing that stood out was the co-operation from all your group members; it was nice to be able to approach any of them at any time. We knew who they all were because of the uniforms they were wearing; they were approachable and most knowledgeable.

The organisation seemed to come together very nicely. There were no hitches that we could detect. Although the weather was ideal we feel that even if it had poured with rain it would still have been a success as there was such a good friendly atmosphere, and this is what makes a kite festival.

As a group we look forward to attending another one next year.

On behalf of the Shropshire Kite Group.

*Tony Slater,*

Secretary.

## *A Letter From The President And Chairman*

Dear Members,

Can we both say a big *THANK YOU* for all the hard work and help given in various ways over the run up to and during our Kite Festival at Lydiard Country Park.

We won't single out any persons in particular for special note as it was very much a *TEAM EFFORT*. This was our first festival and lets hope it will be just one of many.

Contrary to all our worries it was a success and we did make a profit, enabling us to give donations to... The British Heart Foundation, The St.Johns Ambulance and The Wessex Brigade, Army Cadet Force.

Many thanks again to you all.

*Ron Gunter,* President

*Neil Harvey,* Chairman

## *Soft Toys and Knick - Knacks*

Could we just mention that the proceeds from the Soft Toys and Knick - Knacks stall we ran amounted to £292. This amount was donated to the Chipping Norton (*Oxon*) branch of the BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION. Many thanks to all who supported us... *Sandra Everett & Denise Thomas*



# Thamesdown Kite Festival

Provisional Accounts - 11th and 12th May

## INCOME

Interest Free Loans	320.00
Donations	482.63
Trade Kite Stalls	491.96
Kite Work Shop	130.00
Bouncy Castle	263.00
Programme Adverts	120.00
Programme Sales	104.00
Parachuting Teddies	181.50
Caravan & Camping	75.75
Wine ( <i>Returns</i> )	27.85

2196.69

## EXPENDITURE

Lydiard Park Hire	150.00
Public Address System	140.30
Insurance	30.00
Marquee Hire	70.00
Mobile Toilets	46.00
Workshop Supplies	30.00
Teddy Bears	140.00
Bouncy Castle	50.00
Print. Stat. & Adverts.	124.32
Guest Flyers Fees	100.00
Guest Expenses	177.00
Loan Repayments	100.00
Hospitality Wine	41.31
<i>Donations</i>	
The Heart Foundation	300.00
St.Johns Ambulance	80.00
Army Cadet Force	40.00
Closing Balance	578.06

2196.69

*Janet Robinson*

On behalf of the WHKF Thamesdown Kite Festival Committee

## COWPAT HILL - The WHKF Journal

25 Main Street

Empingham, Rutland.

Leics

12 June 1991

Dear Dave & Other Organisers,

I am writing to thank you all for an exceedingly enjoyable kite festival at Lydiard Park. Both Hilary and I had an absolutely smashing time. We did not stay locally because of the expense but travelled in from Abingdon, the father-in-law's home each day.

We had invited several friends and family to the event, all of whom came and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. My sisters came from Bisley in Surrey and Highworth along with their partners and their relations.

Everyone said how surprised they were at the number of people flying kites and the number of people who came to spectate. In fact several of them brought kites and said they would take up flying. The Festival seemed to give kite flying a degree of both respectability and acceptability.

We all have our own opinion of what a festival is about and what success is. Both of us thought that the Swindon festival was the best we've been to for a long time. We think that a good festival is where people are seen enjoying themselves and flying kites.

The highlight for us was seeing a field full of people of all ages and sexes flying kites. Quite honestly it was the best one we'd been to, and we go to a lot, including Holland, Dieppe and Washington (Tyne & Wear).

Some enjoyable aspects were:-

- a) The refreshingly local sounding commentary.
- b) The absence of noisy stunters which the average person can't afford and which only creates a demonstration for spectators and doesn't facilitate everyone flying.
- c) The friendly attitude of the local people.

Thank you all and good luck on any future festivals.

*Stafford and Hilary Wallace*

## Kite Flying And Electricity

I'm sure you will have read the letter from Arthur Dibble about how his kite train and some overhead Power Cables met. COWPAT HILL has, and *always* will, champion the cause of kite safety, not least where electricity is concerned.

If you find yourself in the same situation as Arthur, do as he did, *WALK AWAY*. At worst you have lost your kite... *it could just as easily be your life*.

Call the local Electricity Board or inform the Police, on no account attempt to retrieve any kites yourself or touch any hanging kite lines.

*PLEASE, FLY SAFE, ELECTRICITY KILLS!*