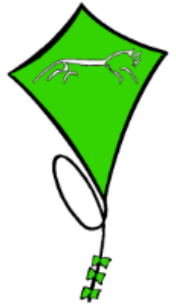


COWPAT HILL



*Journal of the White Horse Kite Flyers
Autumn 2021 October - December*

At last, the time we've all been waiting for. Covid restrictions are being lifted and we can all meet up to fly kites. August 7/8th. So what does the weather do? Strong, gusty wind and torrential storms causing flooding in between better interludes. I see on social media that Portsmouth International was that way and from personal experience I got soaked several times trying to get kites down when the thunder started to rumble at the Jolly Up. At Barbury we tried various kites but the wind was so turbulent that nothing wanted to stay airborne for more than a few minutes. We wait to see if the member who tried a stack of 5 Peter Powell's is still dragging his knuckles on the ground. Then in September it was flat calm which is rare at Barbury but a pleasant afternoon to sit and chat.

www.whkf.org.uk

Diary Dates

October 2021

9th LUTS (For details see

<http://grumpyoldgits.org/2021/events.htm>)

10th Barbury Castle club fly-in incorporating OSOW.

November 2021

14th Barbury Castle club fly-in

21st WHKF AGM (at St. Joseph's school, 12noon start)

December 2021

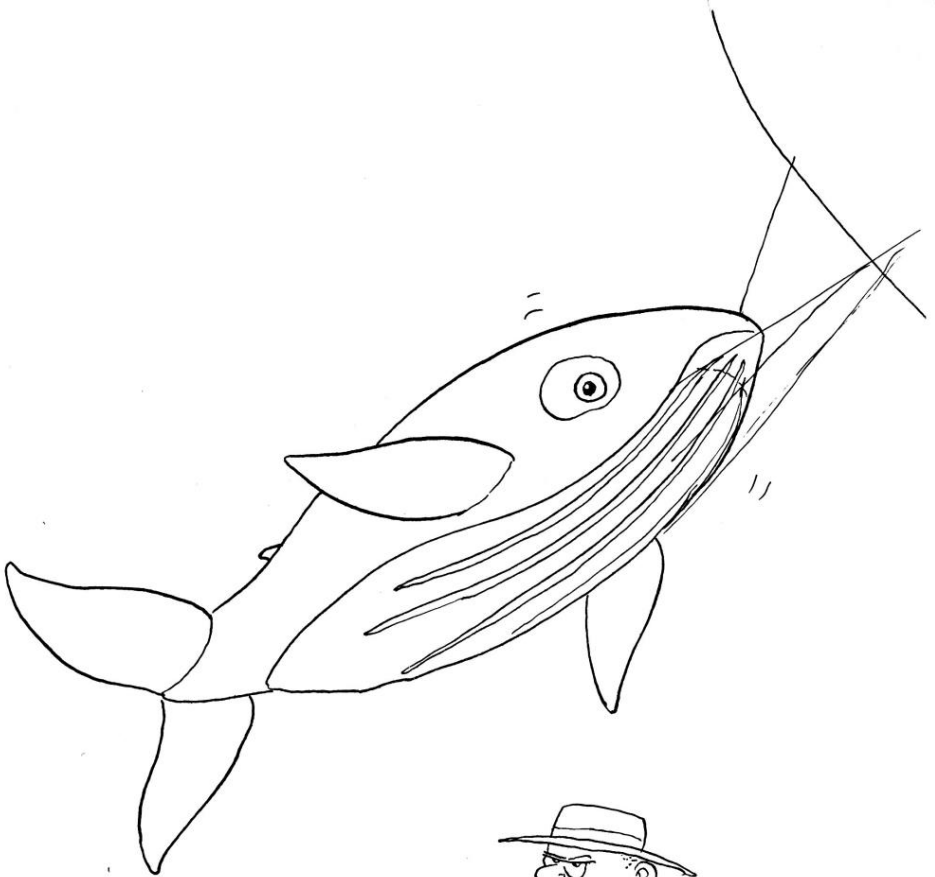
12th Barbury Castle club fly-in

27th Christmas Pudding Fly

January 2022

9th Barbury Castle club fly-in (New issue of magazine)

Dead line for next issue 26th December 2021



How To Make A Kite At Home? (from Times of India 6th July 2021)



Kites were first seen in Asia however, the exact origins of kites are still speculative. Historical records note that the kites first appeared in the skies between 9500-9000 BC.

In modern times, people in India predominantly fly kites on the occasions of Independence Day and Makar Sankranti. However, there are several other occasions such as marriages, the birth of a child, and others to fly a kite.

While kite flying may be a tricky art, making a kite is trickier. It requires the best of craftsmanship and patience to come up with a kite. It is also a good way to keep children off-screen and help them learn something new. If you think that you too can make a simple kite at home, then follow the step-by-step guide.

What you will need:-

Full Sheet of Newspaper, Plastic Bag or Gift Wrapping Material

Two 1/4 inch round wooden sticks

Scissors; Pencils; Strings; Tape; Ruler; Ribbon; Small Hand Saw

Step 1: Cut the sticks into 24 inches and 20 inches long.

Start by cutting the round wooden sticks into 24 inches and 20 inches and length. It is important to have accurate measurements for your kite to fly. These sticks form the basic structure of the kite and give it the strength to cut through the air. You can purchase a pack of sticks and use them for other craftwork as well.

Step 2: Use a handsaw to make cuts on the rounded ends of sticks. A small hand saw will be of most use here to make small notches across the rounded ends of the stick. Ensure that while making the nudge, it has to be straight and

horizontal. If you have by mistake made a vertical nudge, use a new stick and make another nudge. It is easy and safe to use a handsaw however, keep it out of the reach of children.

Step 3: Lay both the sticks in position

Mark 6 inches on the 24-inch stick and place the 20-inch stick making a T. You can mark the 6 inches with a pencil and secure the joint of two sticks with an adhesive, tape, or string. The best way to secure the joint of the sticks is with an adhesive and thread to tighten the joint.

Step 4: Wrap the string on the ends of the sticks

The next step is to make the string pass through the horizontal notches on either end of both the sticks. Once the thread has passed, you can see the basic structure of a kite in the shape of a diamond. Once the basic structure has appeared, it is just a matter of a few steps that you'd see the final result.

Step 5: Place the newspaper on a flat surface and keep the frame on top.

Once you have got the basic structure, place it on a newspaper, glazed paper, or any type of paper that you want to make your kite out of. Avoid hard papers such as art papers and origami papers since they would hamper the flight of the kite. Place the basic structure on the paper and leave 1 inch at all the 4 margins to fold the papers.

Step 6: Fold the edges and tape it

Fold the 1-inch paper that you left on the edges, inwards onto the sticks, and secure them with an adhesive and tape. Ensure that the bond between the paper and sticks is strong. The kite will fly when the air will pass through papers and sticks.

Step 7: Measure the string and tie it.

Exactly cut 24 inches of string and attach it to the top and bottom edges of the kite. Use a pin to make two holes to let the thread pass and tie it to the bigger string through which you will control the kit.

Step 8: Use a ribbon to make the tail.

Use a ribbon or thread to make the tail of the kite and attach it to the bottom end of the kite. Once you have done this, the kit is ready for a flight. Find an empty wide space to run with the kite and make it fly.

St Anne's Kite Festival

One of the few downsides of living in Somerset rather than Oxfordshire is that everything “North of Birmingham” is just that bit further away. So when other kite fliers have said that the St Annes Kite Festival was well worth the trip I've always filed it under “too far”. However, having been starved of festivals these last couple of years, Anne and I decided to make a holiday of it and head up to the North West for 10 days in early September. It proved to be one of our better decisions!

The festival ran for two and a half days (we all flew Friday afternoon once set up was complete in the morning). The beach at St Anne's is almost perfect for a festival with endless sand and a tide that never came in (a bit like Weston Super Mare but with less mud). 3 Large arenas were set out either side of the pier (one being “dog-friendly”) with a “spare” fourth if needed. So even though there were about 140 registered fliers there was plenty of room for all of us. From the outset the whole event was brilliantly organised by Craig and Sue (and all at SmileFactor10) crucially with the help of the Fylde Council who really put their weight and organisation behind the event (if only more councils had the courage and the foresight!).

Each arena was well set out and structured and yet the atmosphere was really relaxed and laid back – a difficult balance to achieve. What we found impressive was that the layout of the arenas allowed room for both “sticked” and inflatable kites to be shown off to their best effect without one dominating the other and all contributing to the overall stunning effect that the photos and videos can only hint at.





The weather was kind to us and, especially on the Sunday, we were blessed with a steady breeze and warm sunshine. We were all rewarded with a huge turnout from the public coming to admire the show and wander up and down the aisles of kites. Anne and I had a great time handing reels to anybody wanting a go. Chatting to parents it was striking how big an event it was especially for pre-school children who'd never really had the opportunity to experience something of this scale over the past two years. Hopefully we gave them something to remember.

Kite wise, Octopuses seemed very much back in fashion with several stacks filling the sky and over a dozen in total. Augustus, what I would normally consider as my "large" 22m Orange Octopus, was somewhat dwarfed. (Can I have a larger one please Anne?) There was also something of a "plague" of ladybirds with at least 50 dotted around of various colours.

Highlights of the show? Anne and I conducted an unofficial straw poll of various families, and the winners were Tim's Dragon Amaranth, John's Pegasus (though strangely many children thought it was a Unicorn – what do they teach them these days) and of course Oscar (Craig's giant Teddy Bear). The lasting memory though is of endless smiling faces and some very contented kite fliers. Can we come again next year please Craig?

T.O.M

Fun Fly Weekend (Viewed from the kitchen)

Well, that's another Fun Fly been & gone, & the sun actually came out along with a little wind, which meant we had some kites in the air (a rarity for the Fun Fly).

We arrived on the Friday morning; the grass had been cut & along with a strong cup of coffee we started setting up the event. The marquee company set up & all we had to do was put our kitchen pop up together, attach to the main marquee & wait for the kitchen equipment to arrive. I then went to buy the food for the event, a visit to the cash & carry along with Aldi to buy the rest (No Bratwurst as Aldi have stopped selling them)!!!

Oh well sausages it is then for the lunch service.

I arrived early on the Saturday morning, it's one of the best times, a couple of early risers are up & about, the Urn is on warming up for the first cuppa of a busy day.

Fire up the oven & start cooking the bacon, sausages & everything needed for the full English breakfast that our members were looking forward to.

By 09:30 we had already fed most of the campers & members, a couple of late risers may have missed out as we were fully into lunch prep by 10am. More sausages as well as a pile of burgers were starting to brown nicely in the oven having been seared in the pan to start with, rolls were sliced & buttered ready for their tasty filling.

This year we added salad as well as the usual cheese along with a selection of sauces to everything.

The evening meal this year was a pie which we served with crushed potato topped with cheese as well as French beans & baby carrots

Service can be a little stressful, but thankfully with the fantastic team I have to help me it went like a dream. I have to say a HUGE thank you Dave T, Helen & Carol, without them I wouldn't be able to produce the quality of food we expect for our event.

The auction raised an amazing amount of over £500, thank you to all those that bought items.

Sunday is slightly less hectic, breakfast is a leisurely start to the day, we cook from a bit later on as it can be a late night for those camping on site.

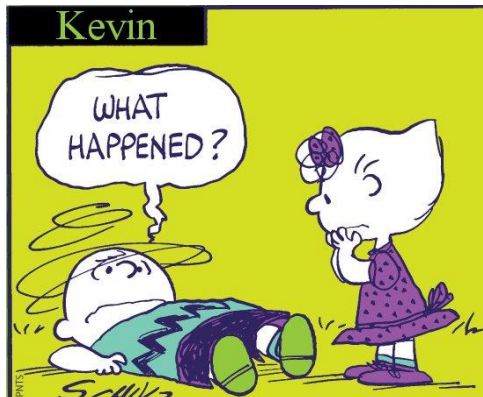
Sunday follows the same pattern almost all of the time, we cook everything we can & feed people until they nearly burst.

The same with lunch, cook everything we have left & watch it go.

After that we start the hard part, the set-up is always easier than the take down, loading up the trailer so things are ready for the next event is not as easy as it looks. Arthur then tows the trailer back to the lockup & again we owe him a large thanks for this as without the trailer we wouldn't be able to hold any of our events.

Then it's time for the goodbyes, more see you later than byes is what it really is, hopefully we see you all at the AGM on Sunday the 21st November.

Kevin



Hi Janet,

Peter and I would like to thank you all for a wonderful fun time at Lechlade, we thoroughly enjoyed the whole weekend and everyone made us so welcome. Particular thanks to the Kitchen Crew who worked so hard to produce delicious scrummy food for us all. It was a fantastic weekend and the first time Peter and I have been away for over 6 years!

Cheers and looking forward to meeting up again

Carol & Peter

Robinson's Ramble

Here we are again, my contribution for the Ramble is due and I haven't got a lot to write, without a lot of kite flying going on, it's hard to write anything that is interesting.

Janet & I did contact Cliff Quinn, Cliff lives about 60 miles from New York, we were concerned for his safety due to the recent flooding, I am glad to say that he is safe and well, they had some bad storms but none as bad as New York. He did write us a long letter about what he is up to, it was quite interesting so I emailed him again to ask if I could include it in my ramble

Hi folks, so nice to hear from you and your thoughts about my wellbeing. Yes I'm safe from the storm, it passed over us with heavy winds and 6 inches of rain but we hunkered down and had no issues. I'm also safe health wise even though I've been a bad boy, sometimes I think of myself as an Iron Man 😊 and can endure all kinds of stuff. HA! Had my last birthday this year, don't want any more, 83 is enough. However, a few weeks ago I was working on my sons race car wrenching some huge bolts, after finishing up it was time to head into the house and get ready for bed. This is a looong story 😊 I woke up at 4 and had some chest pains, I thought it was because of wrenching the bolts and I strained my chest muscles. Went back to sleep and woke up with same hurt, my day's chore was to get on the tractor and mow 5 acres, grass was getting really high. Half way thru I was beat up and thought I should call my grandson to finish up. Nah, I finished myself, after finishing I went in the house, took 3 aspirins and sat in my recliner, fell asleep for an hour and felt great. That night I went to the race track with my son, I told one of the pit crew guys about my chest pain, he said follow me, he took me to the track EMT for a blood pressure test, I was very reluctant but went anyway. The EMT hooked me up and said Holy Shit, you got a problem, my readings were off the chart, heart rate was 125, a little high as my normal rate is 60. He said either I take you to the local hospital or I'll call an Ambulance to take you, I said I ain't going in any ambulance, I'll have one of my pit crew take me. I did go. Got to the hospital in 15 minutes, walked in and told the lady I was sent by the EMT because my heart rate was a "little" high. BAM next thing I was in a wheel chair going into an emergency room. I got all the wires planted on my chest, blood sample taken, 2 doctor's asking questions, lady came in and said I was going for a CAT Scan. Now back at the room I'm re-hooked up with a million wires, A little while

later my son came in from the race track, I was pissed off because he was missing his racing. He said Dad not to fuss about me, I'm worried about you. How nice 😊 Anyway I was there doing nothing and getting bored, I said to my son, "If nobody comes in 5 minutes I'm pulling off these wires and we're going home." A minute after a nurse came in and said OK you're ready to go home. I have no clue why my stats were wacked out, next morning I strapped on my blood pressure tester and I was normal. Who know's why? I'm an Iron Man I guess. Haa Haa! Seriously, life is great, I love every day, don't take med's, I feel I'm on the top of the world.

Kite life is all about kids and marketing kite kits, I haven't made a kite for myself in a couple years, still have the material and equipment but other things in life is in the way. The strange thing is I haven't lost the urge to make and teach. I still have the passion to share all that others have taught me about kite making. This past period of time has shut down my children's camp workshops. It hurts me so.

Did I ever tell you that I went to Dublin Ir. To a children's camp? Oh my gosh I has a wonderful time. The camp is about a 45 minute drive south of Dublin, they picked me up at the airport and we drove down to the location. Amazing place. Was there for a week, did kite workshops and many other activities. These kids have life threatening illnesses, cancer, sickle cell, HIV, and a bunch of other bad stuff, the kids are amazing. I want to go back. I need a few hours to tell about my experience. Maybe one day.

Gosh I miss you both. Sorry for the story all about me, what about you guys, are you retired? Are you ok, what's happening in your lives, I totally enjoy the club newsletters, makes me feel like family. Even though I see names I don't recognise I wish there was not an ocean between us to meet them. Ya, I miss Doug, and ??? who's the guy that likes beer that passed? (I can see him sitting in an inflatable throne chair holding up a mug, pardon me, it's happy hour here and I'm indulging. HA! But he was one of the crown jewels too) [*That will be Phil Scarfe*]

David and Jan, I love you both, warm hugs.

So, besides doing kite workshops at children's camps I also do woodworking, however because of the Covid stuff camps have been cancelled, however, my Ronald McDonald camp for cancer children decided we'd do an on line virtual camp. This year I did kite workshops on line, we sent all the campers kite kits to their homes and we got together via Zoom Meetings, the children were

wonderful, they followed my instructions and made Diamond Kites. All the parts were precut, the spars are 2.5mm fibreglass, sails are precut white film. They used Sharpie markers and did magnificent pictures on the sails. I wish I was with each one to see their proudness when the kites were flying high in the sky. What I like the most is the kids will be spending quality time with their parents outdoors in a park.

Now for the “other” woodworking project.

This year’s project was a “Block Puzzle” there are 4 blocks about 1 ½” cubes, each side gets 3 different colours stickers and camp logo’s. I supplied the blocks and coloured stickers to place on each block. Each block has a different arrangement of colours. The challenge to the puzzle is to stack the blocks and have one of each colour and a camp logo on each side, puzzle solved. Kids followed instructions and got the stickers on, then the fun began. Is not an easy task. The not so good news was while preparing the blocks. I made 50 sets of blocks, 200 in all. Around the 190th block me and the saw had a battle, the outcome was CLIFF “0” table saw “9”. Yup, I lost. My fingers got caught in the blade, ended up losing ½ of my middle finger, and sliced one finger and thumb. Nobody was home so I drove myself to the Emergency Hospital, as the story goes, I’m fine now, learning to write with my opposite hand. But, I got back on the horse and finished making the kids puzzles.

When you enter into your senior years something happens, you get a calling to share your experiences, you want to nurture youngsters, and you enjoy seeing smiles of accomplishment on children’s faces. It’s like when you hand a kid a kite and he flies one for the first time, I hope every kiter gets to enjoy that moment.

Cliff

Sky Chat

Well things are trying to get back to more normal running and this last week-end we started by having Our Fun Fly. Two days of doing next to nothing and feeding our faces about every three hours fed by the very good gang in the kitchen. Very many thanks to all of you for working so hard to keep us all so happy. During Saturday with little or no wind it was a time for contemplation. Dave R started it off with him seeing a Ballerina in the boughs of that dead oak tree that we have all studied every year we have had the Fun Flies, will it ever fall down. Still no one put a kite in it this year? This got us talking about things we could do that took up time but did not cost anything to do it. After navel contemplation was thought about, it was thought one of the best to do was partake in was Cloud Gazing, this was thought of being the best and you could spend hours and hours watching the clouds scurry by, making shapes that tax your ingenuity of the shapes, except when there is no wind and the skies are wall to wall a lovely blue. Then you can study the inside of your eyelids. What a blissful way of spend few hours.

One of the main reason of this year's Fun Fly was a Memorial Event to remember Doug Jones and his work with Kite Flying and the White Horse Kite Flyers. Doug was one of the early members of the Club coming to most events with Martin, always willing to give a hand even when his health was not at the best. Although Doug passed away before Covid 19 it was close enough that the Club could not do much to remember him as Lock Down came and we have just! Moved on. Just as we were setting up for the Fun Fly we heard the sad news that Doug Manners had passed away. Again Doug was long standing member of the Club and was always there to give a hand and an ardent supporter of our Workshops and founding member of Matrix Team of sports kite flyers. In their time they won national and international awards, just rewards for hours of practice. Unfortunately Doug was not blessed with good health in later years and this was born with stoicism he still carried on with his kite flying and meeting us at Barbury. Once again Covid 19 stopped us as a Club keeping as close a contact as we would have wished for. Our thoughts go out to Angela and family at these testing times from the Club.

Please remember that the AGM is fast approaching, so it is your time to have your say on the future of the Club. We need **NEW BLOOD** in the Club, we all are getting older and cannot do as much as we did a few years ago. We need members to help the old stalwarts and ease their loads, I know that it is wistful thinking that we can go back to our heyday as kite flying itself has moved on but we still can do something to promote the joys of kite flying to those that are missing all the joys that we all enjoy.

Thank you all that helped or attended the Fly-in and hope to see as many of you possible at the AGM God Bless. Neil.

Dear Janet and Dave,

Just a quick thank you for a wonderful day on Saturday. Apart from the lack of wind, everything else was brilliant and we thoroughly enjoyed being with you and the WHKF team, what a lovely group of people. The sadness of missing Doug was compensated by the satisfaction that he would have been very pleased that the event was held in his honour, and on the way back home we both felt we had enjoyed a privileged insight into why he was so happy flying kites with WHKF - even if he didn't often show it!

We have saved a few of his cat photos but don't know whether Smoky is one of them. We'll post them to you anyway along with a CD of a kite festival in China in 2005 - not sure if that's the one Doug attended. We hope Martin made it on Sunday, he didn't come to the Harrow Rec event so we hope he made it to Lechlade. There were several hundred people at Harrow Rec and after a quiet start there were quite a lot of kites flying by the end of the afternoon. The kite making stall was a great success and we ran out of everything by the end of the afternoon. We told people who knew Doug about the memorial fly-in and they were pleased to hear that he had not been forgotten.

Thanks again for a great day.

Best wishes,

Gerry

tube.bunny.prices

So what does that mean to you? Believe it or not, it is the entrance to Barbury Castle. If you want our preferred parking place try :-
<https://what3words.com/watch.goad.stands>

For the Fun Fly

<https://what3words.com/crackles.dormant.sweeten>

For the AGM

<https://what3words.com/guard.media.lime>

This is all part of a new App. For your mobile device called What Three Words often abbreviated to W3W. The function is to detail a location. It is more accurate than using a Post Code as it has a resolution of 3meters. It is also worldwide.

WHKF AGM AGENDA

November 21st, 2021

11:30 pm for 12:00 start

At St. Joseph's School

1). Welcome from the President.

2). Apologies

3). Minutes of last year's meeting

4). Matters Arising

5). Chairman's Report

6). Hon. Sec's Report

7). Hon. Treasurer's Report

8). Cowpat Editor's Report

9). Election of officers

10). Fees for next year.

A BUFFET LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME

CLOSE OF MEETING BY THE PRESIDENT

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

Dave Robinson; Neil Harvey;

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Subscriptions for new members for 12 months from December 1st 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 £13 per person.

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