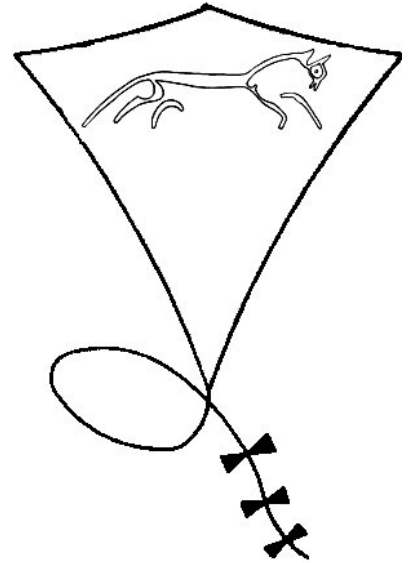


Cowpat Hill

Journal of
The White Horse Kite Flyers
Issue: Spring 2012
April ----- June



In Brief

What are we going to lose next at Barbury? First they locked the gate in to the sloping field to make access difficult, then some one burnt down the stone age hut followed by the café, set off fireworks in the toilets and for the last few visits the toilets have been closed. We understand they are waiting for a major part but hope to get them working again soon. There have been promises of a new visitors centre to replace these facilities but very little seems to be happening.

We recently sent out a press release, this was published in the Advertiser and our secretary got interviewed on Wiltshire Sound. We have received several comments from people and organisations sorry to hear of this loss to Swindon. Even the Council offered to let us hire a stand at their Big Arts Day. Who knows? One day we may have another festival. Beware of flying pigs!

So will the Grumpy Old Gits take up the challenge? Last year they produced a superb photograph of the Uffington White Horse; please note guys there are eleven more as listed in the last issue!

As you may remember we made a number of our sled kites to send to the Japanese children who had suffered from the devastating effects of the earthquake and tsunami. We have contacted Masaaki Modegi who has advised us they have still not been able to get to the area but as soon as they do he will send us pictures of our kites being flown.

WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS

PO BOX 585

SWINDON

SN3 4YR

www.whkf.org.uk

info@whkf.org.uk

DIARY DATES

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

April

8th Barbury Castle
28/29th Jolly Up
28th-1/5 Black Sea Festival

May

5/7th Weymouth
13th Barbury Castle
26/27th Exmouth

June

2/3rd Basingstoke
2/3rd Bedford {W}
2nd-5th Margam Park
10th Barbury Castle
10th Butser Hill
16th Cheltenham Scouts {W,D}(Contact Neil Harvey)
16/17th Southampton

July

8th Barbury Castle
7/8th Brighton
14/15th Ducklington {W,D}
14/15th Dunstable Downs
14/15th Barmouth
21/22nd Berrington Hall
28/29th Golden Valley
28/29th St Anne's

August

4/5th Jolly Up
12th Barbury Castle
25/27th Portsmouth
26/27th Uffington Show

September

9th Barbury Castle
29/30th Fun Fly

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 24th June 2012

Some Useful Knots For Kite Flyers



Granny Knot



Sheep Bend



The Ladies'-knot-for-Turning



The Technical Hitch

Robinson's Ramble

I have to start on a sad note, Barry Smart the club's "social member" died in February, after a long battle with cancer of the spine. Barry had been a friend of mine since my school days. He wasn't a kite flyer, (I know you're all thinking, nor am I!) but he loved the social side of our hobby, he was a prolific photographer and it was rare to see him without his camera. He came to Dieppe several years ago and for some reason he wasn't on the registration list with the rest of the club members, he was asked to wait until everybody had registered, he did this only to find out that for some reason the French had mistaken the name Smart for Sweet which was the name left on the registration form, so the whole time he was at Dieppe he wore the badge Sweet! From then on for several years until his sad end Neil Harvey always referred to him as Sweetie, he took it all with a smile on his face.

The club has invited Dan Kurahashi to our Fun-Fly and to do a workshop the weekend after. Dan, a Japanese kite maker/flyer, lives in Vancouver; some of you who have been to Fort Worden will know Dan; he is one of the longest serving teachers there. The workshop will be on the weekend after our Fun-Fly, on 6/7th October at the St. Josephs Academy, Swindon. The workshop will be a non sewing one, making two kites over the weekend; there will be a train of 20 plastic kites and a small Tyvec and bamboo Cody. At the moment I can't let you know any prices because I am still gathering all of the information from Dan. If you are interested please contact me.

Seems strange that after 20 years there is no Festival, it is quiet not having to write press releases and sending them all over the place to try to get the Festival mentioned in any type of local media, I think our local paper used to do us proud, quite often doing a full page spread the week before, that was always better than any advertisement that we would have been able to afford. BBC Wiltshire were always very good too, last year on the Friday before our festival they invited me into the studio to make a kite, yes that's right make a kite on the radio! The kite I did was a paper-fold, made from a sheet of A4 paper; it's a good flyer if folded correctly. The presenter decided to ask listeners to phone in and then he chose one of them to come on air by telephone, to follow my instructions, the person chosen was a regular contributor to the programme; however she knew nothing about paper folding or kites. I started the instructions by making one myself and explaining what I was doing, the poor woman didn't have a clue, but she took it in good heart and did what she could, within 5 minutes I had finished the instructions and was flying mine around the studio, to the amazement of the presenter, the lady following my instruction sent a photo to the studio, needless to say it looked nothing like the one I had made, in fact it looked as though she had been listening to a set of instructions on how to *scrap* an A4 piece of paper.

Not long now until the season commences and Janet and myself are looking forward to meeting old friends and new ones in the up-coming months.

David Robinson

I know just what David means about it being quiet; no risk assessments to write, no agreements to sort out, no site plans, no last minute fire safety requirements or wet weather contingency road ways and so it goes on. It is still amazing how many people still contact us for stand space, so far this year we could have had eight burger stands, five ice-cream wagons, four marquees, countless bouncy castles and more security guards than we had spectators last year.

Arthur

Puzzle Corner (24)



1. You had 100kg of fresh raspberries with 99% water content. If you dry them down to 98% water content, how much would they then weigh ?
2. I have two jars, one holds 3 litres and the other holds 5 litres. How can I go to the stream and come back with exactly 4 litres of water?
3. I have some pencils and some jars.
If I put 4 pencils into each jar I will have one jar left over.
If I put 3 pencils into each jar I will have one pencil left over.
How many pencils and how many jars?
4. Two gardeners, one energetic and one lazy, take 8 days to mow a lawn.
The energetic one would only take 12 days to mow it on his own.
How many days would the lazy gardener take to mow the lawn on his own ?

Entropy is not what it used to be. (ponder)

Answers to

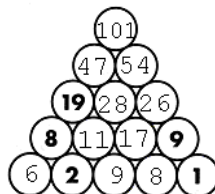
john@johnbrowning.net.

That £2,000 worth of Peruvian banana shares has seen a modest drop in value.
(Remember, the value of your investment can go down as well as up)

Puzzle Corner (23) Answers



1. Take all the salt out of the oceans and crystallize it into 1cm X 1cm X 1cm cubes. Then pile all the little cubes one on top of the other. How high would the pile be. (a) 2,000km (b) 136,000,000km, (c) 20,000 light years. And in case you don't believe us, here is the calculation.
Volume of sea (V) = $1.34 \times 10^{18} \text{m}^3$; Salinity (S) = 30kg/m^3 ; Density of salt (D): $2.16 \times 10^3 \text{kg/m}^3$; 1 light year = 10^{16}m
Therefore quantity of salt in the sea (W) = $V \times S = 40 \times 10^{18} \text{kg}$; Therefore volume of salt = $W/D = 20 \times 10^{15} \text{m}^3 = 20 \times 10^{21} \text{cm}^3$
So pile would be $20 \times 10^{19} \text{m} = 20 \times 10^3 \text{ly}$ high:
2. The number in each circle is the sum of the two below.
What is the top number ?



3. How can you use the letters in NEW DOOR to make one word? Angagram.

4. 9567
+1085
10652

SEND
+ MORE
MONEY

Numbers for letters

6524
+0735
07259

HEALTHY HOBBIES
Kite flying

FLYING a kite can have huge benefits for both the body and mind.

Holding the kite in position uses all the shoulder and arm muscles — and stunt kites take even more muscle strength to control. Your thigh muscles get a great workout, too, as you keep yourself grounded.



Furthermore, the mental health charity Mind cited kite-flying as among the best means to alleviate depression and stress.

Up to 70 per cent of mild to moderately depressed people experienced significant improvements in their mood after watching kites.

Mind says that the combination of being outside, exposure to daylight and the perceived emotional freedom of kite-flying makes it a good activity.

PETA BEE

This article was taken from The Daily Mail on 31st January this year. Please note it was not done by 'phone hacking or bribery. But it does show how long it takes newspapers to get to the truth of a story.

We have all known for years of the benefits of kite flying and what it can do for your mental state. You only have to look at a bunch of kite flyers to see the finely developed bodies of the idiots holding on to the lines.

Our club was formed officially in 1990 so forgetting the previous 3000 years of kite history this is 21 years to get to the truth of the matter.

Should we report this to the Leveson Inquiry and see if we can get some compensation? Perhaps just enough to run our festival for a few more years.

Does this sound familiar? From The Times of India:-

MUMBAI: The city's kite clubs are fast running out of wind—a fact that has been evident during the festive period between Makar Sankranti and Republic Day.

Lack of open spaces and declining interest in physical activities among the city's net-savvy youngsters have not only taken a toll on their health, but also on that of Mumbai famed kite-flying clubs. Of the 150 such clubs in the city, 130-135 have already shut down and the remaining few are on "life support".

Is it any wonder if they are losing members like this?

TNN Jan 16, 2012, 03.18AM IST

AHMEDABAD: Four kite-enthusiasts fell to their death this Uttarayan. All the victims fell from roofs and terraces in various parts of the city while trying to catch or fly kites. The city police reported more than 50 incidents of manja injuries and falls from roofs in the last two days.

Glass Kites (Independent)

Formerly performing under the name Right July, the newly rechristened Glass Kites is a five-piece band with a feel of icons like Cocteau Twins or Radiohead. It's a weird match, but Glass Kites has it make sense. Under its old moniker, Glass Kites played with acts like Ron Sexsmith and Stars. The group's debut seven-track EP points in the direction of such peers without actually sounding like any of them. Songs like the seven-minute-long "Terra" build slowly, with meaty bass coming in and out of the riff, while drums stay slow-tempo and keyboards provide the same noodling feel as the guitar. Vocalist Leon Feldman sounds like he's paying homage to Jeremy Enigk in "Terra", with a vocal style that's driving but gentle.

With a name like that they should be a smashing success. (Ed.)

Basingstoke Kite Festival

2nd & 3rd June 2012

At Down Grange Sports Complex, Pack Lane, Basingstoke.
From 10am to 5 pm (both days)

Come along and help us to celebrate our 20th Festival and join in the fun!

Guests will be from Home and abroad and as well as things going on in the display arena, there will be the usual array of activities, along with various Kite & Food traders.

The theme for the weekend is THE ELEMENTS. As in previous years, a prize will be awarded for the best themed kite, so you can now get carried away with your imagination!

A raffle is held over the weekend with lots of donated kite related prizes, donations gratefully received!

On Saturday evening we will have our usual Social Get Together in the marquee, and all are welcome. (There is a small fee if you would like to join in with the Buffet, well worth it!)

Camping is available on the Friday and Saturday evenings @ £7.50 for the weekend (payable on the weekend) and there are showers and toilet facilities on site.—Please note this is a different price than originally listed.

Come along and join in, and we look forward to seeing you there!!!

Contact: Alan Cosgrove (Main festival Organiser) 01256 421800
Roy Broadley (Kites Up) 01256 812487

Butser Hill Festival of Flight Sunday June 10th 2012

11am to 4pm

This has now been held at Butser Hill for several years, and always fun. The site is off the A3, located between Horndean and Petersfield, and not far from Queen Elizabeth Country Park.

Follow the brown signs for BUTSER HILL.

Kites, Hand gliders, Para gliders and Model gliders are welcome.

Parachute your Teddy Bear for fun!

Plenty of space for flying. There is an on-site cafe for basic refreshments. (but Please contact the Park before the event to confirm the Cafe will be open and what will be on sale, as this is out of our control)

Sorry, but buggying is not permitted.

This is just a relaxing, fun day, with room to fly your kites, or purchase one while you are there. Come along and have some fun!

Contact: Roy Broadley of Kites Up on 01256 812487 or
Queen Elizabeth Country Park on 02392 595040

SLOW COOKED RUDOLPH CASSEROLE

This is a great meal to come back to after a cold winter's day flying. Make sure it is after Christmas otherwise the children won't get any presents from Santa. Venison is a meat with full flavour and low in cholesterol. This should be enough for six people unless they have very healthy appetites.

Ingredients.

2 lb lean diced venison
1 bottle dry red wine
8 oz button mushrooms washed (or sliced closed-cup mushrooms)
2 medium red onions peeled and chopped
2 cloves of garlic crushed
2 bay leaves
8 black pepper corns
8 juniper berries
4 cloves
1 in of cinnamon stick
1 star anise
4 cardamoms
1 tbsp cranberry jelly left over from Christmas dinner (or redcurrant Jelly)
1 tbsp black treacle
1 tbsp soy sauce (or salt to taste)
Corn flour
Butter
Maraschino cherries for his nose

Method

Put the bay leaves, garlic and spices in a large bowl; leave out any you don't like. Add the cranberry, treacle, soy sauce and diced venison. Stir thoroughly to coat the meat. Cover with red wine and leave to marinade for 48 hours stirring occasionally.

Strain the marinade, retaining the liquid and remove the bay leaves. Put the meat in a plastic bag and add the corn flour; shake until the meat is evenly coated.

Turn on the slow cooker to preheat. Bring the marinade liquid to the boil and put in the cooker.

Fry the onions in the butter until golden then add them to the cooker. In the same pan fry the venison until brown on all sides; add this to the cooker and stir thoroughly. Cover and allow to cook slowly for 4 hours or until you get back from flying.

30 minutes before you are ready to eat add the mushrooms and stir them in. As you bring it to the table put one cherry on the top for each person.

I like to serve this with warm crusty bread or a baked potato and a peppery watercress salad. A red wine goes well with it but it must be full bodied or the venison will dominate. I am sure the beer drinkers out there could advise a suitable ale to go with it instead of the wine. This is a substantial meal and you should not require a sweet, just a nice glass of single malt to aid the digestion.

If you time this right, put the baked potatoes in the oven on the timer and have the mushrooms ready to go in to the cooker as soon as you get in, you've got time to wash, put on your slippers and set the table, then it should make the perfect end to a great day's flying.

I served this to 9 members of the family, after they had done a New Year's Day walk. I used 2kg of venison and doubled up on the other quantities. They kept coming back for more until it was all gone.

Arthur



The Peter Lynn laboratory has successfully proved that kite sailing will be reality in the upcoming years. Lynn, one of the greatest kite experts in the world, is trying to make kite powered boats truly competitive.

"Kites have two major advantages over conventional sails. The first and most significant is that they can be rigged to a boat's hull so as to cause no heeling", explains Peter Lynn.

"The second advantage that kites have is that because the kite is not rigidly connected to the boat; it can fly at higher altitude where wind is stronger and more consistent, and it can be 'worked', that is, looped to develop much more pull for its size than is available from a fixed sail", he adds.

Despite these challenging advantages, there are also a few cons. Not having a mast to pull the sail up on, wind is needed for kites to be launched and kept in the air.

Also, when the wind is weak (3 knots or 5 km/h), "it's not possible to usefully fly any current traction kite, while competing boats with conventional sails can still drift, getting slowly, but inexorably ahead".

Peter Lynn has taken his inspiration from George Pocock's (1774–1843) kite transportation inventions. In 2003, Lynn initiated a series of pilot kite launching tests. Back, then the results were not perfect, but the kite master decided to upgrade his technology and a new prototype has been born.

"I now use a simple hook on the pilot line which engages a loop on the traction kites leading edge. After launching the traction kite, the pilot line is pulled in, releasing this hook and allowing retrieval of the pilot", reveals Peter.

Lynn proved NASA-style single skin kites are better than Arc kites. In the future, the passionate kite manufacturer will be proving that kite sailing might beat the traditional sailing crafts.

Through Innocent Eyes

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

Part the Second

The "Allen's Standard Specification" for Kite Anchors

"If you don't know what you are TRYING to achieve, then you will never know when you have done it" - Project Management proverb.

While looking around for an anchor which was stronger than my current (rather flimsy) corkscrew device, I realised that they were all described as "strong" or "good", but there was no yard-stick for comparing different products. There needs to be an ambitious but achievable grading system for kite anchors.

Hence the "Allen's Standard Specification" (please note the initials).

To gain an ASS-mark, then within 45 degrees of its strongest direction, the anchor: -

- **MUST** operate indefinitely with fluctuating loads up to 2.5 kilo-Newtons (*or 250 kilogrammes - over 3 times my body-weight*);
- **MUST** survive repeated shock-loads of 5 kN (*or 500 kg*);
- May reasonably be expected to fail at 10 kN (*or 1 tonne, when a small car would lift into the air*)

If the ASS-rating cannot be deduced from manufacturers information, then there is a simple test involving some 500-kilo line and a Land-Rover. You can double or treble the ASS-rating if you want, but empirical tests become rather exciting...

I wonder how many would be brave enough to rate their favourite anchor?

Post Scriptum

Does anyone know where I can obtain some stick-on asses-head labels?

One kite surfer who knew where they were going!

From the Mail Online 20th February 2012-03-03

A kite surfer was hospitalized Sunday after sailing off a lake and into a building.

The surfer who was not identified collided with the side of a mental-health facility offshore of a West Palm Beach Florida lake. The individual was taken to the St Mary's Medical Center for a pain in their side.

Damage to the one-story building from the collision was not reported while the extent of the rider's injuries are not known.

Kitesurfing or kiteboarding, which harnesses wind power for movement and speed using various sized kites pulling a rider on his or her board, is known as an extreme sport. Experienced riders will often take jumps, allowing their sail to carry them some ways in the air before returning to the water.

Winds on West Palm Beach's Lake Mangonia were measured at 15 MPH Sunday afternoon which is the maximum level suggested for beginning surfers. The skill level of the individual injured was not reported.

At about 540 acres with gasoline and other powered motor boats banned, Lake Mangonia is a popular destination for sail boats and other water recreation.

Because of past and potential injures, the sport has been on and off banned on some lakes and beaches worldwide.

In Florida, the Florida Kitesurfing Association works to promote a positive image for the sport.

And the one that got out

By [SARAH ROSE](#) from The wall street Journal 17th January 2012

When Louis Gomez, first saw kite surfers on Lake Geneva, Switzerland, at age 65, it didn't occur to him that he might be too old to take up such a demanding activity.

"I told my wife that sport just didn't exist when I was younger," Mr. Gomez said. "To heck with that, I wanted to try it because I wanted to do it. It was a challenge."

Now he's 73 and, he says, his wife says he's "wind addicted."

Kite surfing is a relatively new sport, where a small surfboard is propelled across water with wind power harnessed in a large kite held by the surfer. It was first popularised in Hawaii by pro-surfers Laird Hamilton and Manu Bertin.

Once an avid skier and racquetball player, Mr. Gomez says growing older hasn't slowed him down—it has just changed his routine. He is no less enthusiastic about sports, only more careful about how he lands on aging joints.

A retired software engineer for J.P. Morgan Chase, who lives in Pinecrest, Fla., he caught the kite-surfing bug just before he had to undergo knee-replacement surgery in 2008. He was benched for three months. As soon as he could walk on the sandy ocean bottom without pain, he got back on the board and kept training.

Mr. Gomez says it took time to work up strength for kite surfing. "I could only kite board for 20 minutes at a time when I started. I was sore all the time. But your body gets conditioned, no matter what age you are," says Mr. Gomez. "Now I have less arthritis. Exercise takes the pain away."

The Workout

Every morning Mr. Gomez checks the wind report for Biscayne Bay off Coral Gables, Fla. He kite surfs every day the winds are fair, loading up his car with a board and kites of various sizes—larger kites for light wind, smaller kites for big gusts—and drives 10 minutes from his home to Matheson Hammock Park, where there is a shallow, protected bay. "Choppy water kills your knees," Mr. Gomez says.

Kite surfing has a reputation as an extreme sport, but Mr. Gomez practices it gently, two to three hours a day. He has learned tricks and can do spins and jumps of up to 20 feet, but stays harnessed to his kite for safety. "Kids will do complicated tricks, unhooked, that are very dangerous. At my age, I don't want to try anything like that. You break a hip or femur and you're out for a year."

The Diet

Each morning before kite boarding, Mr. Gomez has a fruit smoothie mixed with flaxseed, nuts and vitamin powders. To reduce sugar and salt, he makes his own Greek yoghurt. He also bakes bread in a bread machine, replacing butter with applesauce to limit fat. "I didn't eat healthy when I was young, but I had to as I got older," he says.

Gear & Cost

Mr. Gomez learned to kite surf by taking lessons with Adventure Sports Miami, where a private, two-hour beginner lesson costs \$240.

Ultimately, he purchased his own equipment including boards, harnesses, control systems, bindings, wetsuits for cooler weather and several kites. A kite can cost between \$1,500 and \$2,500. Boards cost from \$450 to \$1,000. Costlier boards can be more durable, or crafted of materials specific to various wind and wave conditions, and might allow riders better options for tricks and jumps.

The Sacrifice

Mr. Gomez recently had cortisone injections in his fingers to correct tendonitis he developed from "exercising and old age—but the kite surfing doesn't help," he says.

He ices both knees every night since the titanium knee is generally stiff and he often favours the replacement joint when jumping on his kite board.

"Getting old is not for wimps," he says.

How I Got Into Kiting, by Dave Cross.

It was all Callum's fault really. Callum was a little lad with severe cerebral palsy who we fostered for a short time in the early nineties. As part of the care package we had respite care provided by the James Hopkins Trust, which sent a quarterly magazine. Sadly, Callum died, but we continued to receive the magazine, and a few years later there was an advert for something called the Tewkesbury Kite festival, which was raising money for the Trust. Elaine suggested going camping over that way for the weekend, go to the festival on the Saturday and do something else on the Sunday. OK I thought, Rachel (aged 3) will probably enjoy that.

We camped on the Friday at a nearby campsite, and had a rotten night with people having a noisy party till 3 am in the next field, and were so tired the next day we almost packed up and went home. Anyway, we decided to go to this "kite festival" to see what it was all about. It was one of those perfect flying days when we arrived, and various kite flyers were standing around the field flying kites of various types, and after our awful sleepless night it somehow made us all feel more relaxed. We spent the day just enjoying all the different kites, every time we looked there was something different in the sky. I was amazed at the variety of kites, and even more amazed talking to people and finding that a lot of them were made by the flyers themselves. We enjoyed it so much we went back the next day for some more, and even Minty, Rachel's teddy bear, got involved, doing a parachute jump.

Well, I was hooked. This was in the days before we had internet access, so it was off to the library, where the only book on kites was Paul and Helene Morgan's Big Book of Kites, which was a great beginners' guide to the different categories of kite, and even included some plans for making your own kites. I bought myself a sewing machine (special offer in Argos) and a couple of meters of Ripstop from the Highwaymen, and made the "six pack" soft kite, and miraculously it flew! And there was enough material left over for the "Tumbling Star" which also flew, after a bit of fiddling around.

We went to one or two other festivals over the next few years, then joined WHKF and I have enjoyed doing some of the workshops, you always pick up a few tips I must have made around thirty or so kites now, most of which fly after a fashion, and still get a buzz from taking something from the initial idea scribbled on a scrap of paper to the full sized kite up there in the sky.

I am grateful to Phil Scarfe for one of the most valuable tips for designing your own kites, i.e. the law of TLAR, or "That Looks About Right", which has served me well on a number of occasions.

Eat your heart out Martin.

A giant Koinobori with length 328 ft, and weight 771.6 lb was made in Kazo, Saitama. What would you use for lifting this? They used a 32 wheel crane. See video at via youtube link on my Facebook page.



Skychat.

Well we have passed the equinox and had an hour cut from our sleep, so now we are raring to go into the summer. That is the idea but whether that happens is another thing. We can dream of idyllic days with the sun shining and the wind blowing nice and steady. There again we could have cold wet days to contend with, so let us be optimistic and hope for the best.

The committee have decided to have a golden jubilee sticker printed to put on our sled kites to honour Our Queen on her achievement. I hope that this well received when we are doing the workshops this year. Our program of events is building up and I hope that as many of you we give a hand where possible and share the work load, Please!

Three of our members (and maybe more that we do not know about) have been in hospital just recently, they are at home now and improving and we hope to see them on the flying field soon. I hope that many of you managed to build or acquire new kites over the winter and will be flying them this summer. There were a few new ones at the last Barbury and what a lovely sunny day it was. Not quiet shirt sleeve warmth but getting there. Those there also saw a Red Kite fly over us fairly low; this is the first one I have seen so low and over us. The normal Buzzards were also in attendance, they are getting old hat up at Barbury. A few years ago there was a pair of Stone Curlews nesting over in the next field, so we will have to keep our eyes peeled to see if we can spot other rarities.

Still keep your lines tight and steady winds.

Neil.

Kite Bag 2 by Stuart Lafferty

In my kite bag this month is the sort of kite I never thought I'd want to own. Red and black, fast and twitchy, it is Revolution's new B2. I spotted it on the website (www.revkites.com) read the blurb and thought 'yeah yeah' dismissively. There was a slight 'hmmph' at the name as well; we were lucky to visit Indonesia last year and B2 has a specific derogatory meaning out there.

All this changed at what I always think is one of the best entertainment nights of the year; the Saturday night auction at the Bristol International Kite Festival. Paul Reynolds always does a fabulous job of extracting the largest possible amount of available cash from the kitefliers present who give willingly because they're having so much fun. And who donated all the auction items because they know this is how the energy of a kite festival is maintained.

Up popped the B2, courtesy of Revolution's Ben D'antonio who was visiting as part of a month long tour of European festivals, and suddenly I'm bidding. Actually, I know, too, that this is how the energy of kite festivals gets maintained. I don't get too carried away as I've a fair idea what the kite is worth, but as the auction closes I am the proud new owner. How did that happen?

Sunday morning I go find my own corner of the festival field and try the new beast out on 75ft lines, as recommended. Whiz, wham, zap; in fact most words from a Batman episode would fit. Holy windmills Batman, this thing turns on a 6d (2.5p in new money, oh wait, they've done away with the 1/2p haven't they). In fact it spins on its axis before I finish the control input for a quarter turn. I try a few strafes, wow that's nippy. After a bit I think I've got the hang of it – in other words it's time to give up the unequal struggle until another day. So out comes a Rev 1.5 instead, which is now, um, does not compute I can't believe it's so slow. It's like crossing into another time-warped dimension, or entering a 20mph zone after 4 hours on the motorway. And then I get the point of the B2, and I'm pleased to have it.

From the Grimsby Telegraph 15th February 2012

THERE may not be a kite festival planned for Cleethorpes this year – but that won't stop the resort from flying high.

The kite festival was first organised in the 1990s, when local school children used bin liners and garden canes to create their own kites, but grew over the years to become a key fixture in the international kite flying calendar.

However, the event, which returned last year after a six year break – and even attracted Indonesian and Balian royalty – has been grounded once again due to a lack of funding.

As reported, it is the second blow for the resort, which may also be hosting its final carnival parade this summer, unless the £30,000 needed to stage it can be found.

But, tourism chiefs have said that even without it, there is plenty in the pipeline to ensure that North East Lincolnshire residents and visitors of all ages keep flocking to the resort.

And, the kite festival's organiser Cleethorpes Events Ltd is not ruling out a return for the popular event in the future, if more funding becomes available.

Spokeswoman Leonor Pidgen, who is also chairman of NELC's tourism, leisure and culture scrutiny panel, said: "Last year we had £200,000 of Government funding to stage events in the resort, approximately £18,000 of which used to stage the festival.

"We knew last year when we ran it that we would only have the money for one year.

"It was wonderful to see the kites back in Cleethorpes, but we have got to go with what we've got."

Bookmaker adds jockey to Uffington Horse



A bookmaker has added a giant jockey to a ancient hill carving in Oxfordshire.

The firm said it added 200m of canvas to the Uffington Horse under the cover of darkness, ahead of the Cheltenham Festival.

The Bronze-Age chalk hill figure was altered by the Irish firm Paddy Power using night vision goggles to create a temporary rider on the horse.

The artwork was pinned to the ground using tiny tent pegs and later removed.

The firm said it took six hours to create the jockey on the horse, which is owned by the National Trust.

Paddy Power from the firm which bears his name said: "It's been taken down already.

"We had it up this morning and lots of pictures were taken and then the ranger on site asked us to remove it.

"It was a very short stay - the rider has been unseated."

A spokesman from the Vale of White Horse District Council said: "We are sure the company involved have ensured no damage has come to the historic chalk drawing."

NORTH HANTS KITER'S JOLLY UP 10-April 28th and 29th 2012

It's nearly that time again to come and join us for another FUN Weekend of Kite Flying for Kite Fliers!

The site is located in the village of Cliddesden, just south of Basingstoke (not far from J6 of the M3).

On site camping is available from Friday evening onwards (£7 per tent/camper for the weekend).

The Saturday evening food will be the BBQ (£6.50 and try to bring a plate and cutlery please!) We will be doing Jacket Potatoes for those interested at various times over the weekend, and Bacon rolls available both mornings.

The Auction will once again be held on the Saturday evening, and any donations gratefully received before or on the week-end (before 4pm if poss!)

We will run the Beer Lift competition, wind permitting, same rules as before.

Roy Martin's Sled competition will take place (to contact him directly please)

Roy's Refreshment Tent will be open for Business, normal rules apply..

You can pre-order your tee-shirt / polo-shirt, just email if interested in doing so.

NORTH HANTS KITER'S JOLLY UP 11 Aug 4th and 5th 2012

Same format as always, so come and join us for the 11th Jolly Up, and another FUN Weekend of Kite Flying for Kite Fliers!

Camping, BBQ, Jacket Potatoes, bacon rolls and Auction as above.

We will also run the Competition for Garden Produce, which can cover fruit, veg, plants, anything really. Show us what you've been growing, it may win a prize. Rules are minimal and made up on the day!

There is a new category for this event, Home Made Hooch!!

We hope to run the Beer Lift again, same rules as before.

Roy's Refreshment Tent will be open for Business, normal rules apply..

For further info on either event, please contact:

Roy on 07778 352825

Colin on 07770 338419

Or e-mail roy@kitesup.co.uk

Please Note: these are NOT a Buggy/Boarding weekends, thank-you.

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 th 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.

Your local contacts are: -

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This issue edited by

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