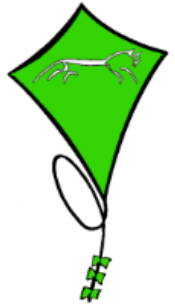


COWPAT HILL



*Journal of the White Horse Kite Flyers
Issue Autumn 2016 October-December*

IT'S Free!

Like many other organisations WHKF has struggled with finances for many years but following a number of economies and membership fee increases the Club is on a more stable footing. The committee has therefore decided to give all existing members a one year free subscription. To qualify for this you must be a fully paid up member by the publication date of this magazine (9th October 2016).

This includes your club insurance but NOT the personal liability. This will be due as usual before the end of April 2017.

Following the incident at Ducklington I was going to put in an article covering the regulations on height controls for flying kites. However there is a new version of Air Navigation Order CAP393 much of which has been integrated in to Standard European Rules of the Air (SERA). Jerry Swift is checking the changes and will let us know what the latest requirements are. When this arrives it will be published here.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has submitted articles for this edition without having been coerced in to it. Firstly it makes the job of editor much more pleasant and secondly you don't get so much of my input giving a much more diverse magazine.

Arthur

www.whkf.org.uk

info@whkf.org.uk

Diary Dates

OCTOBER

9 *Barbury Castle club fly-in. One Sky, One World*

15/16 *Ralf Maserski workshop*

NOVEMBER

13 *Barbury Castle club fly-in.*

20 *AGM*

DECEMBER

11 *Barbury Castle club fly-in.*

27 *Christmas Pudding fly*

JANUARY 2017

8 *Barbury Castle club fly-in.*

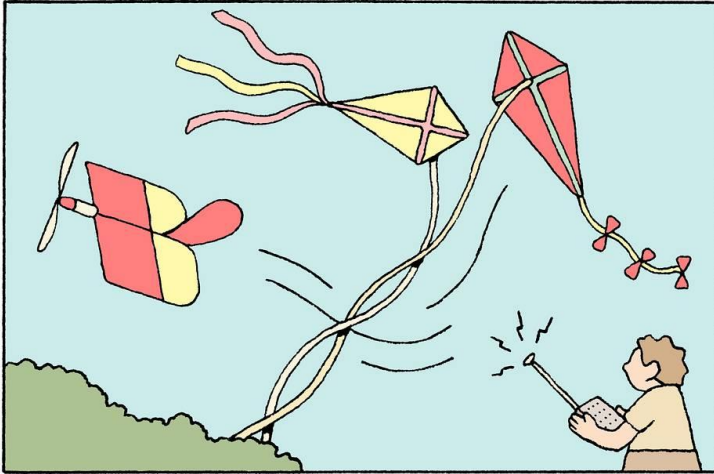
Dead line for next issue 25th December 2016



“So how was your new power kite?”

(from The Wall Street Journal 30th March 2016)

No wind? No problem. Catch some air with a easy-to-fly RC kite

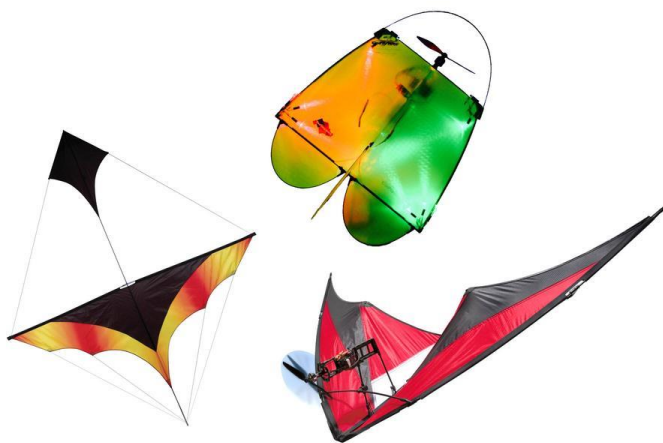


APRIL MAY BE prime time for kite-flying, but sometimes Mother Nature doesn't provide the just-gentle-enough breezes necessary to get a kite aloft. Fortunately, there's a way to take matters into your own hands: a remote-control (RC) kite.

Outfitted with a lightweight, durable frame and vivid air-catching fabric, RC kites look a lot like their traditional counterparts. But rather than relying on wind to stay airborne, these kites use propellers powered by rechargeable battery packs. (Wind, in fact, is an RC kite's worst enemy. Most should not be flown when gusts are stronger than 8 or 10 mph.)

Compared with RC planes or quadcopter drones with multiple rotors and live-video feeds, RC kites are gloriously simple, easy-to-pilot machines. Even the slightest thrust from a propeller sends them skyward. There are no moving flaps or contraptions to manipulate; instead, the single propeller determines which direction and how fast the aircraft goes. Gone is the tangle-prone string. To control the kite, you use a standard RC-plane controller.

Thanks to these kites' light, flexible construction (most weigh around 6 ounces), crashing usually isn't catastrophic. Even so, struts can break, and getting one of these snagged in a tree branch is still a downer.



From left: Premier RC Canard, GoFlyKite Pro 3 and Hammacher Schlemmer Motorized Stunt Kite

Would-be kite pilots looking for an easy-to-fly starter model should consider the Premier RC Canard RTF). Its gimbal-mounted propeller can be aimed directly downward, which allows the kite to make near-vertical take-offs—it's less akin to a plane than a stately hot air balloon. Once airborne, the Canard can motor along slowly or, if you're feeling adventurous, dip and make surprisingly tight turns. The kite has a range of 500 feet, but you'll want to keep it much closer to the ground, since the higher you go, the greater the risk of unexpected gusts.

If you're feeling more ambitious and want a model that can pull off airborne acrobatics, you'll need an open field and a more advanced model like the GoFlyKite Pro 3. Instead of a bottom-mounted propeller, like the Canard's, GoFlyKite's is mounted right up front at the nose of the kite. That position, along with this flier's shape, allows the kite to perform a variety of aerial stunts, including soaring upside-down. Plus, the Pro 3 comes tricked out with on-board lights for night flying.

For a lower price, there's the Hammacher Schlemmer Motorized Stunt Kite which has the same 500-foot range and eight-minute flight time per charge as the Canard—but costs less than half as much. It can even execute some tricks, such as loops, that the pricier one can't. Just know that its delta-shape isn't as forgiving of newbie piloting mistakes.

Quite a few valid points raised in Arthur's piece in the last Cowpat.

Weymouth.

I had the dubious honour of taking over from the Blooms after they ran the event for many successful years though starting the decline toward the end, mainly through lack of financial support.

I observed Steve and Charlie, the events managers, starting to make all sorts of errors though lack of knowledge of the kiting world.

They had become inundated with requests for travel expenses and accommodation from flyers who had just purchased their first kite from Lidl's or flyers from the far or middle east who were demanding air fares and accommodation with the promise of (maybe) reciprocal invitations.

Sponsorship

The lack of funds meant the event could no longer easily import flyers so I offered my help and took on the task of giving as much home grown talent as possible to get involved.

The politics of "He/she got this and I only got that" and "I'm not going if..." was quite an eye opener and the running back and forth to meetings in Weymouth during the preceding months was only a small part of the unseen work toward the smooth(ish) running of the long weekend.

However the council support finally went and I stayed for one more year to advise those that took over and was the only kite flyer amongst a posse of people who recognised the prosperity the festival brought to the town and the opportunity it gave to raise money for local charities.

Cordoned off

Arthur's idea of cordoning off an area sounds great but in reality the council will have a mountain of forms to fill permissions to be granted, regulations to abide by, insurances and assurances and still want paying for the beach and the barriers (It will have to be theirs) to cordon off the area.

That means you need someone to organise and be responsible for all of that.

Oh, and don't forget to advertise it.

But to be honest, for Marilyn (the wife) and me the town is a great place to go for its shops, pubs, harbour, beach and hotels - but if we are looking for clean winds and a good day's flying??

What do we want?

The familiar question of what should create the pages of the magazine?

Kite plans for some, technical info for others, event news just gone and coming up for me, new kites, materials and ways of doing things for everyone and, yes, interesting websites or online articles to be pointed at.

I really don't see the problem in sharing something on the internet - odds on not many others will have seen it but lots will want to.

Bits of tittle tattle too - I had not heard of the numpty in Bristol flying at five times the allowed limit and probably still wouldn't, were it not for my Cowpat!

There are lots of things people will want to read about but producing articles does take a very long time using one finger on a keyboard and it's not fair to always depend on the faithful few so, if you have some tips or tricks or some good links please share them with us all and don't worry if you get a few things wrong no-one writes in to say anything anyway - at least **you** have contributed!

Links

No need to write out long URL's - for instance, just clicking [HERE](#) will take you to a video of our Tribe of inflatable Trilobites and those who read this on line will be OK.

You might also want to take a look at the [video we did at Barbury](#) back in March.

If you want to visit our website just type in [Close Encounters Kites](#) to Google or your favourite search engine. You can use the "Contact" page to send us messages or ask to be put on our kite flyer's mailing list.

From time to time we produce short and (we hope) entertaining kite videos or have things to sell and being on our list puts you in the 'first to know' class.

...and for those of you without internet, here are a couple of photos taken from two of our recent videos - One of our collection of HQ sleds and the other of me giving a size comparison stood by our 32 metre Trilobite.

Oh and if I can make one last request - if you do help out by contributing, please add your name - for me at least, it makes a better read if I know who's talking to me.

Regards to all

Allan Potheary



Les Crèmes Anglaise

Things all started when Charlie Peace and I were discussing our feeble attempts at Rev flying. We decided on having a STACK Bootcamp and signed up Dave Johnson as well, slightly against his wishes but we needed the numbers.

The Bootcamp was amazing in terms of building our confidence but of course we soon realised that a great deal of practice was going to be needed. So was born the idea of Rev Tuesdays. Every week the three of us agreed to spend an evening flying together as a team, and we've been doing this for the last 5 years or so. Actually Thursdays this year.

Some time back our numbers swelled to 4 with the addition of Martin Baker, former 2-line world championship medallist. And we got a copy of the STACK figures and started trying them out. As things stand we are now one of the top 10 Rev teams in UK, however there are less than 5 teams that we know of.....

This isn't the rags to riches story of an amazingly talented bunch of guys who can fly the pants off other people. It is not Hollywood. What it is about instead is how we learned and are still learning, that you can have a real hoot of a time if you are prepared to try team flying.

With workloads, weather issues, family commitments, social lives, holidays, lack of or too much wind, we actually don't manage to fly together very often. I take my hat off to the dedication of people whom you see in competition or arena slots. What you don't see there is all the sacrifices they make to achieve and maintain their levels of ability. I read that mastery comes in 10,000 hrs or so - well we are on about 250.

We have learned the importance of all having the same length lines. A foot either way, and the likelihood of flying through someone else's lines goes up exponentially. For the same reason, you have to fly shoulder to shoulder. We've learned to respect clear space around each other's Revs. Days when we'd frantically panic if another team Rev came close have been replaced by a subconscious ability to fly into safety. Most of the time, anyway. And we have learned that one full wrap of 4 kites is quite enough thank you. We can all hover at any angle, upside down whatever, and hold it there despite the wind. It's flying close together that makes things hardest, remembering to watch your own kite and

not trying to control one your lines are not connected to. There is so much still to learn. But one thing we do know is how long it takes to recover everyone from a close formation crash...

Other stuff we learned. The best Revs for team flying are light and flexible. SLE Revs are too fast. The 20th Anniversary Rev is a bit too heavy, and sorry but you may as well not bother with the Rev EXP if you want to fly with others, as we find it unresponsive. It's a fine kite to learn on alone. You do want a range of frames to play with to match conditions but SUL does most of it (or Race in Revspeak). You may be able to make your own skins, but the Rev frame and bridle are unbeatable. You must talk to each other whilst flying, and the right-most person has to lead. We've all learned not to be on the far right.

We have invested substantially in lines, Laser Pro Gold 90# is the best although we also used Climax Protec as it is easier to obtain. Get your LPG from Vliegertak

<http://www.vliegertakkitelines.nl/english> Teams fly on 120ft lines as the increased distance helps to slow things down. So a set of lines is around £55 and might last 3 or 4 seasons. It's the wrapping that causes the wear so you are never short of 60ft lines! Find a way of always using the same lines for the top and again for the bottom, the top lines stretch more. Invest in line equalisers. Tune your kites, I can't explain that in the space so ask me. You will want more Revs so might as well buy a bigger bag (I have 6 and still need Vented). Do I need to say that teams fly Rev 1.5? We haven't conquered the world (or even Peckham) but do occasionally get compliments from passers-by, it's amazing how good a simple follow my leader can look when all kites are equally spaced.

Why are we called Les Cremes Anglaise? Well, it has a certain cachet but at heart it is still simple custard. It is unpretentious, with a Gallic shrug, and sometimes has a thick skin. To fly as a team, you have to get over yourself and any concept you have of how good you are, because you are not, but that's OK.

If you always wanted to fly in a kite team, START NOW.

Stuart Lafferty

Arthur's article

“Are they flogging a dead horse?” in summer 2016 Cowpat Hill on the Weymouth kite festival, tugged on the heartstrings. I can't fault Arthur's reasoning.

To me Weymouth is legendary as the early season festival, and as I'd never been before, but had some spare time this year, for the first time drove down. Here are some of my observations from the visit. Contrary to past reports and advice, it was very easy to get accommodation nearby, even though (because of several navigational errors) I arrived at Weymouth promenade at 8 o'clock on Friday evening. In contrast, when looking around Portland and Weymouth town earlier in the day, the hotels and B&Bs were completely full.

The next day, Weymouth was not very crowded, and it was surprising just how little of the beach was devoted to the festival. It was alarming to hear from around the arena how much it was costing to put on the free show – They were paying £1200 for the beach and another £1600 or £1800 for the trade pitches on the promenade!?! And not many of the public were paying much attention to the displays. One has to admire the dedication of the team who are keeping the festival going in such circumstances.

Besides the kite festival there was plenty to see. The festival itself was adjacent to: donkey rides and a small fairground on the beach, and a promenade display of sand sculptures advertising the sand sculpture exhibition next to the sea life centre about a mile away. At the harbour, there was live music and an international food festival of perhaps 20 stalls. A little further away there is the expensive but popular “Jurassic 360” (aka “Jurassic Skyline”) viewing tower - £7.50p for 10 minutes. The locals blamed having to host the 2012 Olympic sailing events for the lack of funding. This was said to have left the all the local tourist agencies in debt, and they were trying to redeem the situation by a series of amalgamations. With local authority cutbacks the council was already short of funds and the Olympics could only make it worse.

So the local authority must have been trying to spend little and make a return where it could. There was despair and a certain amount of anger regarding the circumstances of the closure of the public toilets across the road from the kite festival. A local café had out of the goodness of its heart, let the public use its convenience. But when I bought breakfast at 10:30 on Sunday, they had to shut the doors as that morning a passing young family had got caught very short and filthied the facilities.

One good thing to come out of the Olympics cash problems was Brewers Quay. This area had been scheduled for redevelopment into expensive apartments and a hotel. However the money for this never materialised, and the old buildings have reopened as a fascinating series of rooms holding a flea market of all sorts of specialist stalls and a cafe. Next door there is a free-to-enter art gallery and bar displaying local artists' work.

In summary, I enjoyed my visit to Weymouth, but not for just the kite festival. I hope that the locals, their council and tourist agencies will resolve their differences and difficulties, and hope that whatever the festival organisers decide to do, they and the local community will be happy with the decision.

On a different note, isn't the new Bognor Regis festival doing well? When we visited there, while there wasn't much space to fly outside the roped off area, there was plenty of space for the Kite Weekenders, there were lots of local families visiting, many stalls and live music. – The local community seemed to be really enjoying it.

Peter Massey

Điêu sáo

Cao (pronounced 'cow') Quan was at Exmouth with his Điêu sáo - Vietnamese flute kites. Having a close look at them was a highlight of the festival for me, and in the stronger winds during the early morning of the second day the loud drone from the flutes on one of his kites could be heard all across town, attracting visitors and comments. Of course, really the flutes are to communicate with the Gods, Cao told me, but anyone can listen. An alternative story is that they were flown to warn villagers of Chinese Qing dynasty invaders during the 18th century, so that they knew when to hide.

The bamboo flutes are the most valuable component, because they take the longest to make and tune, and the most skill. The number of flutes varies with kite size, the wind, and the size of the kite owner's wallet. Three seems usual, but up to seven can be used - very special. Each flute is a different size, so they drone a sort of chord. The rack of flutes is lashed to the kite frame, so that it can be removed for storage. Cao's kite frames are made of traditional bamboo, with the joints poker marked with dots so that they can be assembled in the same order every time. I noticed a variety of spine end treatments – short, or extended past the rear sail as a straight stick and some bent into an opened out crook shape like the tail skid of an early aircraft.

Cao mostly uses rip stop nylon for his kite sails, some with printed panels, rather than the traditional paper or cloth. My favourites were two sails with appliqué designs, though. One copies an old picture of small animals in procession to a tiger, and I'd love to know the story it was drawn for. The other copies drawings and woodblock illustrations made in the early 20th century for French traveller Henry Oger and apparently published in 1909. They show different types of kites, including a kite competition with the kites tied to a rail with seated

observers watching to see which flew highest. Some information on Henry Oger can be found at https://vi.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henri_Oger – don't forget to ask google to translate – but that's all I found. Paul Chapman probably knows much more.

According to Cao, flute kites can be flown in strong winds, are stable fliers and generally much more robust than say than Malaysian Wau Bulan moon kites – as seen on the BIKF 1997 'T' shirt. And flute kites are surprisingly versatile: they can be flown with or without the flutes, with or without the paired rear sails, on one line or as a two line kite, and now even as a four line kite. Without tails, they look like Martin Lester's Hypar. For a four line carbon framed version in development, see Steven Hoath's blog or website at: <http://www.baidesign.net/quad-line-vietnamese-flute-kite/>

Other kite types Cao had with him included ones he'd based on 14th century temple carvings of a God and Goddess – he was pleasantly surprised that they flew so well.

I don't know when we'll see Cao in the UK again, but if you ever get the chance, do go and have a good look at his kites. He's friendly and speaks good English, so don't be shy!

MH



Sky Chat

Wow another season just about done and dusted as we ended with our Fly-in at Lechlade this last week-end. For a change we had some wind instead of dead calm weather. But put trees anywhere near a flying site and as sure as eggs are eggs some body or bodies will manage to feed the trees with kites. Oh for the joys of kite flying. Still I must thank everybody that helped to make the week-end go so well and the monies that you parted with at the Auctions, especially for the Phil Scarfe collection. The Committee has spent some money on new equipment ready for the fly-in i.e. new marquee, boiler and a new generator and lights. I hope you thought it was worth the expenditure, I did. Thank you one and all for your attendance.

Next event is One Sky One World in October so let us hope for a nice day so we can fly as many kites as we can and think about all the other kite flyers around the world and feel united without regards to colour and creed. Let's Paint The Sky that day.

Do not forget the AGM in November and that it is at St Joseph's School. If you have anything to go on the agenda please get it to the secretary post haste and if any of you would like to come onto the committee please. Please think about it and let us know, we are a pretty friendly bunch.

Hope to see you all soon and in the meantime hope for clean winds and tight lines and no trees.

Neil

Thanks to Sara Lyth for the pictures



Robinson's Ramble

After several visits to Barbury recently, lots of the members were complaining about the new "Kissing Gates" that had been installed in the last year that were locked by the Farmer who is supposed to be looking after the site. I sent an email to the Swindon Parks Dept. however I didn't get a reply so I looked for somebody who I could phone at the authority, luckily the first number I tried came up trumps, it was the guy who is in charge of Barbury. He was very sympathetic, he told me that the farmer was causing the authority several problems over that last year and he had been given notice to quit, he said they gave him notice to quit last year but he had duped the council by letting some of his flock to get pregnant so the council let him stay.

Unusually for a council employee he stuck to his word, the kissing gates were unlocked, however the state of the field was no better, the thistles are still about 4ft tall. Arthur wrote a letter on my behalf because I was going on holiday the day after our Barbury meeting. He thanked the council guy for the actions he had taken but informed him the thistles were still a problem, I'm glad to report that Arthur had a reply quite quickly and the guy has promised to go to Barbury sometime soon to burn off the thistles.

Janet & I have just returned from Dieppe, we didn't get there until the Monday. The weather the two days after that were baking, 32 degrees on Tuesday, a little cooler on Wednesday. Thursday was horrendous, heavens opened up to bring us gale force winds, some brave souls were still flying but not many, by the afternoon the event was closed early due to the dangerous winds. Friday the weather was a little better but the organisers cancelled the Saturday night fly, mainly due to not wanting to have all the electrical cables for the floodlights across the arena. Sunday was much better, a breeze off of the sea, the previous few days it was coming over the buildings, this by everyone's opinion was by far the best day, the sky was jam-packed with a wonderful display of kites, it was such a good day nobody wanted to leave, arena

displays should have ended by 5pm they were still full at 5.30pm but they had to call a halt because the marquee company wanted to start dismantling the site.

The strangest thing was to see Army Personnel patrolling with the Police; the Army had automatic rifles slung around their bodies. This says something about the times we are living in! I must say that it was very re-assuring.

This will be the last magazine before the AGM, so I want to remind you all that the venue for it has changed. It is **NOT at the Holiday Inn where it has been for the last few years, due to the hire fee rising considerably.**

The new venue is St. Josephs Catholic College, Ocotal Way, Swindon, Wilts. SN3 3LR; with a 12.30 pm start. Lunch will be provided. The School has a strict policy on being totally alcohol free.

Please support the AGM; this is your club and your chance to have a say on the way it is being run.

Regards

David Robinson

Chairman

The WHKF AGM is being held at St Joseph's Catholic College. Upon entering the car park please turn left and park. As you face the College you will see two entrances please, please use the entrance on the left (Community Entrance).

The AGM is being held in the Sixth Form Common Room, which is situated on the first floor. A lift is available for those who require it. There are disabled toilets near to the Common Room. Lunch will be available from an adjoining room.

The route to the AGM will be sign posted.

Charlie Peace
Subsidiary Services Manager

Barmouth Beach Kite Festival

I attended the Barmouth beach kite festival for the second time this year. The location is absolutely superb, an enormous sandy beach with a backdrop of mountain scenery to look at when the wind drops.

Last year was my first time at this event, which is the kind of relaxed kite event I enjoy – turn up, find a space, get your kites in the sky and chat to people. I enjoyed it so much that I went back again this year for an extended break, and the dates meant we were away on referendum day walking in the mountains (don't worry we did postal votes!) We found a tiny cottage near Harlech on Airbnb as our base. The area is great for walking which we enjoy.

The festival opened on the Saturday morning and we arrived early to find Dave Roberts marking out an area of the beach with hazard tape. As soon as we had said hello the wind decided to pick up and promptly caught the barrier tape, ripping the stakes out of the ground much to our amusement. When we stopped laughing we lent a hand to bash the stakes in more firmly, and it was time to get some kites out. The wind was from the north which basically means it had come down a clear ten miles or so of beach before it got to us. I put up a flowform and attached Samantha the shark, the sea monster and a turtle before getting Spike out for the kids to play with. Then the beach shelter, as by this time we were starting to get a little sand-blasted!

There were a fair few regular flyers and some good kites and ground inflatables on display, and plenty of members of the public came along and expressed their appreciation. The wind got a bit strong in the afternoon, and unfortunately a heavy shower at around 3.30 sent most people scuttling for cover. Elaine had wandered off into town by this point so I hunkered down in the beach shelter for half an hour or so and then the sun came out again. Not wanting to take a collection of soggy inflatables back to the cottage I kept them flying for another hour or so by which time they were pretty well dry.

The forecast for the Sunday wasn't good, and we made the executive decision to chicken out, which turned out to be the right one as the rain started at about 11.30 and carried on into the night.

I certainly plan to go back again next year in the hope of better weather; last year we had two superb days of flying. It would be great to have one or two other white horse kite flyers there, although I realise it is a bit of a trek for most of us. The dates are 15-16 July, contact Waine at mrkiteflyer@gmail.com for details.

Dave Cross

White Horse Kite Flyers, AGM Agenda 2016

St Josephs Catholic College
Ocotol Way
Swindon, Wilts, SN3 3LR
Commencing at 12.30pm

1. Welcome to Members from the President.
2. Apologies.
3. Minutes of 2015 AGM.
4. Matters arising from Minutes.
5. Chairman's Report.
6. Hon. Sec's Report.
7. Hon. Treasurer's Report.
8. Web-Masters Report
9. "Cowpat Hill" Editor's Report"
10. WHKF USA Representative Report
11. Election of officers
12. WHKF Fun Fly 2017
13. Other events
14. Insurance
15. Fees from June 2017
16. Projects for 2017
17. AOB
19. Close of meeting by President

**A BUFFET LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT A CONVENIENT TIME.
THE RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN BEFORE THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING.
Please support it well as it pays for the buffet**

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.

Never fly at a height of more than 60m above ground level, in the UK unless a CAA clearance is in force. (as at festivals) IF YOU DON'T KNOW.....ASK.

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

Never fly near power lines, transmission towers or aerals.

Never fly near airfields.

Never fly a kite with anything metallic in the line.

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

Always use a brake line when flying large kites.

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 animals.

Never fly near 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.

Your local contacts are:-

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This issue edited by Arthur Dibble, with contributions from; Dave Cross;
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Mike Houghton

Subscriptions 12 months from December 1st 2016 £16 (including 4 issues of Cowpat Hill and kiteflying insurance at events). £5 for each additional family member. Personal Liability Insurance £11 per person. COWPAT HILL is the journal of The White Horse Kite Flyers and whilst every care is taken when compiling it, The Club and its officers cannot accept responsibility for any omissions or errors that may occur. Any information printed are the views of the individual submitting them and not necessarily those of The White Horse Kite Flyers Club, its committee or members.