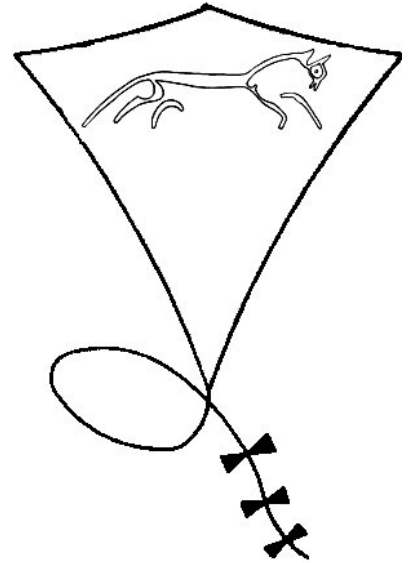


# Cowpat Hill

Journal of  
The White Horse Kite Flyers  
Issue: Autumn 2012  
October ----- December



18<sup>th</sup> November. Here we go again.

Celebrating the treasurer's birthday a day late with a fantastic event known as the AGM. Oh what fun I hear you cry, a lot of boring speeches and sandwiches and chips for Sunday lunch. Then they suggest you might like to take one of the committee positions, why is every one looking at their shoes?

Seriously though this is your chance to get involved or air your views if you are unhappy with the way the club is being run or if there is something else you would like to see the club try. It is also time to renew your subscriptions that will ensure you continue to receive this noble publication and are covered by insurance at club approved events. Your personal liability is due in June but this is only valid if you are a paid up club member.

As usual we will be running a raffle to help cover the cost of lunch so any donations and your deep pockets will be much appreciated. The agenda for this meeting can be found inside. If you want your apologies recorded please send them to the usual address.

As this is the last issue before the New Year the Committee and production team would like to wish you "The Season's Greetings" which ever event you celebrate.

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

14<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle (OSOW)

## November

11<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle

18<sup>th</sup> AGM at Express by Holiday Inn M4.J16. (12:30PM start)

## December

9<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle

27<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle (Christmas pudding fly)

## January

13<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle

## February

10<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle

## March

10<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle

17<sup>th</sup> Rodborough Common

## April

14<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle

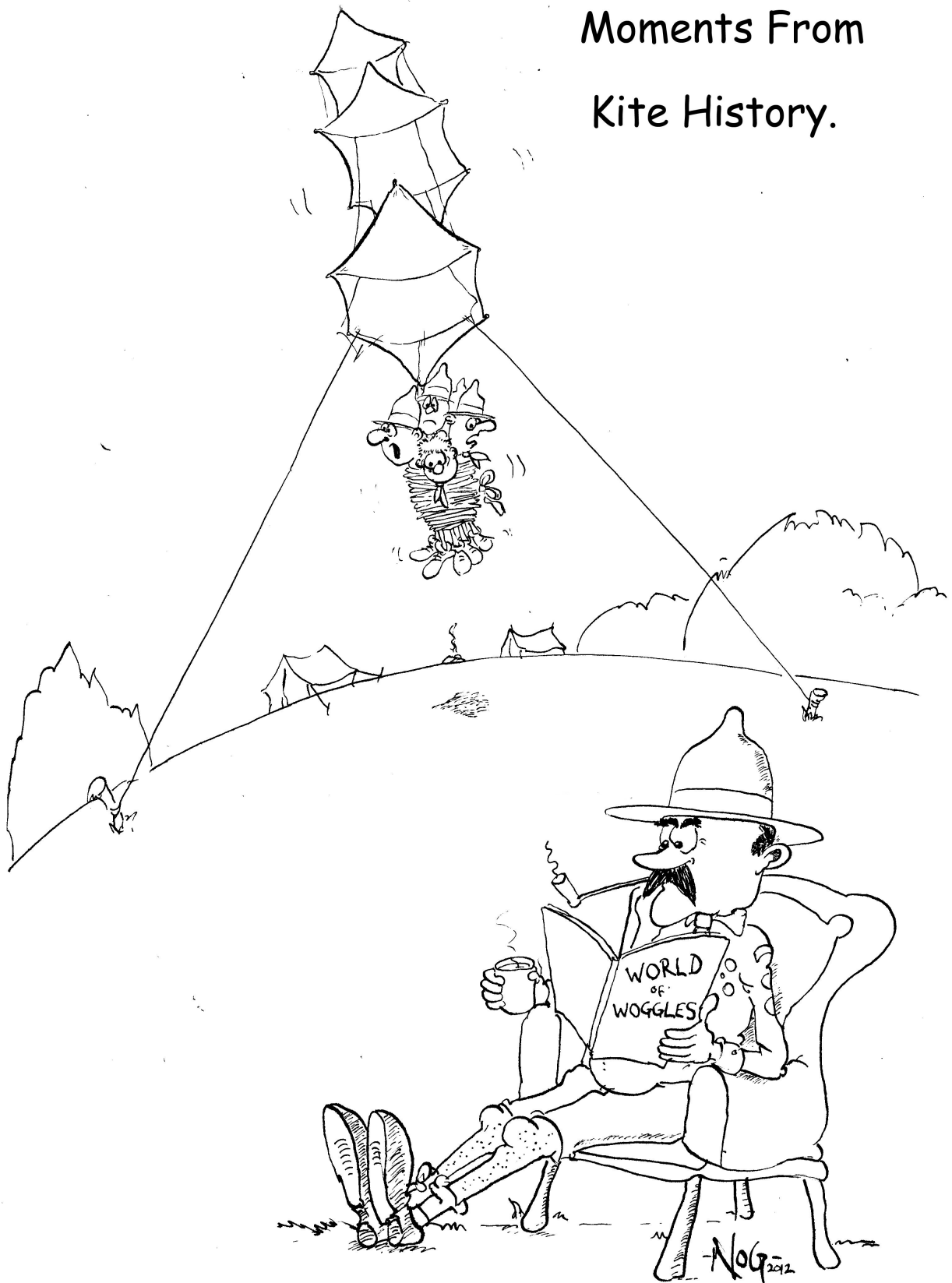
27/28<sup>th</sup> Jolly Up 12

IF YOU HAVE ANY DATES PLEASE LET US KNOW SO THAT THEY CAN BE ADDED TO THIS LIST

For other dates please go to <http://www.kitecalendar.co.uk/>

DEAD-LINE FOR NEXT ISSUE 30<sup>th</sup> December 2012

# Moments From Kite History.



Lord Baden-Powell finds a use for his brother's Levitor kite during an early Scout camp.

## **Sad news**

It was with great sadness that we received the news that Phil Parsons has died. He was feeling unwell on Friday 7th September and taken in to hospital the following day where he was diagnosed with leukaemia. He passed away early on the Monday. Our thoughts are with his family.

With Nesta, Paul and Pam they put on a great display at many festivals across the country and they were recipients of the Ron Gunter Cup for services to the club. Phil was a keen kite flyer always ready to try something new and making many of his own kites. He was always prepared to stop and chat about kites and was often seen helping young flyers who were have difficulties. He was a great asset to the club and will be sorely missed by us as well as his family. Let us hope that the weather is better for flying where he is now than it has been here this year.

## **Kite Bag 2 by Stuart Lafferty**

In my kite bag this month is 1000ft of kite-line. Very nice, but can I actually use it? As there is often a lot of confusion about this question, I thought it could be worth a quick outline.

The CAA publishes regulations governing aircraft operations in the UK, and whilst Sections 164 and 166 of the Air Navigation Order (CAP 393) and Sections 45, 52, 53 of the Rules of the Air Regulations (Statutory Instrument 2007:734) set out all the information that answers the question, they aren't exactly written in user friendly language. What it all boils down to for the most part is that I can fly my kite up to 60m (or just over 196ft) above the ground, but will need to ask the CAA for permission for any more than that. On most days, then, my 1000ft of line stays in the bag. 60m is still plenty though, broadly the same as an 18 storey building.

Sometimes we have the happy circumstances that a festival organiser has sought additional height clearance – 1000ft is common (but do check with organisers, don't just assume). So out comes the line, up goes the kite, that was easy. Well, no, because as soon as the kite gets above 60m I must add a streamer for every 100m (or 328ft) of line. Lucky I have some of those in the kite-bag as well. I use simple flat 30 cm streamers 80cm long which have 10cm red and white stripes, and whilst 2m tube streamers (40 cm diameter with 50cm red/white stripes) are also allowed and can be more widely spaced (200m apart) they strike me as a lot more work and drag. I bring my kites down below 60m well before it gets dark so never have to worry about the complex arrangements of lights that would then be needed.

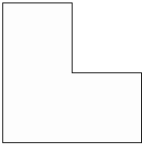
But what about airfields I hear you cry, surely you can't fly near an airfield? Well, actually, yes you can provided the kite is less than 30m above the ground (think, three x 2 floor & pitched roof houses stacked on each other). Hey, I could easily fly my Rev in that (just not on the 120ft competition lines). There are some niceties concerning whether the airfield is 'notified' to be 'in use' - which has nothing to do with the presence of aircraft. Safer to just assume 'in use' is always the case, since all 'not in use' would mean is I could then fly at 60m. If I move a bit further away from the airfield I can fly at 60m anyway, and this just needs to be more than 2.5 Nautical Miles from the centre of the longest runway - which I can work out on Google Earth if I need to. The mixture of SI units and statute measures in the regulations messes with my head though (why can't things be plainer?) so for completeness 2.5 Nautical miles are just under 2.9 normal miles or just over 4.6 kilometres, OK?

The regulations are not without teeth and if I choose to ignore the height limits I become liable for prosecution and a fine of up to £2500. A similar fine is possible if I let my kite fly out of normal sight, so that 1000ft line is plenty for special occasions and lives in my kite-bag for festivals with additional clearance only.

# Puzzle Corner (26)



1. You spend £1.10 on a kite and a reel. The kite cost £1 more than the reel. How much was the reel ?
2. Use all the digits 1 to 9, each one just once, to find three numbers (of three digits each) such that the second number is twice the first number, and the third number is three times the first number.
3. Divide this shape into four identical pieces :



4. What symbol can be placed between 5 and 9, to get a number greater than 5 and smaller than 9?
5. What number comes next? 2, 2, 4, 12, 48, .....

*Do you know that if we all had an equal share of the land in the UK, we would each have about 0.97 of an acre ?*

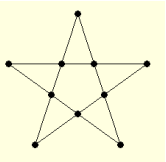
**Answers to** [john@johnbrowning.net](mailto:john@johnbrowning.net).

*What with the terrible slump in Peruvian banana shares, the prize pot has dwindled so much that the winner will owe me money*

## Answers to PC25

1. 43. The others are squares +1
2. Take the first three links and break them (3X£1) then use the separate links to weld together the remaining sets (3X£3) Total £12

3



4.  $2/4 + 3 = 5$  OR  $4 + 5 = 3^2$
5. Both make 13, there are 13 letters in both and they are anagrams of each other.

OK I admit that this article has nothing to do with kites but there is amongst us a small elite group, (no funny hand shakes or rolled up trousers) of Ursaphiles who will take any opportunity to drop soft cuddly toys from great heights with a sometimes iffy parachute to slow their decent. It doesn't matter if it is from kites, church towers, fire engine ladders or even some long bits of bamboo lashed together, but a plane, Oh what a luxury. Back in 1997 a world record was set with 99 bears dropping from a kite, how we should love to be able to match the 1000 detailed below.

Our record will continue to stand as it had to be from a kite with the bears weighing more than 0.25kg and having fully packed 'chutes. These seem to be much smaller with simple, unpacked ones. Still if any one can find any of these for sale they could become a celebrity at our events. The story goes to show the stupidity surrounding politics worldwide.

## Teddy bear airdrop envelops Belarus in free-speech cloud

From The Budapest Times

Belarus has denied that an airborne teddy bear invasion landed in its countryside on 4 July despite committing a photography student to a longer period of detention on Wednesday over online photos of one of the plush animals.

Swedish Studio Total, which brands itself as "northern Scandinavia's most notorious ad agency", is behind the stunt in which two pilots in a single-engine aircraft flew without authorisation into Belarusian airspace from Lithuania before releasing 1,000 teddy bears holding free-speech signs.

Most of the teddies were parachuted to the southwest of Belarus capital Minsk in the early morning, before a radio call from air-traffic controllers warned them to turn back, releasing the remaining toys along the way, co-organiser and pilot Tomas Mazetti said.

A couple of witnesses on the ground, cited by Swedish news website the locals, said they had recovered parachute-wearing teddy bears with "foreign" messages, though photos posted online showed the signs to have been written in the Cyrillic alphabet. These, along with a 90-minute video of the plane's flight, were among the evidence used by Studio Total to prove the flight did take place and the teddy bears were indeed dropped (the announced launch of an Austrian International School of Sex attracted much media coverage last year before turning out to be a fake campaign organised by Studio Total to highlight Austria's low birth rate). Belarus nonetheless maintains the stunt is a hoax, with its State Border Committee denying that the country's airspace had been violated without authorisation.

The PR firm aimed to show its solidarity with the pro-democracy movement in Belarus, a country whose autocratic leader is often described as Europe's last dictator. "Like the Belarusian opposition, which is daily subjected to threats of violence and reprisals, we thought it was a risk worth taking," Mazetti said about the flight.

And more recently:-

In the past few weeks, the Belarusian dictator, Alexander Lukashenko, has fired the chief of his air force and border patrol; shut down the Swedish Embassy and kicked out the ambassador; and last week fired his foreign minister. The reason? Teddy bears.

Perhaps the most disturbing victims of the stunt are two locals who appear to have had very little to do with it. Anton Suryapin, a 20-year-old photographer who had started his own news agency, was sent photographs of the teddy bears landing and published them on his website.

They sparked lots of discussion online, but nothing more happened for more than a week. Then on July 13, the police and KGB arrived at his apartment. They searched the place for evidence that Suryapin had been personally involved in the drop, and whisked him off to the infamous Amerikanka prison, where he spent the next month.

He was charged under Article 371 of the Belarus criminal code, "illegal crossing of the state boundary".

## **KAPital Snippets**

In 2009 I wrote an article on how I was doing Kite Aerial Photography (KAP) and followed up in 2011 with my latest thoughts and techniques. These have never been meant to be "The Answer" but hopefully a guide to any one thinking of having a go at KAP and helping avoid some of the pitfalls I have stumbled over during my experiments.

Using a 5Mpc camera mounted in a frame with pan and tilt controlled by radio and a 3<sup>rd</sup> channel operating the shutter with the whole unit being suspended from the kite line on a 1m pendulum I have achieved some pleasing results. Not perhaps top quality but great for pictures of the family camping that gives a new perspective to old subjects.

Probably the biggest problem is the pendulum mount as this seems to increase the amount of camera movement unless you have a good steady wind, which is unusual in this country. Pictures were frequently motion blurred and at strange angles. Much of this could have been eliminated by use of a better camera with higher shutter speeds but my objective had been to prove that I could take pictures from a kite at a reasonable cost and without risking expensive equipment. Movement from the pendulum made results from the micro video camera very difficult to watch but by using a video editor you could get out some remarkably good single frames when you consider that the camera cost under £15 and very little was needed to support it from the line.

How ever it was now time to move on and I was intrigued by the GoPro camera that I had seen. For those of you not familiar with this, it is a very small highly automated 11Mpc camera with minimal controls and no screen or viewfinder. There are some very useful function the most helpful of which is the time lapse that can be set from 0.5sec to 60sec. With a 32GB storage card you can get more than 5000 pictures so set to 5sec you get almost 7 hours of recording. It has a very wide angle of view so you get a lot of spherical distortion but I believe they are working on some new firmware to change this and there is also some software available to reformat your pictures.(try PTLens at \$25 after free trial)

For the problems with the pendulum mount the answer appeared to be a Picavet rig. Again for those not familiar with it, this is a system with a line running round a series of pulleys that automatically keeps the camera level no matter what angle the flying line is at. I tried much research on the internet to find suitable small pulleys but gave up in the end as The KAP shop do a kit at a reasonable price.

When I was asked what I wanted for my birthday the answers were obvious and thanks to Ann's generosity both items arrived. I am sure that any of you who have strung a Picavet will sympathise but I must be honest it took 3 attempts to get it right even if the cat thought it was great fun to chase the loose end of string. It didn't help that the instructions are shown without pulleys so the first instruction is incorrect, but we got there in the end. Then of course I had to modify the rig to fit the new suspension.

The next job was to mount the camera. This should have been easy as you do not require the shutter release any more but with the GoPro in it's waterproof housing it is surprisingly tall and would not fit in the frame. One solution is to purchase the special lens cover and Velcro strap if you can find it on the web. However I wanted to retain the waterproof housing so this meant a new frame. This was a simple "U" bracket the same width as the previous one so that I could retain the arrangement for pan and tilt servos etc. The camera was mounted to the bracket using the sticky mounting base but this has since been replaced with a screw fitting tripod base found on the internet. All looked well until I tried to tilt the camera using the radio. The problem was that because the frame was now longer more torque was required and I had used a micro-servo for previous cameras. This was solved by replacing it with a high torque mini-servo.

The real test came when everything was put together in anger at Portsmouth. Lack of experience led me to put the two Picavet mounts too close together on the kite line and I ended up with a massive tangle round the panning servo. Once this was sorted out and I remembered to switch on the radio and start the camera all went well and I got nearly 100 acceptable pictures. I just wish it didn't always manage to take a picture up your nose as you try to switch off.

## Branson kite-surf record bid fails

Sir Richard Branson has been forced to abandon an attempt to set at least two world records by kite-surfing across the English Channel.

The Virgin entrepreneur hoped to become the oldest person to cross the Channel by kite-surf and to make the fastest crossing by a kite-surfing team.

Accompanied by his son Sam, nephews and friends, the 61-year-old left Wimereux in northern France at midday and aimed to successfully make the 30-mile journey to the Kent coast in around two and a half hours.

But as he was half-way across, Sir Richard, who turns 62 next month, realised his kite was too small and he had to turn back to France while his friends and family continued.

There was joy, however, for his son Sam who became the fastest person to kite-surf solo across the Channel when he reached Folkestone in two hours and 18 minutes, beating the previous record set in 1999 by 12 minutes.

Sam and the eight others who finished also entered the record books as the fastest group of kite-surfers to make the Channel crossing, for which there was no previous record. Speaking after stepping off a boat on Folkestone beach, Sir Richard said he hoped to try the crossing again on Sunday if the weather permits.

As the tycoon reached dry land, hugs were exchanged and a bottle of champagne was uncorked to celebrate the team's success in writing themselves into the record books.

Sir Richard said: "I got half-way across and the kite was foolishly too small for me. I was heading for the cliffs of Dover where there is no beach. I was told to go back to France, which I did, to get a bigger kite. When I got there they had packed the kites up and were heading to England.

"My plan is to congratulate my son and give it another go tomorrow. I would like to finish the job off. It would have been lovely to have reached the finish line as planned."

His son said it was "an amazing experience", adding: "I feel pretty euphoric. It's an amazing thing to have done. The main moment when it really hit me was when we were coming in and could see the white cliffs of Dover. It reminded me of people coming over to Britain to battle. It was an amazing experience."

So he will be 66 at the time of the next Olympics when kite surfing becomes an Olympic sport. A chance for another record Sir Richard?

I have been trying to think up a funny about Branson Pickle even though there is no "T" in it but have failed miserably.(ed)

**S**ale **O**r **S**wap

10ft high Sode Dako £100 (contact editor for details)

**P**olly's **P**antry

Looks like we are going hungry this issue

**T**ips **A**nd **T**ricks

Assume we all know it all

**CHAIRS**

Did you leave two camping chairs at the Fun-Fly? We have them in the trailer.



The following poem was sent to me by Sue Bennett who lives in Australia. She is the niece of our founder member Ron Gunter, and she contacted me earlier in the year asking if we knew him. The poem was given to Sue by Roger Palmer who is a bush poet from Western Australia who read it to her under the evening sky whilst they were on holiday there. She thought of us and asked if she could send us the poem. Roger gave her a copy and explained that it is mostly true and about him and his son. The authorities are still puzzled as to why the lights went out for two days.

### **THE ELECTRIC KITE**

Old Charlie was a drinking man who had no fear of God  
His calling was to milk the cows, his plough would turn the sod  
His one good eye had a baleful stare that gave him half his sight  
But enough to see and learn to fear the dreaded electric kite

A likely lad of tender years lived not three miles hence  
Around the hill along the road and through the farmyard fence  
He learned quite young that things called kites could fly up very high  
And wanted one to call his own so he could own the sky

His dad gave in and got some plans and scaled them up by ten  
And so was born the largest kite of size not seen til then  
They used the best and finest wood and fashioned out a cross  
But a covering for this mighty frame they now were at a loss

Then mother said this silken dress now fits me rather tight  
Try this and see if it will work to lift your craft in flight  
With wire and cord they wove and sewed and from the plans so drafted  
They built the biggest strongest kite that had yet been crafted

Its size was such that boy alone could never hope to fly it  
The old farm ute was used instead the back of which to tie it  
But string alone was far too weak to tame this monster's length  
A double wire of fencing type was used for robust strength

The wind was moderate strong that day with black clouds hanging low  
The kite was launched from off the ute and put on quite show  
Until it met a dark black cloud with a charge therein embedded  
And a spark came down the fencing wire where to the ground it headed

The winding reel was dropped in haste as the boy's hair stood up straight  
And the reel across the paddocks bounced at a passing speedy rate  
To observers from surrounding farms the kite flew on quite fine  
Until it fetched up hard against the district power line

The flash that followed caused a fault that took three days to trace  
And lit up all the sky so bright it was seen from outer space  
In tones quite hushed the neighbours spoke of the Cookernup falling star  
Though the kite itself was now no more completely turned to char

Old Charlie who had seen the flash and a burning cross on high  
With trembling fright he vowed for sure our Lord was in the sky  
At Sunday church he'd preach to all in tones that were quite numbing  
To tell the faithful one and all he'd seen the second coming

# Kites untether China's grip on air pollution data

From CNN Hong Kong

A project in particular has drawn attention in the CNN newsroom. Called "[Float](#)," it gives Beijing residents the tools to measure air quality for themselves with pollution-sensing kites.

Kites have been flown for recreation, sport and art. But for environmental monitoring? It is the tethered aircraft that got the best of Charlie Brown, and it's now tracking [air quality that's among the worst in the world](#).

"There's a long tradition of kite flying and kite making in China," says Xiaowei Wang, a masters candidate at the Harvard School of Graduate Design and one of the co-creators of Float. "There's a large group of enthusiasts, and we really wanted to tap into this existing group of people excited about kites."

Float raised over US\$4,500 on Kickstarter to hold workshops for Beijing residents to learn how to build and fly pollution-sensing kites. Among those taking part, 40-to-70-year-old Chinese workers and retirees who enjoy flying kites -- including a 72-year-old kitemaster.

The kites are equipped with small modules that detect carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds (VOC) and particulate matter. Air quality levels are displayed through LED lights that change in color -- from hot pink (which represents the worst air quality) to green (which signifies the best). All data from the flight is stored on an SD card.

Xiaowei and her team have held two workshops and a group kite flight in the evening to create a sparkling web of glowing crafts. Float is keen to highlight the visual and sensory experience of their project with Xiaowei telling me, "From the ground looking up, it's like a kite flash mob because the sky is full of all these kites."

But a constellation of pollution-sensors in the sky is more than public art or a reboot of a popular pastime. In China, it can be a political challenge.

In June, a senior Chinese official demanded that foreign embassies stop issuing air pollution readings. Citing the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, Deputy Environment Minister Wu Xiaoqing said foreign embassy pollution readings were illegal.

The U.S. readings, which frequently rate Beijing's air as "unhealthy," are widely viewed as reliable alternatives to China's own monitoring reports.

China may say only it has the right to monitor its air pollution. But Float has untethered China's official grip on air quality data with its high-flying sensors.

And they know it. On its Kickstarter page, Float acknowledges the politically sensitive nature of its project. The team writes: "Urban air quality is a serious issue that affects rapidly industrializing cities globally, and within Beijing as the capital of China, it is an issue kept quiet by the government under fear of criticism and protest from the public."

Xiaowei insists their project is not seen as threatening, and looks forward to future workshops in Beijing next summer.

And with a smile, Xiaowei tells me: "It's hard to imagine the government getting upset with a group of retired guys who enjoy flying kites."

*Does this sound like a group we know?*

\*\*\*\*\*

## HELP WANTED

I have been asked for a risk assessment for banners including "Wind Loading" Please can any one supply details?

## Sky Chat

Well would you believe it we have had a dry week-end to finish this seasons flying. The Fun Fly at Lechlade this year stayed dry and we had wind, may-be not the cleanest but enough to fly both days. Things did not start very well on Friday when the advance party arrived to get things set up they were met with the gates locked and electric fenced with a couple of hundred ewes merrily eating away. **PANIC** what's to be done? Nobody would answer their phones and whose' sheep were they? What with the toilets and genny being delivered before the gates could be opened, not a very good omen. Still things were sorted out after awhile and everything was up and running by dinnertime, except the toilets which were redelivered later that evening. Then the Fun Fly started in earnest and a good week-end was enjoyed by one and all. I must thank Arthur and Dave for all their work before, during and after the event and to you all who helped in so many ways to make it a success. Then we all must thank Kevin who gave up his week-end and was on duty feeding us with such good nosh. Thank you Kevin Very Much.

Now we come on to the next important event for the Club and that is The **AGM**. We have a month to go before the meeting to set things up for the following year. The trouble is that the present committee are getting **Old**; some have got **Old** and can no longer physically do what they would like to do, so we must encourage some younger members into the Club to spread the load. If this does not happen I dread to think of the future for Our Club. So please come to the **AGM** with ideas and assistance for the good of **WHKF**.

Carrying on about the health of Club members, this has not been the best. We lost one of our stalwarts just recently when Phil Parsons passed away very suddenly; our thoughts go out to Nesta and all the family. (Full report with-in) Too many others members have not been on top of the world health-wise, I will not name you all, but you will know who you are, and some of you have had very serious operations and I am glad to say have recovered well.

Finally I have to apologise that this year I have missed some of the Club's events and committee meetings. There never seems to be enough week-ends to fit everything in and this year to many events have clashed. I will try to do better next year,

See you all at the **AGM with all your ideas.** **Neil.**

\*\*\*\*\*

### Through Innocent Eyes

Meditations on flying large kites, by a rank novice in the field.

### Part the Third

I have re-tyred!

For some time now I have noticed that the standard-issue tyres on my Fiesta don't grip on wet grass. This has been an occasional problem when kite-flying. So, when my MOT said that two of the tyres were marginal, I decided to treat myself to a coming-of-retirement-age present, and fit tyres more suited to driving on open grassland.

After some research, I chose a pair of Goodyear 4-season tyres. They are classified as winter tyres, and also carry the "Mud and Snow" logo – the modern equivalent of "town and countries". The tread bites into loose surfaces much more readily, offering greatly improved grip. There are down-sides, however. I am limited to 125 MPH (as if! in a Fiesta), and there is slightly more road noise. Stopping distance on a hot motorway is marginally poorer, (so they say, I haven't noticed). But under wet conditions, grip is much better - I *HAVE* noticed that! MPG hasn't changed. As yet, I can't report on how well they wear.

Proof of the pudding was at Cliddesden, which was a wash-out. The car skittered sideways on the mud as I followed the tracks of other vehicles, but never lost traction. Even at walking pace on Weymouth promenade, with its light dusting of sand, the steering felt much more secure. I am very pleased with the decision to change.

The other part of my coming-of-retirement-age present was a Peter Lynn pussy-cat, hereinafter known as Big-Puss. It's a special build, with a red nose. Ordered in March, and received in April – but the maiden flight had to wait until July due to the weather. Every time I have flown it, passers-by have stopped to take photographs. Again, I am well pleased with the purchase.

Allen Coates

## Festivals

### **Portsmouth.**

I know there has been a lot of controversy about the allocation of camping passes but it is difficult to see any fairer way of doing it. The Council have been very good in the past as there is officially no camping on the common and the thanks they have received is the abuse of the site by people arriving and departing outside allotted times and some staying with no permit. So more stringent regulations were only to be expected. KSGB have done their best and have been warning what could happen for several years.

The new layout of the field was good especially the second single line arena for the smaller kites and the area to ground display the Edos. Perhaps next year we may even get an area for parachuting bears and sweet drops.

Wind on the Saturday was dreadful and the single line fliers must be congratulated on the spectacle they provided. It goes without saying that the multi line teams also did well as usual being able to change to vented kites and all those things I don't understand. Sunday turned out to be a superb day and I don't ever remember a better display there. A nice new touch was the jubilee event with red, white and blue kites being flown to very patriotic music. Monday went downhill again but a few remaining fliers did their best and at least the dog show was moved to the other side of the field.

Let's hope the niggles can be sorted out and I look forward to next year's Pompy.

### **Lytham St. Anne's**

After several years of absence following an accident on the beach this festival has been re-established by a small group of flyers with virtually no funding. I decided to try and give them a bit of support from our end of the country and combine it with a visit to my brother who lives that direction.

I am so glad I went as the flying site is fantastic; a huge flat, sandy beach that takes about 20 minutes to walk to the sea, stretches for ever and the tide never seems to cover it. Sadly the weather was about par for this year with gale force winds and occasional short sharp showers that didn't give you enough warning to get under cover. There is a large car park adjacent, unfortunately you have to pay but future years you may be able to get a fliers pass. There are cafes on the pier and a shopping centre/pubs any easy walk if you want something else. Go-Kites had their stall set up so all your kite needs were catered for.

A good turn out meant that there was plenty for the public to see and it was good to see a few items that hadn't made it as far south as we are.

It's a long way to travel but if you are that way it is well worth attending and accommodation is abundant and cheap especially if you are prepared to do the 2 mile drive to the outskirts of Blackpool. I hope they can run this event again with a little more support and wish them well.

### **Shipley Vintage Meet.**

Having seen pictures of this event last year I wanted to go and being fairly vintage myself decided to give it a try. The idea is to fly all those kites you used to more than 20 years ago and still have hidden away in the attic.

It is a small event with a group of people at Shipley Country Park near Derby. Not the best flying site I have ever been to as there are trees all around but enough space to make it very enjoyable. Mostly it is about nostalgia and talking to people who have flown the same kites as you did years ago. The other major advantage is that you find those kites that you put away to be repaired but forgot all about. I was disgusted with the number I got out with broken spars and missing stand-offs but now they are all back together. The biggest embarrassment was when I could not remember how to assemble my Dunford Flying Machine. Fortunately there was another one there and between us we figured it out.

Other memories were stirred flying thing like Team Hawaiian, so slow graceful and precise. Do these bring back memories: Peter Powel, Barn Stormer, Lite-Flite, Tramontana, Box-of-Tricks, Scorpion, Pro-cheetah and even a couple of Gibson Girls.

Now do you feel old?

Arthur

## Robinson's Ramble

Firstly it came as a great shock to hear of the death of Phil Parsons, I would like to send, mine & Janet's condolences to the Parson's Family. Phil will be greatly missed. Another sad death to report is that of Art Ross, Art was a German who had lived in Canada for several years, some of you may not have heard of him but he was very well known in Canada & the USA, for his very large Flow-Form styled kites all with very elaborate appliqué. The Club invited Art to its Festival at Wroughton back in the 90's, where he showed off his workmanship, he was very gracious in letting the club copy his design. We made it a club project, hired a School hall for a weekend to cut it out and Neil offered to sew it together. This kite is the largest kite ever made in the UK, measuring in excess of 1000sq.ft. This was all sewn in Neil's loft, Neil tells the story that when his wife Sue brought him up a cup of tea she used to have problems finding him in the loft because he was completely engulfed in rip stop. This Kite is known as the Beast, I think Neil gave it its name, I wonder why he chose that?

I'm sat at my computer writing this on Sunday 23/9/12, outside it's lashing down with rain. Today some club members were due to attend an event sponsored by the National Trust, at Stowe Park, Bucks. Due to the weather forecast they postponed it yesterday. Yet another event called off in 2012 due to the terrible weather! When will it end? This year must be the worst on record for any organisers of outdoor events.

Janet and I were at Dieppe this year; we haven't missed one since our first in 1988. What a fantastic event it is! What other kite festival could you attend so close to the UK that has kite makers representing 32 countries? We were asked by Marla to help out in the AKA tent, which gave us the opportunity to promote region 13 alongside the Region 13 Director, Linda Sanders, she was there with her husband Kevin, what a lovely couple of people they are! We have met Kevin several times before at different kite events, and Linda at the AKA convention in Gettysburg about 4 years ago, however at this event we spent almost every day with them. Thank you for giving us this opportunity, Marla.

Have any of you noticed the latest TV advertisement for Sainsbury's. Yet another advertisement using a kite to promote the great outdoors and that good feeling of family togetherness, this happens regularly, just a shame that we can't attract more families to this great pastime of ours, advertising agencies can see the benefits using it to portray the great outdoors.

We have at home a drawing of a family flying kites' that we bought in the USA, with the saying written at the bottom: "THE FAMILY THAT PLAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER."

Perhaps our hobby would be a good way to cut the divorce rate!!!!

Two events will have come and gone by time you read this, the "Fun Fly" and the club's October workshop, being conducted this year by Dan Kurahashi, from Canada, lookout for my report on these in the next issue.

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## Risk Assessment

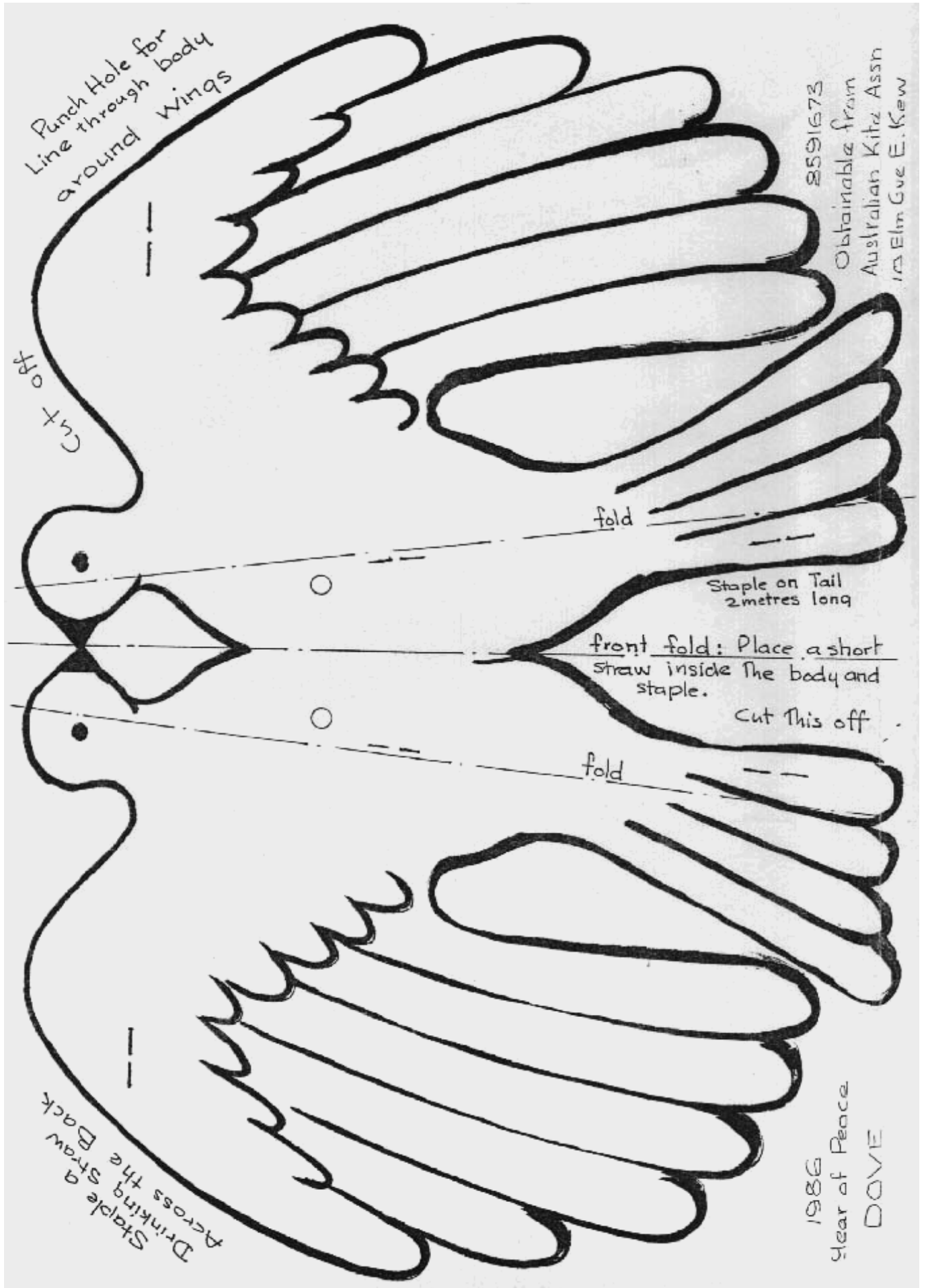
Here is a new one for me. They are getting sillier by the day. I have been asked for a risk assessment for "staying overnight in marquees" My submission follows:-

RISK	BEFORE CONTROL	CONTROL	AFTER CONTROL
FIRE	HIGH	A) NO OPEN FIRES PERMITTED B) SPACING BETWEEN UNITS CONTROLLED C) FIRES MUST EMIT HEAT AND LIGHT SO THAT THEY CAN BE SEEN AND FELT.	LOW
TRIP IN THE DARK	HIGH	A)INSTALL A RING OF LAND MINES 10M FROM THE MARQUEE. B)5M FROM THE MARQUEE INSTALL A RING OF INFRARED SENSORS TRIGGERING LASER WEAPONS. C)EQUIP WATCHMAN WITH SAWN OFF SHOT GUN	NIL

White Horse Kite Flyers  
AGM Agenda 2012  
At Express by Holiday Inn  
Junction 16 M4  
Sunday 18th November  
12pm for 12.30pm start

1. Welcome to Members from the President.
2. Apologies.
3. Minutes of 2011 AGM.
4. Matters arising from Minutes.
5. Chairman's Report.
6. Hon. Sec's Report.
7. Hon. Treasurer's Report.
8. "Cowpat Hill" Editor's Report.
9. WHKF USA representative's Report.
10. Election of Officers.
11. WHKF Fun Fly 2013
12. Other Events.
13. Liability Insurance/Personal Insurance
14. Fees from November 2013/2014
15. Projects for 2013
16. Any other Business. Now is your chance to have "a say", or have we forgotten something.
17. Close of the Meeting by the President.

THE RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN AT A CONVENIENT TIME.  
Please support it well as it pays for the Buffet.



## 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	SWEATSHIRT XS-XL	£16.60
T SHIRT 2XL-3XL	£9.50	SWEATSHIRT 2-4XL	£18.20
POLO XS-XL	£14	10 <sup>th</sup> FESTIVAL XS-XL	£25
POLO 2-4XL	£15		
		RELAX STICKER	£1.00
		PINS, PATCHES	SEE WEB PAGES
CAP STANDARD	£7.50	MUGS, COASTERS	

### WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS CODE OF PRACTICE

Always fly safely.

Always be considerate to others using the same area be it 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. If you see dangerous rubbish left by others clear it up or report it.

Never fly near those kite-eating trees.

**NOTE:** The use of traction kiting at Barbury Castle is forbidden by law.

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.

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This issue edited by Arthur Dibble

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Subscription AGM to AGM: £14 (including 4 issues of COWPAT HILL and kite flying insurance at Club approved events) £5 extra for each additional family member. Personal Liability insurance £9.50 June-June.

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