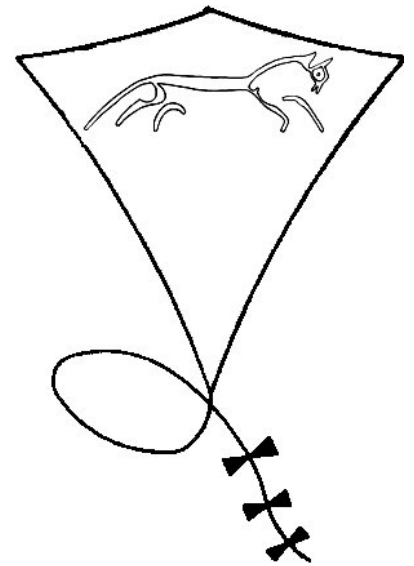


# Cowpat Hill

Journal of  
The White Horse Kite Flyers  
Issue: Autumn 08



## **Robinson's Ramble Extra!**

I wrote my ramble on holiday at the AKA convention in Gettysburg, since writing and sending it to Tracy, a few issues have materialised. The main one is the first paragraph.

First our very own "Ticket Chick" Marla Miller was given one of the highest awards in American Kite Flying at the recent AKA Convention. She was honoured with the Robert Ingraham award for services to the AKA. This accolade was given for her unstinting work in raising funds for them via her raffle work, of course she does the same for the Fort Worden Kite making workshops, and not forgetting her work in raising the stakes at our own Festival Raffle, before Marla started her bag raffle style for us, we were happy with £200/£250 now that she has shown us the way we are upset if we don't make at least £1000. Please remember when she comes over to run the raffle, it's at her own expense! Congratulations Marla from the Committee and Members of the White Horse Kite Flyers!

Don't forget the upcoming Phil Scarfe workshop, where he is taking a class in making a poster kite. The Fee is £40 including Buffet Lunch both days. For further information please contact me at [darjer2@aol.com](mailto:darjer2@aol.com)

Remember the club AGM on Sunday 16/11/08, 12.00pm for a 12.30pm start. The raffle pays for the hire of the room plus the buffet, please support it by your donations and bring along very deep pockets.

WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS

PO BOX 585

SWINDON

SN3 4YR

[www.whkf.org.uk](http://www.whkf.org.uk)

[info@whkf.org.uk](mailto:info@whkf.org.uk)

# DIARY DATES

W = Workshop, D = Display, T = Teddy bears

## October

12<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle OSOW

25/26<sup>th</sup> Phil Scarfe workshop

## November

1<sup>st</sup> Light up the Sky with Loddon Valley

9<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle

(Note this will include the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Doug Hagaman fly)

16<sup>th</sup> AGM At Express by Holiday Inn

## December

14<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle

27<sup>th</sup> Christmas Pudding Fly at Barbury Castle

## January 2009

11<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle

28<sup>th</sup> December: Latest date for articles for the next issue.

## Bali Kite festival

On a recent holiday on the island of Bali our eyes were naturally attracted skywards and to Kites.

The first ones we saw however were Kite Surfers and Wake Borders, but soon other things appeared in the sky.

Having found where these kites were being flown from we were amazed at their size and construction. They were very large and fairly crudely made. The frame was bamboo and the sail appeared to be polyester,

The lines were rope, or on smaller kites, fishing line.

No gloves were being worn by the flyers.

One thing leads to another and it became apparent that there was a kite festival taking place at the weekend.

After some research and assistance from a pleasant young lady in the hotel, we located the site and took a taxi to it.

You can travel for many miles for £2 in Bali using local benzene which is sold at the side of the road in bottles along with other local produce. Our last taxi ride cost 68p.

The first thing we noticed as we approached the venue was groups of people of all ages carrying their kites above their heads along the road and completely oblivious to the traffic jam behind them. The more affluent carried their kite on the back of a lorry with the flyers inside a bamboo support structure underneath holding it down. This took up three quarters of the road, so traffic jams both ways.

The whole procession was accompanied by people playing drums and tambourines.

Once we arrived at the beach it was very confusing.

The site was black sand and broken coral; there were people, kites, tents, motor cycles and food traders everywhere.

The dubious foods were being cooked on makeshift BBQs and the smells added to the scene.

At the same time three very large earth moving machines were building sea defences.

All this in 30 degrees plus!

The whole area was alive but it was difficult for the uninitiated to work out exactly what was going on.

How did the judges decide who had won?

The competition seemed to entail a team of about 20 people running towards the sea over the sand dunes pulling their kite into the air to the beat of local music and a lot of enthusiastic shouting. The kite took off. The stretchy bands at the front created a humming sound and it came down again.

Very confusing.

We were the only pale faces in evidence until we met an Australian invited flyer from Newcastle near Sydney who was flying a self made poster kite. Stupidly we failed to get his name but he had heard of WHKFA and has connections with MKFA.

The whole scene was one of great noise and excitement, everyone was smiling and it was an absolute delight to see so many happy smiling faces.

We will not forget it but it is true to say that our festivals and get togethers are better managed and we couldn't do it their way even if we wanted to. The Health and Safety guru would have a field day there.

Brian and Nola Smith

Pictures to accompany this article can be found on the club web pages.

## Email from a new contributor

Dear editor,

As new member of the White Horse Flyers (we only joined at the beginning of the year) I was surprised to see the desperate plea for articles in the latest edition of Cowpat.

My partner Debbie Wheeler and I currently go to many kite festivals (6 so far this year) but despite this, we would rather not write particularly about any one of them. For a list of main events reads like a timetable, and we are left with impressions: the picnickers everywhere at Swindon this year, the sunburn at Basingstoke (and both festivals have the knack of putting the arena in the only place with a breath of wind - well there is wind also in the car parks...) the sheer size of Rougham, the lightening at Streatham, the amazement at seeing Blackheath for the first time - there is a nice part of London!) And the one thing that hits you whenever you start learning about how festivals are organised - The skills of the arena flyers are as nothing compared with the efforts that have gone into ensuring that the festival takes place! Perhaps some day we might think of writing an article about festivals in general....

Instead I wonder if you are interested in a series of articles entitled "Confessions of a newbie sport kite flyer"? The first one on "how it began" is attached. Many of the current articles in Cowpat appear to be up to 2 pages or ~800 words long, and so this is what I aimed for. The attached article is just over 700 words long. If you are interested, then I would be willing to write some other articles, which could be stockpiled against the next time that you are running short of material. I have some ideas for topics for 2 or 3 more articles - on the kites we bought next, why and what happened to them and how they were repaired (and much more interesting to us - the one that never broke), learning to fly, learning to trick, trying to teach others...

What do you think??

Peter Massey

Peter; this is fantastic! Some one with some new articles. It is always good to hear how people started flying and how they met WHKF, so please keep them coming. The last one of these was probably about 1993! Articles don't need to be all that long, very often half a page is very useful to fill a space. Sorry to hear about your difficulties with a Peter Powell kites. If they are the genuine ones there should have been very little problem flying them, but if they were a "look-a-like", 'nuff said. If you want experience for your articles on festivals please come and join us on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2009 and we will let you have all the experience you want!

Peters article follows.

### Confessions of a newbie sport kite flyer

What made you take up kiting? Because your parents fly kites? The social life? Fresh air and exercise? The challenge of competitions? The satisfaction of making and flying your own kites?

Well with me – I was set up. My partner had been wanting to try flying and tricking two liner kites for years. And back in the summer 2006 while I was preoccupied with work she arranged two things. One was a short holiday, and two was that she bought a couple of cheap sport kites to take along. She did her homework, checked internet reviews, and settled on a Peter Powell type diamond and also a small delta kite that was being sold at a discount as it was being discontinued – the end of its line as it were.

Well the holiday came, and after a couple of days she produced the kites from the boot of the car. We took them up the (Uffington) White Horse hill, where our party was joined by some friends who had brought along a cheap two-liner foil kite. – We didn't get anyway

near trying tricks, for none of the 3 kites flew. – Well they occasionally rose into the air, but with minds of their own, would perform U turns and firmly insist on staying on the ground. - The trouble is, I am an engineer, and as anyone who knows engineers will tell you, they cannot live with something not working. – Well maybe they can live with something not working if they know that they can fix it any time they wish, like that light bulb which never quite gets replaced, or a squeaky wiper blade on the wife's car. But that wasn't the case here. There was wind, the kites should have flown, and for unknown reasons, none of them did.

And that is how I started a new preoccupation with two-liner sport kites. Oh we said to ourselves that it would be lovely to get exercise in the fresh air, learn new skills, and in view of our advancing years (coming up to 50) it was good to find a hobby that gave us gentle exercise. But in truth it was because we had "kites" that did not actually spend much time in the air.

The first step in finding out how to fly them was to get a kite that actually flew properly. In default of any actual knowledge, it was a fair bet that a top end kite should fly. And as we live inland in lowland Surrey, if we were to fly at all we should get a low wind kite. The local kite shop – (when I say local, I mean 30 miles away on the coast – there aren't many kite shops nowadays) had a full size Icarex sailed light wind kite for sale – which as it was very old stock, we could have for a substantial discount. It was here that we made our next two mistakes. Firstly light wind means different things depending where you live and what you are used to. On the coast 4mph may be an unusually gentle wind, but inland it can be an above normal breeze. Secondly we had not yet learnt that the spars of some kites, even if the kites are very expensive, don't fold down. So I purchased a "light wind" kite that would just fit in the car if we put it across the back seats, and which would only fly at our local common when the winds picked up.

Well that was two years ago. Lots of kites later, we now know what ultralights, super-ultralights and indoor kites are, and more importantly own a few. Moreover our regular kites fold down and fit in the boot of the car, and so we can transport both kites and passengers.

And what of the kites that originally started this all off? – My partner can fly the diamond some of the time, but we still have not sorted out how to stop the curve of the cross-spreader flipping over and taking the kite out of the sky. And after lots of repairs to its sail and experimenting with its bridle, the delta kite now flies and even does a trick or two – providing the wind is >14mph!

## A Hopeful Flyer

### A new item of WHKF merchandise

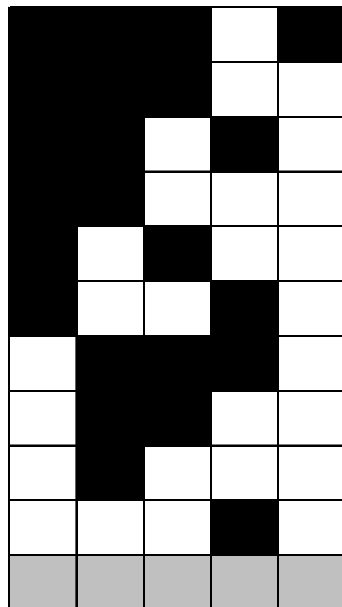
To assist with our fund raising to cover losses at the festival David R came up with the idea of a rear screen car sticker. With invaluable help from Dave Cross we have come up with the solution below. These will be available from the club or by contacting me at a price of £1 each. They are printed on Vinyl and are self stick to the inside of the screen.



# Puzzle Corner (10)



1. In my purse, I have a number of pounds and one plus three times that number of pence. If I were to swap the pound and pence figures, I would have three times the actual amount plus one penny. How much do I have in my purse ?
2. Can you see what makes the number :8,549,176,320 very special ?
3. Can you fill in the black/white sequence in the bottom row ?  
This one has foxed me ! Please, Please send me the answer !



Thought : Time is Nature's way of stopping everything happening at once

Answers to [john@johnbrowning.net](mailto:john@johnbrowning.net).  
Any comments about Puzzle Corner ?

## Robinson's Ramble

Wednesday 10/09/08, at last it's time for a holiday! Janet and me are about to go on our bi-annual trip to Dieppe. This will be our tenth trip, having started this bi-annual pilgrimage in 1990. However, there is a little matter of a days work before we leave. We are due to sail on the 22.30 from Newhaven, which gets us in to Dieppe at 3.30am on Thursday morning. We get the days work out of the way; and off we go! I decide to avoid the Motorways and let the SatNav take us through the leafy lanes of Hampshire and Sussex. the SatNav certainly knows how to find the leafy lanes, we saw areas of the country we didn't know existed! Eventually we arrive at Newhaven in good time for the ferry, we needn't have rushed, they were running about 50 minutes late unloading the ferry from Dieppe, after this small delay we load amongst all of the trucks heading for the continent, it's amazing how the ferry swallows up so many of them! We arrive an hour later than the stated time due to leaving late, of course it's still too early to check in to our hotel, so we had a nap in the car until about 7am. Eventually the day dawns completely and we start to meet up with the rest of the club members who arrived the day before. The weather this year was kind to us except for the Friday, when we must have had about an inch of rain fall in about a three hour period in the afternoon.

The Club Stick-Men were on display again this year, along with the Koi Carp, they both attracted lots of attention, Arthur & Martin along with Don and the rest of the team, should be really proud of their work in displaying them. The only sad thing about Dieppe is that it only occurs bi-annually!

Our trip home was quite eventful, we told Marla to be ready by 3.50am so that we could catch the ferry that leaves at 5.00am. I woke up at what I thought was 2.50am to visit the bathroom, I then woke Janet to tell her it was time to get up, only for Janet to inform me that I had misread the time and it was only 1.50am, so we thought we had an extra hour, guess what! We went back to sleep for two hours! And only woke up when Marla called us from reception! You have never seen Janet & myself move so fast, in fact I didn't even realise we could move so fast! We got to the port at 4.08am! Good job it wasn't far from the hotel. Janet wasn't impressed with my setting of the alarm on my mobile phone; she hates to be rushed in the mornings, so much so; that we normally set the alarm for at least 2 hours before we go to work.

Back to work for 4 days then off to the USA for the AKA Convention at Gettysburg, we fly in to Washington DC with Arthur & Marla, to meet Ron (Marla's husband) who was flying in from Seattle. We arrived in Washington an hour later than we should have due to leaving Heathrow an hour late. This was a good delay for a change because we thought that we had to wait 1.5 hours for Ron's plane to arrive. Within the time we landed and got through customs and then transferred to the terminal where Ron was arriving, his plane had landed, at last a plan had come together! We proceed to pick our B.A.T. (Big Arse Truck) and then to our hotel on the outskirts of Washington, where we were staying for the night. Next day we drive in to Washington to catch the Double-Decker Bus tour, the temperature was in the 80's. If you haven't been to Washington, try to go; what we saw in the two-hour bus tour makes us want to go back. After the tour we head for Gettysburg, it should be a 2.5 hour trip, that's if you don't get onto the motorway that encircles Washington; when 70.000 Washington Redskin fans are leaving their stadium, so the trip takes about 4 hours due to the traffic jams, we eventually reach our destination! Very tired and ready for bed, the hotel is a large convention complex on the outskirts of Gettysburg, we are sharing it with the annual convention of the Rhodesian Ridge Back, dog club, 839 of them, dogs that is!!! I won't go into the problems with the hotel, needless to say there were many of them, so much so that Ron & Marla left after only 1 day to stay at an hotel 6 miles away. The temperatures were still in the 80's until Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September, when the rain arrived and the temperature dropped by 20 degrees F. The kites at the event and the people we met were still as good as ever at one of these events, if you've never been to one of these type of kite conventions, you should try to get to one at some time Janet and me think they are great.

## Jolly Up, Aug 08

Friday August 1<sup>st</sup> arrived, and the day was spent putting up the Marquee and setting up the Beer Tent in preparation for the weekend's fun. With the beer tapped and the tables & chairs in place, we were ready for two days of relaxation and kite flying.

We did an impromptu BBQ on the Friday evening, and the beer was sampled in large quantities!

Saturday arrived to the smell on bacon rolls being cooked, always a good start to the day. It was a bit damp and overcast to begin with, but the sun made an appearance and stayed for the rest of the day. That helped to fill the sky with an array of kites and made for happy kite fliers!

We had a visit from the couple (Hongye and Gordon) who won a competition to design a kite to be flown at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics. Roy made the design up for them, using our printing process. It was a very well photographed kite!

The evening BBQ was a success, and that was followed by the Auction. That was fun, and our thanks to all who donated to it. A chilli plant proved to be an expensive purchase for Damon, but I'm sure the fruits will be enjoyed for a long time to come!

Sunday was a damp day, but it didn't stop the kite flying, which went all for most of the day.

We had some Rev flying put on by Force 3, and Fractured Axel arrived in the afternoon to do trick flying, so plenty of room for all.

We'd like to thank all of you who supported the Weekend, it only works with you.

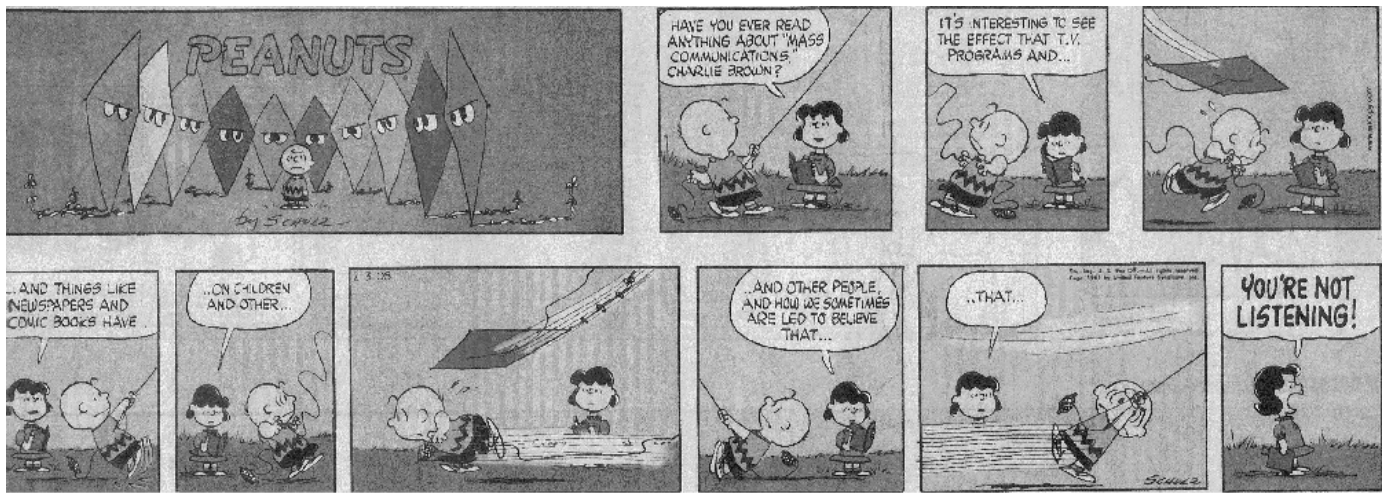
We'll be doing it all again next year, the first one will be on the last weekend in April (so the weekend before Weymouth Kite Festival)

Hayley Gillingham and Roy Broadley, Kites Up.



A copy of this picture can be found on the web site.





for colour version go to <http://www.redberets.co.uk/peanuts2.jpg>

## ACTIVATE WORKSHOPS

I know many people (me being one of them), feel that children's workshops are boring and a pain to have to do, even if they are a necessary evil to raise funds to cover the festival. However I have found the summer holiday ones to be very rewarding and great fun. This summer we have done 5 of them for Kennet Leisure at various locations.

When I do these I like the children to do the cutting out as they have then done something apart from stick bits of tape and it helps extend the session if you have more than an hour to fill. So when I agreed to do them I made sure the organisers were aware that they would need scissors and hole punches.

It goes without saying that when Neil and I got to the first one in Marlborough they had nothing. They managed to locate a few pairs of scissors and a couple of hole-punches. The scissors were all blunt so it was lucky I had taken a few pairs. The second session at Tidworth they were a little better prepared with two boxes of brand new scissors but no hole-punches. By the time we got to Devizes the message was getting through and they had plenty of scissors most of which cut and they had raided the offices to get five hole-punches.

Never mind we got by and every one produced a kite of some sort. The weather this year has been a bit poor but in Marlborough we managed to fly the kites indoors to a limited extent. In Tidworth we were in a large sports hall and the last 20 minutes of the session were taken up with the children running round with their kites and expending more energy than any time. The real bonus for me was at Devizes when we managed to get the second group of about 20, through in about 40 minutes and they were then taken out to the all weather pitch and my highest count was 17 in the air at any one time. The ones tangled round the lights and in the fence could have been predicted fairly early on.

For the second session in Marlborough they were a bit better prepared but they seemed to over use the phrase "I can't do that" during the first session. The second group were better and they all did a bit of flying out doors.

The final week at Tidworth they really excelled and even though there was some mix up with dates the class of 17 all completed their kites before going out on to the field where at one point I counted all 17 in the air with a number of them flown at the extent of the line we had provided. Unfortunately due to current legislation I was not allowed to take pictures for our records.

I had great fun doing these and a lot of satisfaction. The organisers were also pleased and said they would be contacting us again in the future, so who's up for it in 2009?

Arthur



AGENDA for  
WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
16<sup>th</sup> NOV 2008

at

The Holiday Inn (SWINDON WEST)

12.00PM for 12.30pm Start

1. Welcome to Members from the President.
2. Apologies.
3. Minutes of 2007 AGM.
4. Matters arising from Minutes.
5. Chairman's Report.
6. Hon. Sec's Report. (including insurance changes)
7. Hon. Treasurer's Report.
8. "Cowpat Hill" editor's Report.
9. WHKF USA representative's Report.
10. Election of Officers.
11. WHKF Festival 2009.
12. Other Events.
13. National Body.
14. Equipment for 2009.
15. Projects for 2009.
16. Workshops for 2009.
17. Fees from November 2009.
18. Any other Business. Now is your chance to have "a say", or have we forgotten something?
19. Close of the Meeting by the President.

Lunch will be served following the election of officers.

THE RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN AT THE END OF THE MEETING.

Please support it well as it pays for the FOOD.

## Club Merchandise

All items can now be viewed on the club web site. Prices do not include post and packing. Please contact us for these costs. Cheques should be made payable to WHKF.

T SHIRT S-XL	£9	POLO XS-XL	£14	SWEATSHIRT XS-XL	£16.60
T SHIRT 2XL-3XL	£9.50	POLO 2XL	£14.50	SWEATSHIRT 2XL	£17.90
2005 FESTIVAL		POLO 3-4XL	£15	SWEATSHIRT 3-4XL	£18.40
2006 FESTIVAL				FESTIVAL XS-XL	£25
2007 FESTIVAL		JACKET	£35	CAP STANDARD	£7.50
2008 FESTIVAL				WITH EAR FLAPS	£10
		RELAX STICKER	£1.00	LEGIONNAIRE'S	£8.50
PATCH	£1.50	MUGS	£6	COASTERS	£1.50

### WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS CODE OF PRACTICE

Always fly safely.

Always be considerate to other people using the same area whether it is noise or physical intrusion into their space.

Always fly legally taking in to account all national, local and CAA restrictions and by-laws.

Never fly at a height of more than 60m above ground level, in the UK unless a CAA clearance is in force (as at kite festivals). If you don't know what the clearance is ASK!

Never fly a kite in wet or stormy weather. Always try and keep your line dry.

Never fly a kite near power lines, transmission towers or aerials.

Never fly near Motorways, roads, car parks or railways.

Never fly near airfields.

Never fly a kite with anything metallic in the line.

When tethering a kite ensure that the ground anchor is suitable (see BKFA report 6 June 06).

When flying large kites always use a brake line.

Always wear good quality gloves when flying large powerful kites.

Always give priority to domestic animals particularly if they are showing signs of distress.

Always clear up after yourself, especially lines, tails and bits of plastic that could trap, choke or injure domestic or wild animals.

Never fly near those kite-eating trees.

Finally remember.....your kites can get really quite lonely up high in the sky; just occasionally, look up and give them a SMILE. It will make you feel better too.

WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS meet at Barbury Castle Country Park on the second Sunday of each month.

Your local contacts are: -

Neil Harvey +44(0)1285 740295

Arthur Dibble +44(0)1635 865976

Dave Robinson +44(0)1793 824208

This issue edited by

Arthur Dibble

Please send articles to [cowpat.ed@whkf.org.uk](mailto:cowpat.ed@whkf.org.uk)

Subscription AGM to AGM: £14 (including 4 issues of COWPAT HILL and kite flying insurance)

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