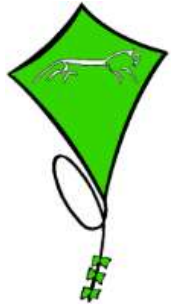


# COWPAT HILL



*Journal of the White Horse Kite Flyers*

*Issue Summer 2016 July--September*

So, here I am back again as editor for a while. Andrew has found that with his personal work load he does not feel able to dedicate as much time as he would have liked to the job and with added commitments this year it was proving ever more difficult to produce a magazine of the standard he would like. He has therefore handed the reigns back to me. I am sure we would all wish him the very best with his new enterprises and thank him for producing the issues he did and hope that we will see him back again once things have settled down.

When Andrew took over he had the challenge of setting up the new A5 format so that we did not have to pay the postage required by the Post Office's large letter charges. His last 2 issues saw the start of colour prints that have been well received.

I shall be sticking to the new format with minor changes to fonts etc. just so that you can see there has been a change. Fortunately I have been given plenty of warning so hope I can get used to the new style and get things suitable for the new printer.

This now brings me back to the age old problem; The Magazine is only as good as what goes in, so it is up to you to provide some content. We can now get good quality from pictures so let's see where you have been and what you have been flying, just add a few words about them. Don't worry about layouts or fonts as I will probably have to change this to fit the space.

Here goes with my 1<sup>st</sup> new issue. *Arthur*

# Diary Dates

## JULY

2/3 Bognor Regis

9/10 Brighton

10 Barbury Castle club fly-in

16/17 Berrington Hall

23/24 West Oxon Show. Workshop and display. (Contact Neil Harvey)

30/31 Dunstable

30/31 St Anne's

## AUGUST

6/7 Jolly Up 19

13/14 Teston Bridge

13/14 Portsmouth

14 Barbury Castle club fly-in

27/28 Exmouth

## SEPTEMBER

11 Barbury Castle club fly-in

10-18 Dieppe France

24/25 Fun Fly, Lechlade

## OCTOBER

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

15/16 Ralf Maserski workshop

Dead line for next issue 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
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"I'm sorry sir, I'm going to have to ask you to leave. You don't meet the dress code."

# **It's a hard life, but some of us have to do it!**

## **The Grumpy Old Gits on tour**

This piece was going to be about a single kite festival, but how to choose which one? So in the end, it's about a very busy few weeks in the life of the Grumpy Old Gits.

### **22nd - 24th April - Jolly Up 18**

What can you say about Jolly Up that hasn't been said before? Great organisation, wonderful people and such a friendly atmosphere. Thanks again to all involved, we had (as usual) a fantastic time.

### **Saturday, 1st May - Visiting Les Reed**

It was very sad to hear that our old friend Les Reed has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Alan and Keith visited him in his nursing home in Northolt. He seemed settled and had made many friends. But the sad thing during that visit was that Les wanted to get his camper back on the road.

If anyone would like to visit Les, please contact Keith via Facebook or the Grumpy Old Gits website for the address.

### **Sunday, 2nd May - The Green Rooms and the Priory**

As you know Grumpy Old Gits like their Full English! We also like to broaden our horizons. So it was that we decided to explore some of Surrey's favourite breakfast cafes.

After much discussion, we went for the Green Rooms at Godstone. It opens at a sensible hour for Sundays - 9:30am. And what a welcome from proprietor Jeremy; he even let us in out of the cold before they had opened.

The atmosphere was wonderful, the food superb and the decor was Mickey Mouse meets Dracula. Very Git!

From there it was on to the Priory Farm Nursery, South Nutfield to check on the name of a plant that had come up via Facebook, and for a little GoG inspiration.

### **Saturday, 14th May - The Jam Pot and finishing Alan's battery alterations**

We spotted the Jam Pot while researching Surrey's breakfast cafes. We noticed that they were offering bubble & squeak and haggis. It had to be tried.

The breakfast, the haggis and the service were all very good. Sadly, the bubble & squeak was not available and it didn't quite match up to the atmosphere at the Green Rooms.

After a quick visit to Denbies to stock up with English wine for our two trips to France, it was back to Alan's to finish his buggy battery conversion. Full instructions here <http://www.grumpyoldgits.org/sapphire/index.htm>

### **Sunday, 15th May - Streatham Common**

This was to be the first test journey for Keith's van with the new Space Rack - a platform attachment which will carry Alan's buggy.

Alan had already tried out the Space Rack on his camper at Jolly Up and it certainly made loading his scooter a lot easier for him and Anne. So glad we tested it before the

600-mile journey to Houlgate, as the 16mm Bolts had not been fully tightened!!!  
Thank you Collin for the loan of the 24mm spanners.

Gits love the family atmosphere at Streatham. It was also nice to know that many people had come to see what was going on because they had spotted Keith's big purple sled delta flying at 400ft. It amazes us that we never get to see much of the rest of the festival as we are always busy helping the public to get their kites flying.

### **Friday, 20th May - Monday, 23rd May - Houlgate Plein Vent**

After a break of one year, Houlgate was back on the calendar. There was much discussion as to the best route. Should we do Newhaven to Dieppe to Houlgate, or Portsmouth to Caen to Houlgate, or Eurotunnel to Calais to Houlgate, or Dover to Calais to Houlgate?

It finally came down to train versus ferry to Calais. In the end the ferry won on the breakfast.

Houlgate always makes us so welcome. It is well organised and they are always willing to go that extra kilometre. They seem to love what we do (which is usually misbehaving). It felt very special this year as we won a trophy for the most artistic display! Thank you Houlgate Plein Vent.

### **Friday, 27th May - Monday, 30th May - Margam**

Keith had to have breakfast all on his own on the way to Margam when the rest of the Gits got stuck on the M25; Keith was too hungry to wait! It's a long journey - 185 miles to Port Talbot - but well worth it.

We really are very privileged to be able to fly in Margam Country Park. This year we had four days of wonderful weather: the sun shone, there was no rain, but the wind was challenging. Even so we put on a great display and what a fabulous back drop Margam Castle makes. Thank you Alison, Lindsay and your super team, and all the public who joined in with the fun.

### **3th - 5th June - Basingstoke**

Another wonderful kite festival. Again, a great team helped it run very smoothly. The wind was ... interesting; it couldn't make up its mind. But as is true of so many events, it was all over far too quickly. Thank you Alan Cosgrove and your great team.

### **Saturday 11th June - Teston**

Although there is no longer a festival in June, the Grumpy Old Gits have to pay our respects to Pat and Ron Dell. It's not the easiest of sites to fly, but it's always fun. We finished our day with the traditional fish and chip supper. Thank you Pat and Ron for the fond memories.

If you want to keep track of other Grumpy Old Git exploits please go to :

<http://www.grumpyoldgits.org/>

By the Grumpy Old Gits

## **THEN**

This is the way things were in 1991



## **NOW**

This is the way it is in 2016 with the gates chained, padlocked and a hurdle tied inside. We are trying to get something done about it.



## Are they flogging a dead horse?

This is the question I asked myself when I got back from Weymouth this year. In the early years this was a great event that was well attended by flyers and the public even if there was some argument about use of the beach. The whole of the front was lined with stalls mostly related to kites and it would be difficult to move with the number of spectators. In the evening there would be the Mayor's reception, fireworks and night flying. For a number of years, one day would include a convention, workshops and flea market. During the day there would be a full and varied program and at the end there would be the presentations.

All this has gone with just two kite stalls and a mixture of others. This is all because of funding. Firstly the council reduced the level of support making it difficult for the KSGB to continue and more recently they have withdrawn totally. There is a small group of dedicated people who are trying to keep things going and seem to get no support from local business and even less from the council. Those of us who love the place and have gone there for many years are grateful to these people but is it really worth continuing against these odds. Surely it would be kinder to let this event die gracefully and be remembered for what it was rather than run it in to the ground and be remembered as a failure.

We know as a club what it is like to lose a festival but then the phoenix can arise in the form of the Jolly Ups or Fun Fly. Couldn't they just let flyers have part of the beach cordoned off and let us do our own thing?

*Arthur*

# If Carlsberg did Kite Festivals?

## Minchinhampton NT Kite Day, May 2016

So what makes for a perfect day of kite flying? I guess there's no one right answer, after all how can you compare Bristol or Portsmouth with a day at Barbury. However, if there was such a thing as a perfect day, then Minchinhampton came pretty close this year. Whilst a number of us have flown informally at Minchinhampton or Rodborough Common for a number of years, this was the third year that NT have organised an official event. After a sensible learning curve, it is really beginning to find its feet!

So what made this year so good:

1. (Nearly) ideal weather. Despite it being a bank holiday weekend, we were blessed with blue skies and a nice breeze not too strong but pretty much constant (more or less) for the whole day
2. Great location. For those of you who don't know it, Minchinhampton Common (above Stroud) is pretty much perfect in that it's on top of a hill yet flat with barely any trees for yours truly to get tangled in and plentiful parking (though this was somewhat stretched throughout the day). I do worry a bit for the safety of passing motorists though as they seemed to be admiring the kites rather than looking where they were going



Plenty of Space for All

3. Friendly, accommodating hosts. OK, by that I probably mean that the NT provided portaloos but I have to say it's always a joy flying at NT properties



and the team at Minchinhampton are particularly friendly and welcoming (even if they did forget their own kite on the day!)

4. Easy access for and interaction with the public. Whilst there is obviously a place for show kites and cordoned off flying areas, I much prefer events like this when everybody can mingle and people can “have a go” and ask questions. At one extreme I had a hairy biker (complete with huge beard and shades) asking about choice of lines and lifters and at the other a retired seamstress who was after kite plans for her sewing classes. It was also pretty heartening to talk to a number of locals who were delighted to see the common “put to such good use”. As always it’s the children who like to get up close and have their photograph taken and with the light winds this could be done safely
5. A good turnout. The event was pretty well advertised by ourselves, Stroud Kite Fliers and by the NT and the consequence was that pretty much every available parking space (and accompanying grass verge) was occupied throughout the day. It’s difficult to estimate numbers but I would have thought 1000+ attended yet at no point did it feel overcrowded.



Children making friends with “Dino”

6. NOT a retail opportunity. As was definitely the intent of the NT, this was not a money making day so there were no retailers nor were there any bouncy castles. I lost count of the number of Mums and Dads who commented how nice it was to have a day out with the kids without having to put their hands in the pocket all the time. The only things you could buy

were an ice cream (from a vendor who was looking commendably knackered by the end of the day) or a WHKF kite from the workshop.

7. Happy, smiling children with kites. ....nearly all of whom had made them that day courtesy of the fantastic, hard-working (long suffering?) team from WHKF who had a queue all day long. Hopefully their hard work has sown the seeds for future generations of kite flyers



Customers for the Hardworking WHKF team

All in all then, a perfect days flying .....probably.



The NT Team taking a well-earned breather

T.O.M.

## Skychat

First of all many thanks to Arthur in taking over as editor of “Cowpat Hill” after Andrew decided it was just too much do the editorship along with all of his commitments to his family and work. Thank you Andrew for all of your efforts and for introducing the A5 format to “Cowpat Hill” and your flair that you added to our publication during the time you were editor.

The National Trust’s Minchinhampton Fly Day on the common was a roaring success with a fine day with good winds. The Kite Workshop was kept busy all day from start to the finish and people queued without a murmur of discontent. It is very satisfying for us behind the tables, rushing to try and keep up with the demand and then seeing the happy faces when they have made their kites and start flying them. A very enjoyable day was had by one and all, even though Lunch was a little late at 4.00pm. My thanks to my co-workers Dave T and Dave & Janet R and to kind friends who found us matches and made cups drinks to keep us from flagging.

We hope that the season carries on being favourable on us and we have a good week-end at The West Oxford Show at Ducklington on the 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> of July where we are Displaying in the Main Arena both mornings and flying the rest of the day in Our Arena. All are welcome if you are prepared to fly. At the Gate just say you are with the White Horse Kite Flyers and they will direct you to our arena.

Now that is enough from me, see you flying and wish for good winds and tight lines.

Neil.

## Robinson's Ramble

Well what a dreadful spring! As I sit writing this, it's only 16 days until the longest day, lets hope the latter half of the spring and early summer gives us some better weather and some gentle breezes and perhaps we'll get a very long autumn.

The Club has been invited to a Festival of Flight; organised by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, at a site they run at Blakehill, Cricklade, Wilts. The event takes place on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August. The site is about 2 miles west of Cricklade, on the Minety road; you'll see a sign to the left that says "Animal Rescue Centre". I will warn you that when Janet and I went to have a look at the site the grass is long and Andrew Rumming who lives near the site, says they rarely cut it, one plus though is that the site covers 600 acres, it's an old WW2 airfield that had the runways broken up in the 70's. The hardcore was used as the base for the M4 motorway in Wiltshire.

On the day there will also be a tethered Hot Air Balloon.

We have agreed to do a Kite Making Workshop, so some of us will be there fairly early to erect the Club tent. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Just in case the next magazine comes out a bit late, this an appeal for helpers for the Friday of our Fun Fly, 23/9/16; we normally get there at about 9am to erect the tents etc. remember that old saying Many Hands Make Light Work. Please don't forget we pay for the event with the donations that we auction on the Saturday, please remember Kite related articles always raise more money.

Don't forget if you want to be included on the Club's registration for Dieppe, please let me know before the middle of July so that I can include you on the form. **Those of you who have already informed me that you want to be on the list, there is no need to let me know again.**

If you've never been to Dieppe you should try and get there sometime, it is a fantastic event that fills the whole of the seafront at this very popular resort.

I suppose most of you read the story of the kite flyer in Bristol, who had a bit of a shock when the local police helicopter landed close by to warn him that he had been flying at about 1000ft. I suppose they told him not to do it again, here's hoping whoever it was takes heed!

Phil's Wife Libby has kindly donated several of Phil's kites and books to the club, her only request is that a portion of any monies raised, she would like a donation made to The Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. I think that this is a fantastic gesture by Libby.

Some of the items will be auctioned at the Fun Fly, Workshop and AGM. Also some at Jolly Up 19 and when they are sorted lists will be published so that Club members can make reasonable offers.

David Robinson

### **Addendum**

The book list can now be found at :-

<http://www.whkf.org.uk/Philbits/Book%20list.docx>

The Kite list is going to take a little longer.

If you are planning on making a kite there are 4 black bags full of ripstop. Each is sorted in to colours and all the lengths except red are neatly folded. Let us know what you are after and we will see what is there. Make us a decent offer and it will be yours.

## WHAT DO YOU WANT IN YOUR MAGAZINE?

There has recently been an interesting discussion on the MKF Facebook page following a recent issue of their magazine. You can see this at:- <http://www.whkf.org.uk/MKFnew.html> and clicking on the April issue.

The discussion centres around what people want from their club magazines, the issue in question contained a lot of very interesting, informative articles that had been down loaded from the internet The comments suggested that anyone could find these on the internet and what was more important was information about their club and what their members had been doing.

The other point under discussion was the length of articles; most views are that after one page the reader tends to give up, so for magazines using A4 or A5 page size the optimum length is between 300 and 800 words. To extend this it is good to have a FEW relevant pictures.

My preferences that are probably reflected in the issues I edit are that if there is an interesting article on the internet that others may have missed include the link to that page with a short description. Similarly if you have a load of great pictures include a link to your web page like Ralf Maserski:- <http://www.maserski.de/pics/2015/05/index.html>, a club web site such as ours :- <http://www.whkf.org.uk/picnew.html>, a Facebook page Like Julie White's one for Margam:- <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10153718420827984&set=a.10153718420587984.1073741930.579782983&type=3&theater> or if you have a video put it on YouTube like Close Encounters' Basingstoke:- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-kGc5mLyI7A>

I realise that those who do not have access to the internet or some of these sites will probably disagree but my thoughts are that it is better to have a thin magazine that is cheaper to circulate than one filled with information that most would prefer to view on screen.

We have now got the option for those who prefer to receive their magazine on line and due to public demand are retaining the hard copy for those who prefer it.

Do let me know your thoughts.

Arthur

## **NORTH HANTS KITER'S JOLLY UP 19 on Aug 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 2016**

### **Gate open from 12noon on the Friday...**

Come and join us for another Jolly Up, and 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 midday onwards (£8 per tent/camper for Fri and Sat evening)

Fish and chips available on the Friday evening (via the zipwire!) from 6am to 9pm

The Saturday evening BBQ works well, so we will doing the same format. Tickets available on the weekend (£7.00 and please bring your plate and cutlery where possible!!) Please note we do have a limited number !!!!! We will be doing Jacket Potatoes and fillings at lunchtimes, and Bacon rolls will be available both mornings.

The Auction will be held on the Saturday evening, and any donations gratefully received on the Saturday (*before 4pm please* to give us time to set it all up and Hayley to sit down for a bit :-)

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 the category for Home Made Hooch again!!

Roy Martin will Not be running his Sled competition. Instead there will be a new competition. For details please go to <http://www.roy-martin.co.uk/paper>

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

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

For further info, please either contact:

Roy on 07778 352825

Colin on 07770 338419

Or e-mail [roy@kitesup.co.uk](mailto:roy@kitesup.co.uk)

For orders: [hayley@kitesup.co.uk](mailto:hayley@kitesup.co.uk)

You can pre-order your tee-shirt / poloshirt, etc. Please email Hayley if interested in doing so.

Please Note: this is NOT a Buggy/Boarding weekend, thank-you.

# 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 festivals) IF YOU DON'T KNOW.....ASK.

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

**Never** fly near power lines, transmission towers or aerals.

**Never** fly near airfields.

**Never** fly a kite with anything metallic in the line.

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

**Always** use a brake line when flying large kites.

**Always** wear good quality gloves when flying large powerful kites.

**Always** give priority to domestic animals particularly if they are showing signs of distress.

**Always** clear up after yourself, especially lines, tails and bits of plastic that could trap, choke or injure domestic animals.

**Never** fly near kite-eating trees.

**Note the use of traction kiting at Barbury Castle is forbidden by law.**

*Finally remember.....your kites can get really quite lonely up high in the sky; just occasionally, look up and give them a SMILE. It will make you feel better too.*

WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS meet at Barbury Castle country Park on the second Sunday of each month.

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

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Subscriptions 12 months from December 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 £16 (including 4 issues of Cowpat Hill and kiteflying insurance at events). £5 for each additional family member. Personal Liability Insurance £11 per person. COWPAT HILL is the journal of The White Horse Kite Flyers and whilst every care is taken when compiling it, The Club and its officers cannot accept responsibility for any omissions or errors that may occur. Any information printed are the views of the individual submitting them and not necessarily those of The White Horse Kite Flyers Club, its committee or members.