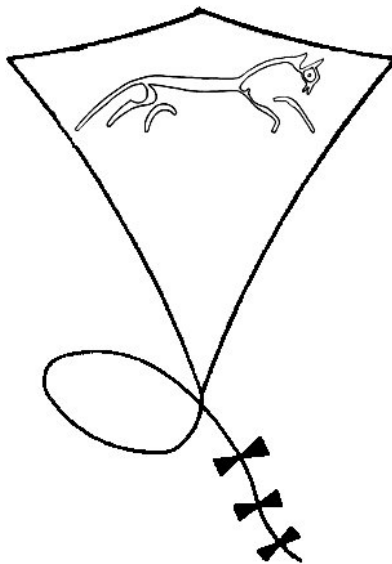


COWPAT HILL

Journal of the White Horse Kite Fliers

Spring 2015 July - September



Sorry is late, Enjoy, any contributions for further editions to andrewrumming@me.com, anything accepted!

Andy

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Diary Dates

July

- 12th Barbury Castle

August

- 1st/2nd North Hants Kiteers Jolly Up
- Malmesbury ??? Cant find any info on it
- 8th/9th Teston Bridge
- 9th Barbury Castle
- 15th/16th Portsmouth
- 15th/16th Uffington Show
- 22nd/23rd Bristol

September

- 13th Barbury Castle
- 26th/27th Lechlade Fun Fly

Deadline for next issue of Cowpat Hill

30th September 2015

Broad Haven Kite Flyers Rendezvous (or an alternative to Weymouth)

If you are fed up with Weymouth and are looking for an alternative beach to fly on for the bank holiday weekend there is nothing better than Broad Haven. However there are problems:-

It is a very long drive over to the bottom left hand corner of Wales.

If the tide is wrong, there is NO beach.

Accommodation is very limited and gets booked very early.

Eating-places in Broad Haven are very limited. There are some very good ones a short drive away but you must book.

You can't just walk in to town to "Go shopping"

OK so that's the down side but the place is superb with fantastic sea views and a huge flat beach when the tide is out. If you want to go walking you are on part of the Welsh coastal path.

The event is run by Midland Kite Flyers, who arrange all the permissions with the authorities, and it is not a festival but just a meeting of kite flyers so don't expect arenas, program, traders or PA. Just, when you have had breakfast go down to the beach and put something in the air. Then chill out or perhaps just chill if the weather is unkind. This year was the first time the locals had seen night flying with lights and they were very impressed as they can be seen for a long distance and there was a continuous stream of cars coming in from both sides of the bay all stopping to find out what the lights were with all the usual comments about thinking the aliens had arrived.

On the bank holiday Monday every thing moves a few miles inland to a garden centre where they have a couple of fields and once again it is do your own thing. There are toilets, café, shop and gardens to visit and in 2015 Sky-Bums had their tent with all the usual bits.

Those of us who went from WHKF all had a great time even though we frequently ended up with large quantities of wet rip-stop and got sand blasted when trying to fly-dry large kites and windsocks. Sadly it looks as if the tides are wrong for 2016 so with no beach in the middle of the day it is not worth organising but we will keep you posted if anything changes.

I will not be chairman then but that could give me time to arrange an end of season visit like the good old loW trips?????????????

Arthur

Robinson's Ramble

In my last Ramble I informed you all about the new insurance, the date for insurance has moved from November to May, this has been done to fall in line with the BKFA who have arranged the insurance, there are a few regular members who haven't renewed, I'm not going to name names but if you think you are amongst the few please contact me. The new fees are in the April/June Cowpat.

Janet & I have just had a good holiday in France. Marla joined us. We visited a British War Grave in Banneville-De-Campagne. I have an Uncle buried there, he ran away from home at the age of 21, the family didn't know where he was and then they got a knock on the door to say he had been killed in action! He had joined the Black Watch; this was surprising because as far as I know our family does not have any links with Scotland. All of this happened before I was born so I didn't find it greatly emotional, what was emotional, was that there were 2100 other graves there! I must say the British War Graves Commission, do a wonderful job in the up-keep of the graveyard, it was immaculate!

We travelled to a few places in France but ended up in Dieppe, what a surprising town this is, it is so busy, I always imagined it would be quite a quiet place when it's not peak season, how wrong can you be, if we hadn't had a parking place at the hotel I don't know where we could have parked, the place was packed. Apparently when the sunshine's, loads of people come out of Paris, It's only just over two hours away by car. It was also nice to see several kites in the air and a few Kite Surfers.

Update on the PURPLE LADY workshop, we are now up to 13 participants, it looks like we made the right decision to go ahead but like Arthur said in the last Cowpat, we couldn't have taken the risk if we hadn't had a mystery underwriter, so I thank you very much, it's looking like we won't have to call you.

The weekend before our holiday Janet, Marla and me went to the Bedford Kite Festival to do a kite workshop, Doug Jones met us there. It

was an eventful weekend, the Fire Alarm went off at the hotel at 5.15am on Sunday morning, we all had to evacuate to the riverside. Four fire engines turned up, Janet loved watching them I think it was something to do with the Firemen! It transpires that some idiot had lit up a cigarette. They thought it would be OK to do it in the Shower Room! It was a costly ciggy, the hotel added £250 to his bill. Apparently Bedford Council charge £500 per fire tender, there were four! It wasn't a kite flyer that caused the hassle. We made over 100 kites and it was a very enjoyable weekend. The false alarm wasn't too bad.

David Robinson

Always something new to learn.

For many years we have all tried helping to launch a bol. Over the years there have been a number including the giant man lifter from Donald Capewell and the "Super-Shedder" from Dave Robinson and various others. How many times have we tried to hold the front open or to pull down the back edge to get them to inflate.

Recently I have bought my own and gone through all the same struggles and was doing all the usual contortions to get it to inflate and having very little success at Jolly-Up 16. An attendee from the Kent group came over and said "we have had one of these, can I show you the trick to inflate them?" and this was the advice:-

Stand to one side of the bol and put your arm in through the back and grasp the front edge, then just open the front to the wind and lo and behold up she goes. It doesn't seem to matter which side you stand at it still works. You can also put your arm in through the front and grab the back edge but this can lead to the bol running over you and ensnaring you in the bridles. I have passed this trick on to other club members and we have tried it on several different bols. It has worked every time, so whoever you were who passed on this tip a very BIG thank you.

We were reminded at Broad Haven just how hard these pull. We had a cubic metre bag filled with wet sand and as we launched my 6m bol it dragged the bag across the beach. They don't lift as much as drag so it is the friction that is more important than the weight.

Have fun but fly safely.

Arthur

All Those Places Where You Can Go



This is Sadu from Nepal

I was browsing through my bookmarks the other day and wondered whether anyone else might like to spend an hour or two looking and learning.

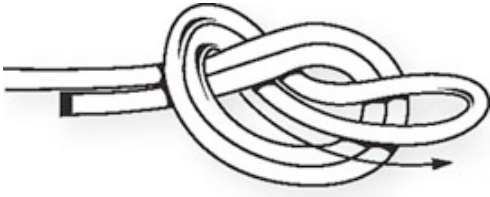
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| For Flapping Crows: | http://www.asahi-net.or.jp/~et3m-tkkw/crowkite.html |
| Pants for Lion Dance: | http://www.chinatownkite.com/paforlida.html |
| KAP Crop Circles: | https://www.flickr.com/groups/llap/pool/lowlevelaerialphotography |
| Light Wind Materials: | http://www.horvath.ch/en/kite-building-supplies.html |
| KAP Shop: | http://www.horvath.ch/en/kite-building-supplies.html |
| Kites in Thailand: | http://www.dancingfrog.net/thailand2002/spaulding.html |
| Kap Links: | http://www.armadale.org.uk/kite03.htm |
| Suruga Plan: | http://www.kiteplans.org/planos/suruga/suruga.html |
| Gentle Giant Buka: | http://es.kiteplans.org/planos/giantbuka/giantbuka.html |
| Cucumber Paper: | http://es.kiteplans.org/planos/giantbuka/giantbuka.html |
| Kinetic Kites: | http://www.kineticartkites.homepage.eu/index.html |
| Terese's Kites | http://les-cerfs-volants-dethe.blogspot.co.uk/ |
| Most Interesting: | http://www.whkf.org.uk/ |

All these will inevitably lead to others and before long you'll find may pleasant hours have slipped by.

Happy Surfing **N.Turnet**

Loops

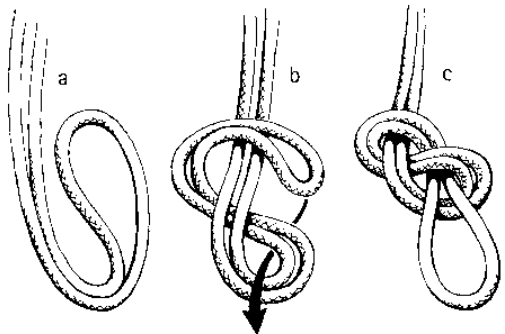
Recently there was a rant on Facebook about the safety of the overhead loop used at the end of a line to attach it to a kite. This is exceedingly valid for strong pulling kites where the line strength is critical.

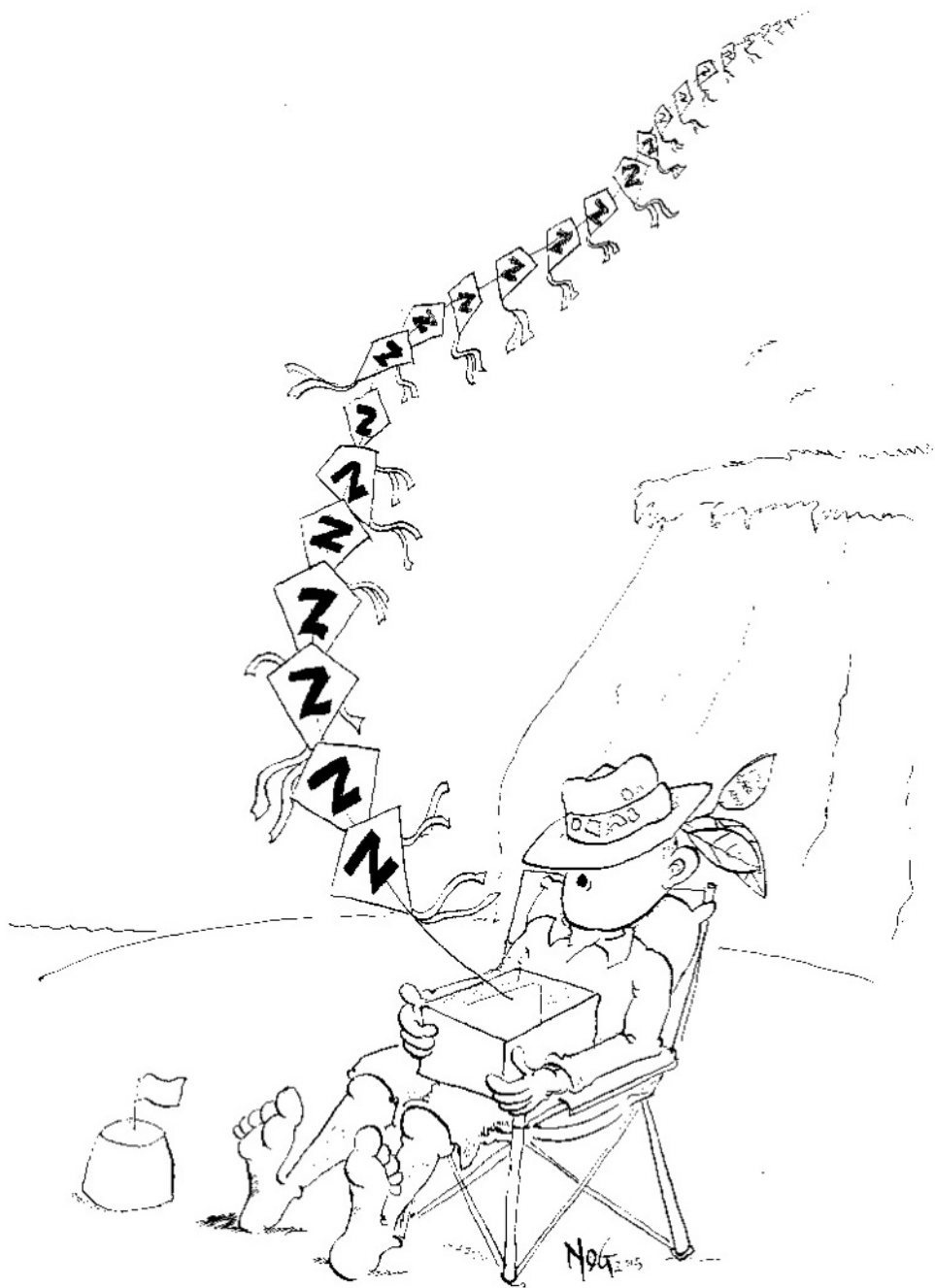


The overhead on the bight severely weakens the line. When pulled tight, it is effectively two tight loops that pinch on the line at the entrance and exit to the knot. The loop cuts the line at these points. There is very little room for manipulating the knot that means that once it has been

pulled tight, it can be exceedingly difficult or impossible to untie.

The easiest answer is to use the “figure of eight” knot shown on the right. An even better solution to attach a single line kite to its flying line is the “slipped double sheet bend” (below) that fastens the kite securely but is also easy to undo. This is shown below with the kite line shown in red.





Kites -The Art of Using Natural Materials by John Browning

I've known John has been working on a book for some time, so was very excited when he let me know it was now available to buy. I haven't bought or seen any new kite book for years, so was really looking forward to this treat. And I was not disappointed!.....

The first thing you notice are the high quality pictures. There are lots of them, and all taken by John. As this book is print on demand I was slightly worried that print quality might be compromised, but glad to say that it hasn't at all.

The book starts with a foreword, and then a pictorial introduction to materials. With minimal text these pages give you a tantalising taste of plants, papers, fibres and bamboo. As John has said, a whole book could be given over to materials and techniques, but for this book the focus is on pages and pages of the most beautiful unusual kites. Most of the book consists of a retrospective of John's works, with a couple of excellent photos of each kite over one or two pages, and its name. No detailed explanation or technical spec, the pictures tell you nearly everything. One thing that this massive chapter gets across is quite how addicted John has become to these types of kites. I knew he was spending a lot of time on these but you can see that he is on an exploratory journey / quest to push this little explored area of kite making out to its limits.

At the rear of the book are some pictures of them flying, and again brief notes and another tantalising snippet on the processing of fibres, and a list of latin plant names.

John was absolutely clear, this is not a book of plans or an indepth instructional book, this is an art book showcasing and concentrating on 60 plus kites that he has made of natural materials. It is focused on beauty, form and the relationship between these and how the materials dictate both.



However, apart from the enjoyment I experienced from just looking at lots of interesting beautiful kites, John has presented a lot of stimulating ideas. I think all kite makers can take ideas away from this book, and not necessarily to make in natural materials, I am keen to make kites with outriders and try something asymmetric. Overall a great source of inspiration and quite unlike anything else on my kite bookshelves, definitely one to keep coming back to.

If I had any constructive criticism I would say that John himself comes over as somewhat of an enigma, but then perhaps this was his intent? If I didn't know him I certainly wouldn't by the end of the book, not even a picture of the handsome fellow. A bit more about him I think would be really helpful for those not lucky enough to meet him in the flesh. Andy R

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Available from <http://culicidaepress.com/2015/07/03/browning-kites/>

List Price \$74.95 (£48.06 however currently there is a 10% off deal on the above site) The hardback version is \$75.95.

The Knicker Syndrome

For many years I have camped at kite events in various small tents, from early days at Wroughton and Lydiard where I shared a small 2-man dome with my son. Remember 1997 on the airfield when we woke to find half the campsite flattened and the ground white with hail stones. We just zipped up and went back to sleep.

When Martin stopped coming to events I had to get a tent of my own and I ended up with a very small Kyam, (3ftx4ftx6ft). This had just enough room for my air mattress and a bag of clothes. Always very cosy and so easy to erect, the reflective interior working so well that only once did I require an extra blanket.

Sadly the years roll by and the age and waist line start to impact upon things; get out in the middle of the night and the cold condensate on the awning wipes down the middle of your back, then in the morning unzip the sleeping bag and remove your night attire, now comes the difficult bit, pull up your knees and put your knickers on! There is only one other solution and this is to roll outside and perform in the middle of the field. This is not a pretty sight and unfair to inflict it upon other campers.

Thinking laterally there was another possibility, which was a new tent, and with a birthday coming up I persuaded Ann to get me an early present. I now have a tent with two sections and I can stand up in either, also room to

get my chair inside to give me something to hold on to. I tried this out for the first time at Jolly Up 15 and as those of you who were there will recall, it was a good trial. I am pleased to say not a drop of water inside.

So there you have it and I shall be using this tent at future events, a number of other people have admitted similar problems. It is the smallest tent that we could find that had room to stand up in apart from those for specialist use. If you are interested it is the Hi Gear Aura3 from Go Outdoors at £139 with your discount card. **Arthur**

Jolly Ups, Fun Flies and the like.

Back in the dark ages, (1980s for you youngsters) we used to fly kites for fun and got together in groups of like-minded people. All we wanted was a bit of open space and a windy day and I am sure this had been the same since kites were first invented with a few exceptions such as the Chinese using them to attack their enemies, other uses in conflict and of course the early design for manned flight.

Whilst we were out enjoying our selves we noticed that members of the public liked to come and watch what we were doing and have a chat. So what did we do; we formed clubs and put on festivals so that others could come and enjoy them selves. Of course officialdom sees this and thinks, "here is a way to make some money".

What happens next, the prices to rent a site go up and would you believe it the good old "Health and Safety" have to get involved. Now we have to have insurance, arenas, first aid and anything else they can think of until every man and his dog are taking their bite. The first time we ran a festival just one piece of paper changed hands, the twenty-first it was over two hundred!

STOP: not only have costs gone through the roof but there is a recession and the first thing to economise on is leisure activities so we have less members. BUT we still want to fly kites and thanks to the lead from Kites Up and the crew with their Jolly Ups the circle is completed. Let's do events for kite flyers rather than the public. Keep it basic, no rules, no commercials, just the flyers necessities, beer, loos, beer, food, beer, flying site and somewhere to drink beer if it's raining.

We admit it, we copied your idea, hence The Fun Fly. There are others out there if you look and they are gaining popularity as the number of festivals diminishes. We welcome the public to come and see what is going on, as we need their interest to replenish our numbers but make sure they know they attend at their own risk.

It's a great hobby and it gets you out doors. Let's get back to enjoying it and support these events. And more beer.

Arthur

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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Dave Robinson +44(0)1793 824208

This issue edited by Andy Rummung, contributors this issue: Arthur Dibble, Nog, John Browning, Dave Robinson,

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