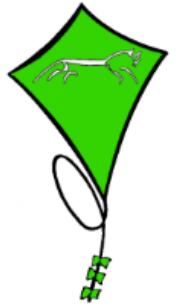


# COWPAT HILL



*Journal of the White Horse Kite Flyers  
Issue Autumn 2020 October-December*

*17<sup>th</sup> October 1970*



*Congratulations to Neil and Sue on their  
Golden wedding anniversary*

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

# Diary Dates

Note: these dates are correct as we go to print. Please check with the organisers before setting off.

## NOVEMBER 2020

~~8<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle club fly-in.~~ CANCELLED

## DECEMBER 2020

~~13<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle club fly-in.~~ CANCELLED

~~27<sup>th</sup> Christmas Pudding Fly~~ CANCELLED

## JANUARY 2021

10<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle club fly-in.

## FEBRUARY 2021

14<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle club fly-in.

## MARCH 2021

14<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle club fly-in.

## APRIL 2021

11<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle club fly-in.

24/25<sup>th</sup> Jolly Up 28

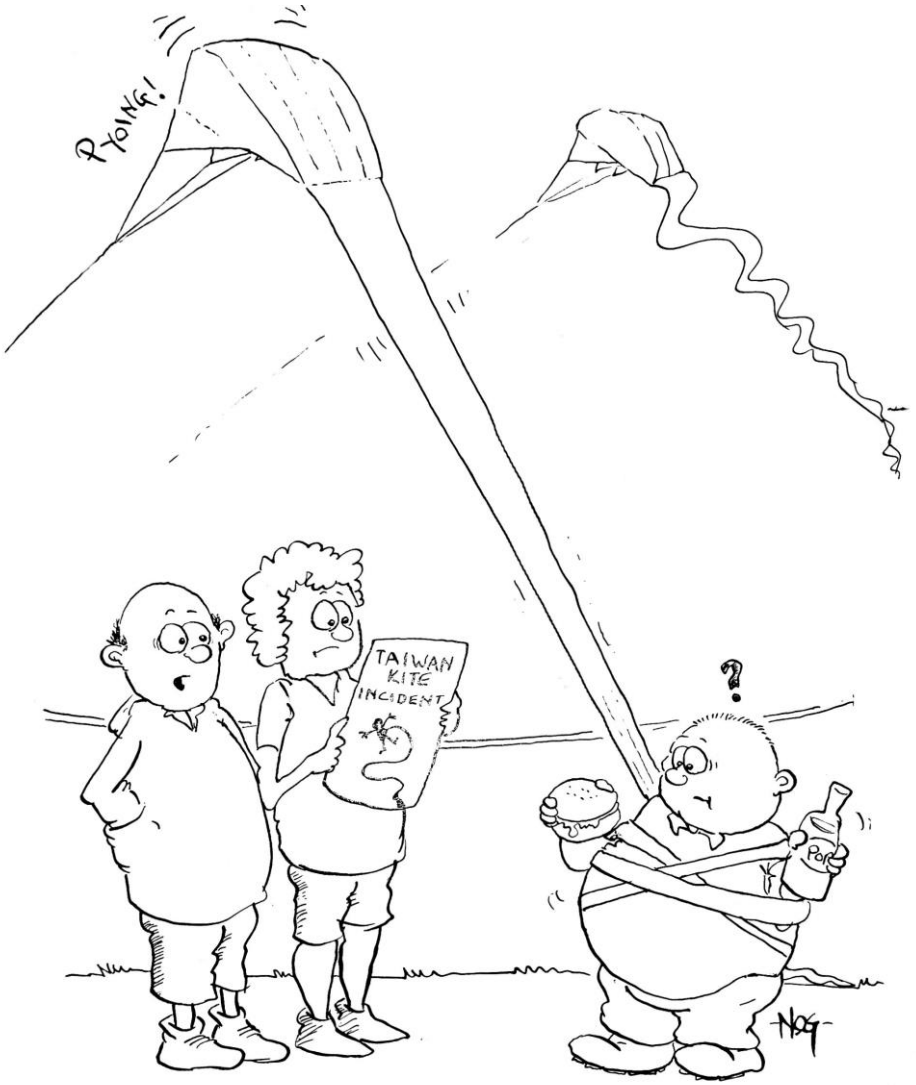
## MAY 2021

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Broad Haven

3<sup>rd</sup> Hilton Gardens

9<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle club fly-in.

Dead line for next issue 27<sup>th</sup> December 2020



"OF COURSE, IT COULD NEVER HAPPEN HERE!"

## WHKF Response to September COVID REGs.

Subsequent to the Governments imposition of new COVID19 measures the committee have made these decisions:-

1 The outcome of a straw poll found that the majority of the committee support the following:- The monthly club fly-ins at Barbury have been suspended until further notice, this includes the Christmas Pudding fly proposed for December 27<sup>th</sup>. Club members can still fly at Barbury but will not be covered by "Club Insurance". Those members with their own personal insurance should note that there will not be the increased CAA height clearance in operation.

2 There will be no face to face AGM. Following approval by the committee, the audited accounts will be available to any member who requests a copy.

3 After consultation it has been agreed that all members of the present Executive Committee, elected at the last AGM (2019), will remain in post for the forthcoming year. This is in-line with other organisations and the Coronavirus Act 2020. These are:-

President; N. Harvey,  
Chair; D. Thompson,  
Vice Chair; A. Dibble,  
Membership Secretary/Assistant Treasurer; J. Robinson,  
Secretary/Events coordinator; D. Robinson,  
Accountant; H Peace,  
Members; K. Griffiths, M. Croxton, D. Cross,  
Cow Pat editor/Web Master; A Dibble.

These decisions have not been taken lightly but have been made to ensure compliance with the current regulations and to keep everyone safe.

D Thompson

Current WHKF Chair.

## A positive from Covid-19

We hope there are many more people out there who can claim positive outcomes from “The Virus”. As former members of WHKF and former editors of Cowpat; it’s been some 20 years since we began to take a less active interest in the kite world. With two teenage girls who had a time-thirsty hobby, we supported them as best we could. Competitive swimming, with its early morning training, before school, coupled with weekend galas meant that something had to give. That something was kite making and flying.

So - forward on 20 years. Two full-time key workers, one having our two wonderful grandchildren and us not being allowed to help with child-care. We decided to fish some of our ripstop nylon out of the loft and make the children small, soft kites that they could shove in a bag and take with them on a daily “exercise” bike ride. The result? They really enjoy flying kites and the family interest seems to have come full circle. Positives can come from a difficult time for us all. Who knows; you may get to meet these little people before too much longer either flying one of their own kites or one of the 50 we still have in the garage?

Stay safe everyone and maybe see you soon?

Jane and Dave Jones.

## Robinson's Ramble 23rd August 2020.

Very soon it will be time for the AGM. Please see details in the Chairman's article elsewhere in this issue but please note that anything can change at short notice as controlled by government guide lines. Keep your eye on our FB pages and web site.

It was extremely sad news when we heard of the death of Marilyn Martin, Marilyn with her Husband Roy were regular supporters of our Club workshops, Marilyn used to sell the raffle tickets, those tickets were a great help in raising funds that helped the funding of the event.

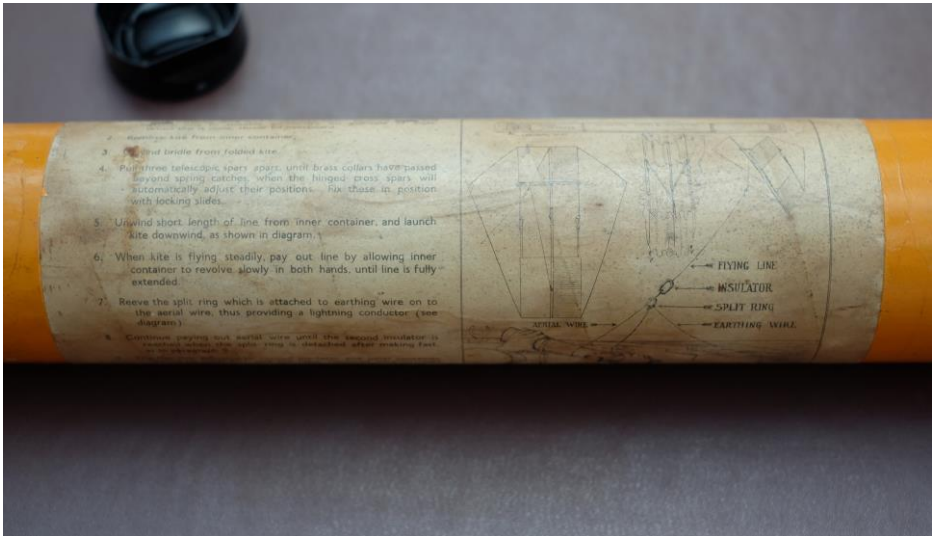
The date above is the day that several members of the committee came together to tidy the storage lock up, where we store the Club's trailer and Club kites. We cleared lots of rubbish that had accumulated over the years, so we were able to throw a lot of it away. It is on the farm of the Rumming Family. Janet & I met the family back in the early nineties when we put on the Club's first festival at Lydiard Park. We needed somewhere to lodge Doug Hagaman and his Wife Jody. We were able to bring him to our first festival because he had been invited to the Weymouth Festival. I had been in touch with him for several months because I had ordered one of his kites, so I phoned him and asked him if he could stay for our festival which was a week after Weymouth. Luckily for us he said yes.

Doug and his wife Jody enjoyed their stay there. Doug introduced the Rumming's two young sons to kite flying. It stuck with Andrew because he is still a member of the club to this day, 30 years later, in fact it stuck with Andrew in a big way, because he is an excellent kite maker.

Most of you would know the Gibson Girl Kite was designed in America during WW2, but how many of you were aware that the RAF had designed one. This picture is from the box of one, that I am lucky enough to own. It was designed to lift an aerial. I'm sorry it's not a great image. I took the kite to the last Bedford Festival and showed it to Hugh Blowers, who knew a lot about the kite, he thought it might have been one of the prototypes and would be worth a lot of money, however I have no desire to part with it.

David

Dear friends



## From BKFA

I have set up a Twitter account, British Kite Flying Association Alerts, to post out anything that comes in from CAA that will be of interest to kite fliers. I don't expect it to get used much, but please do feel free to encourage your members to follow it. The first Tweet is about an alert on a jamming trial on Salisbury Plain. I have posted it because I know some kite fliers also have an interest in drones.

I am not going to use it for events and the like: we already have the Kite Society and Kite Calendar doing a brilliant job there. The only occasion I might consider it is if there is a VERY short notice cancellation, and by that I mean days. Anything else normal channels should be used.

As I am new to Twitter, let me know if it doesn't work the way you expect.

Best wishes

Jerry

## Reminiscences – part 2

Last time's reminiscences was mostly the story of how my late partner Debbie and I acquired the kites shown in the picture below, which from left to right are: a HQ MyFly, Robertshaw Fury 0.85 UL, Benson Deep Space (DS), Prism Nexus and Prism Quantum Pro (QPro). – We couldn't get the MyFly to fly properly, and while we couldn't fault the build quality of the Fury and DS, we couldn't get very far in copying the tricks shown in their videos. In the end we settled on QPros as pairs kites, as we could get them to turn as accurately and sharply as we could wish for, and got somewhere in copying the tricks shown in their videos. Back in the 2000s there was a very active and helpful on-line forum for Prism kites which provided helpful advice that could be understood and followed, so by 2008 we were building up quite a collection of Prism kites, and moreover were learning how to fly many of them.



Unlike the MyFly, we could fly the Nexus and even occasionally do tricks with it, despite how small it is. This was the background to an incident at Brighton Kite Festival in 2009. Debbie was flying a single line kite in the public area. Next to her there was young family who I'd have guessed were from central Africa who were completely failing to fly their small delta kite. – It just wouldn't stay up in the air. In despair, they looked around and approached Debbie for advice. Debbie looked at the kite, and referred them to her kite repairer: me, who was watching the owls nearby. From their accents, I now thought they might be Poles, but they explained they were visiting Germans. Regarding the kite, a relative had given it to them, and from its shape it was a two line kite, which had had its bridle rearranged to connect to just one line. As many of you will know, a delta kite designed for single line has its wings swept back, so that if one wing has more wind pressure on it than the



other, it is pushed back further, reducing the wind pressure, which keeps the kite stable. However a two-line delta kite has its wings swept forward. So when a two line delta kite is connected to just one central line, the dihedral on the wings causes the kite to be unstable – whichever wing catches slightly more wind than the other is pushed back and catches even more wind and the kite turns and falls out of the sky. I explained this to them, and got a Nexus or similar small kite from the car so that I could copy its bridle and convert their kite back into a two-liner. Once I had done one side of the bridle, I passed it over to the father to do the other side, so that he would know the knots to be able to adjust them. As I had built bridles before but still needed instructions or another bridle to copy so that the knots were the right ones in the right places, I expected him as a first-timer to struggle. But he did it accurately and quickly. When I queried this, he explained that he was a watchmaker. We gave them a spare short dual line set, and left father, mother and child successfully flying the kite like experienced pilots! If only we could fix our own unflyable kites so well.

Prism QPros were our favourite kites, but they aren't so popular in the UK, which leads me to my next story. Debbie and I were attending Portsmouth kite festival in 2009, and at around 11:00am she went back to the car for a rest and refreshments. I kept flying a QPro in the public field. 2009 was in the late heyday of popularity for kite festivals, and the public areas were packed. So it was not so surprising that she did not spot me when she came looking a few hours later, and got fed up of not being able to find me. As a result she insisted on giving me a mobile phone for my forthcoming birthday, so she'd be able to call me in future. (As I'd worked for a mobile phone company, and had seen how the products had changed the lifestyles of our customers, the last thing I wanted for myself was a mobile phone.) Later we realised that there was a way she could have easily found me. There were only 2 QPros at the festival, and if instead of searching her way through the crowds, she'd have looked in the sky and followed the kite lines, she'd have found me easily. – But I was still given a mobile phone for my birthday.

## PERSEIDS – The 2nd Westmorland Meet and Fly Event

Needing no excuse to travel north, particularly Cumbria, we were attracted to this event – likely to be our first and only kiting event of this most strange, tragic and hopefully unique year. It was held on the Westmorland County Showground near Milnthorpe, and was organised by Craig Harby and his partner, Sue Kennedy, of SmileFactor10 . It ran over two consecutive weekends of 8/9th and 15/16th August. Obvious concerns associated with organising such an event in the current pandemic were ably addressed. Strict protocols were in place, not the least of which was a total separation of kites and general public. The former flew in one field, the later watched from another, the two fields being separated by a substantial boundary hedge. In addition, the public had AM/PM time slots and designated parking slots ensuring due social distancing. This effectively made it a ‘Drive-In Kite Festival’, maybe the UK’s first such event – or even the World’s?

Separation of units in the camping area was also strictly enforced, to the extent that the (few) porta-loos were strictly for those in tents. Motorhomers were to use their own facilities, preferable anyway, and all had obviously to follow government guidelines regarding social distancing and bubbles etc.. All had to give formal acceptance of the organiser’s risk assessment and its associated requirements in advance.

Conditions during the second weekend varied hot to cool, dry to wet, with winds ranging from nil to circa 10mph. Nevertheless, overall all kites were able to put on good displays for most of the time with the afternoon winds sufficient for such as Peter Lynn ‘Manta Rays’ and other large kites, of which there were many. ‘Revolution’ (well actually ‘Djinn’ by John Baressi) demonstrations were provided by local flyer Jeremy Wharton from Kendal.



A nice feature of the event was the musical entertainment on the Friday and Saturday evenings. This took place in the camping area where Sue Kennedy's superb offerings on Friday were songs of the Folk genre, both traditional and of her own composition. Saturday was another local lady Fiona Hanlon. She covered a wide range of musical genres and her knowledge of songs was immense. Songs were generally driven by audience requests. All were invited to make a request but the initial emphasis was on those of us attending the event for the first time. Saying we were from Gloucestershire, She commented on her knowledge of Prinknash Abbey where she once had thoughts of becoming a Nun!. With most requests being for 'softer' songs, the likes of John Denver, Elvis Presley, Adele and Country and Western, my request, a little tongue in cheek, was for Metallica (an American heavy metal rock band) and her rendition of 'Nothing Else Matters' was most impressive. Whilst part of the evening necessitated sitting under umbrellas, it didn't matter as the evening was such FUN. This, sadly, is a characteristic now seemingly lost from a lot Festivals. The evening was certainly helped by the fact that the majority of participants were staying on site. Overall, this was a very enjoyable weekend comprising Cumbria with its beautiful scenery, kites, good music and that inimitable Northern hospitality. What is there not to like?



Chris Mabon

## Sky Chat

Just when we thought it would be getting easier Wham Bam we are getting a second blast of this blasted virus. This time it is going to be harder on us to try and keep on top of all the conditions we are asked to observe but we must do our best to beat it or at least keep it under control. The only thing we can say is “that we are not alone with it, the whole World is in the same predicament”. So it means that any organized meetings can only be of six people so that cuts out most indoor meetings but outside we can carry on meeting if **We abide by the social distancing orders**, this means we can do “One Sky One World” as long as we follow the **Rules**. After Septembers Fly-in which was delightful in lovely sunny weather and for a change a very kind wind there was a good display of kites flying (I am afraid I was being very lazy and just sat and enjoyed the sun, the view and the company of whom I had not seen for some time). Can we hope that October’s meet could be as good, as long as the virus has not changed the situation.

This is a very trying time for most organizations not being able to meet and not everybody being able or want to do Zoom we must be patient and try a keep in contact as much as possible, this may be difficult but we must do our utmost in trying or the consequences are rather dire. Many Clubs may fail, many being around for many years, so lets us make sure that “The White Horse Kite Flyers” is not one of them. Sorry for being a bit gloomy but it seems that every time we think it we are winning we are hit again. Perhaps 2021 will be better and we will not have to pay too much extra taxes to pay for it all.

I know I have said it before and I am saying it again “many thanks to all the committee for all the work they are doing during these difficult times, keep up the good work”. Although at the moment I do not have urge to start any projects, that does not mean the rest of you should feel the same way. So with the Winter nights creeping in it is time to get the sewing machines going again, so in the Spring we can see the results of all your efforts. You never know I may have kicked my own ass and made a kite that I have been wanting to make for years.

Till then clean winds and tight lines and good health to you all.

**Neil**

From the editor.

What a year this has been! Little did we anticipate what was to come when I produced the Autumn 2019 issue. We got wet packing up after the Fun Fly and managed a nice day at Barbury in November. The AGM went well and we started preparations for the Year to come.

One thing did go to plan and that was the workshop with Alicja making the Ciquare. Then things started to go wrong. All events gradually got cancelled including our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 10<sup>th</sup> Fun Fly.

September Barbury meeting comes up and we were hopeful that restrictions would allow us to restart our regular meetings. It was a glorious day with excellent southerly wind and we had a good turn out and great display thanks to those who came. The down side was that the following day in comes the Rule of 6 so all remaining meetings of 2020 had to be cancelled.

During these difficult times we sadly lost some well-known names like Doug Jones, Carolyn Swift, Bob Angel, Anne Houston, Dave Johnson and more recently Marilyn Martin. Our thoughts are with their families.

During the year the committee have continued to operate and conducted their meetings by the now well known "ZOOM" We have tried to keep abreast of all the regulations and any changes in insurance, H&S. GDPR, etc.etc. We have also attempted to keep members up to date via our Facebook page and Group page plus the usual web page and the little used Twitter account. As this magazine only comes out quarterly the news can be up to 3 months old.

I have done my best to keep it running and I am grateful to all the contributors who have sent pictures and articles. I shall attempt to do the same over the next 12 months, whatever they have to throw at us. Ever the optimists we are looking towards Fun Fly 2021 and keeping our fingers crossed for old favourites like the Jolly Ups and Broad Haven.

Hopefully we will meet up again in the New Year but in the meantime the editor and rest of the committee would like to wish you all A Healthy and Happy Christmas and A Covid free New Year.

Arthur

# For young Egyptians, Sisi's kite ban is their first taste of an oppressive regime

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When the Egyptian government [shuttered schools to combat the spread of coronavirus](#) in mid-March, it was intended as a temporary measure, but, with coronavirus cases increasing across the country, schools never reopened. Many young Egyptians who would have otherwise been in school began taking up new pastimes, and, for months, the Cairo skyline has been [dotted with kites](#).

New economies sprung up around the Egyptian kite fad, complete with [kite competitions](#), artisan kite designers, and street vendors hawking the toy to drivers on major thoroughfares. The Egyptian media embraced the phenomenon when it began, and popular outlets published everything from [kite-centric photo essays](#) to do-it-yourself guides for crafty readers who wanted to fashion a kite at home.

In June, however, Egyptian media changed its tune. Outlets began reporting on tragic accidents and even crimes attributed to kiting.

On 15 June, state-owned newspaper [Al-Ahram reported](#) that two children in the Beheira Governorate were fatally electrocuted when they tried to retrieve their kite from where it was tangled with a light pole. Al-Ahram also wrote that an unnamed man had lured another man to an industrial zone on the outskirts

of Alexandria under the guise of hunting for scraps to make kites, only to rob and then murder him. Al-Youm Al-Sabea, which ran an encouraging [how-to-make-a-kite-at-home guide](#) back in May, [reported on 4 July](#) that a child had been struck by a vehicle while flying a kite in an unspecified city. The writer called the recent prevalence of kites in Egypt a “kite disaster”.

The shifting narrative in the press mirrored conversations happening in parliament. Parliamentarian Khaled Abu Talib, a member of the defence and security committee, [first raised the issue of kites on 24 June](#), when he warned that kites presented a threat to national security. If a person fitted their kite with a hidden camera, he reasoned, it could be flown like a drone, which are only [permitted in Egypt with a special permit](#), and used to gather intel on sensitive military installations. Many Egyptians following these developments could guess what was coming next.

On 9 July, [the governor of Alexandria announced](#) a directive banning the flying of kites. A similar ban has yet to be formally announced in Cairo, but police began confiscating and destroying kites in the capital city the next day, nonetheless. Adults and the parents of minors caught flying kites can now face fines of up to 1,000 EGP (£49), and police have already confiscated hundreds of kites in Cairo and Alexandria.

The recent ban on kites is only the latest instalment in a series of [peculiar measures](#) concocted by an exceedingly paranoid Egyptian government. But, for President Sisi, who is intent on quashing popular movements and maintaining his [sweaty clutch](#) on power, even relatively benign crackdowns like this one serve a larger purpose. Because kiting is popular mostly among children and young people, the kite ban and its enforcement will serve as the first introduction for many to the tactics of an oppressive Egyptian regime. For Sisi and his state security apparatus, the ban represents an opportunity to make an early and lasting impression on young Egyptians who, unlike their elder siblings and parents, have not yet grown jaded from [unfinished revolution, sham elections](#), and regular crackdowns on personal freedoms.

As the ban on kites in Alexandria and Cairo enters its third week, it remains unclear whether it will lead to any significant reduction in accidents and injuries. Although, in cities already known for failing infrastructure and frequent traffic accidents, it seems unlikely. What is likely, however, is that the ban will serve a more nefarious purpose of conditioning young people to the overbearing reach of a regime determined to keep Egyptians under its thumb. The current kite ban might not be enough to pre-empt the next popular uprising, but, for President Sisi, it’s worth a shot.

## 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.*

WHKF. meet at Barbury Castle country Park on the second Sunday of each month.

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Subscriptions for new members for 12 months from December 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 £16 (including 4 issues of Cowpat Hill and kiteflying insurance at events) and is free for existing members. £5 for each additional family member. Renewals will be reviewed annually. Personal Liability Insurance £14 per person.

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