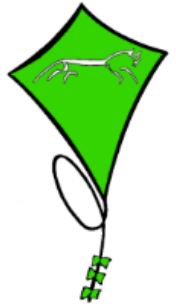


# COWPAT HILL



Journal of the White Horse Kite Flyers  
Issue Summer 2021 July - September



It's still in the balance but with a fair wind behind us we should all be meeting up at Barbury and receiving this issue of the magazine. If not you can probably blame "The Indian Variant" and you must watch the internet for our future plans. *OK so perhaps August.* Please note that all the events advertised in this issue may be changed at short notice and we would advise checking with the organisers before attending.

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

# Diary Dates

## JULY 2021

11<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle club fly-in. (Rule of 30 and social distancing applies)

17/18<sup>th</sup> Shropshire

## August 2021

7/8<sup>th</sup> Jolly Up 29

7/8<sup>th</sup> Portsmouth

8<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle club fly-in. (and committee meeting)

21/22<sup>nd</sup> Teston (Provisional date Contact Gareth Williams)

28-30<sup>th</sup> Bognor

## September 2021

3-5<sup>th</sup> Lytham St, Anne's

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

12<sup>th</sup> Middle Down

25/26<sup>th</sup> Fun Fly

## October 2021

9<sup>th</sup> LUTS (For details see

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

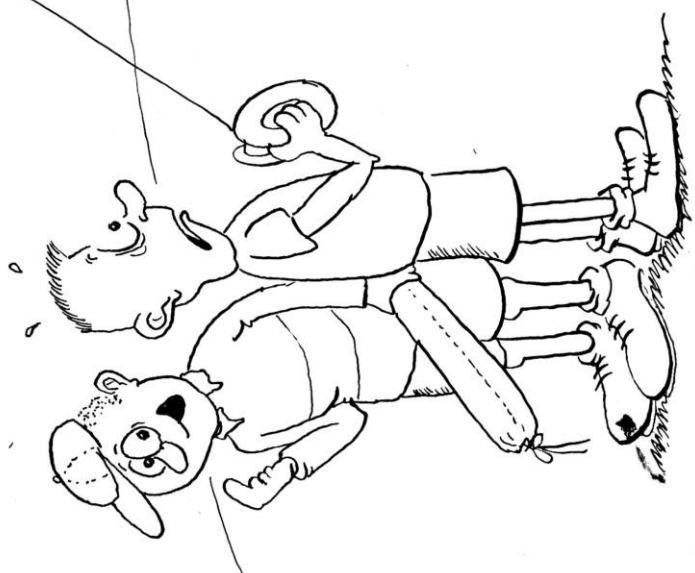
10<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle club fly-in incorporating OSOW.

Next issue of this magazine.

Dead line for next issue 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021`



" I'D SAY THE CHANCES OF  
THAT DELTA VARIANT  
LANDING YOU IN HOSPITAL  
ARE PRETTY HIGH! "



## Skychat.

Well was it not nice on Barbury Hill for the June meeting, plenty of sun, good friends not seen for months, but no wind! It was lovely to chat with everybody with the old banter going well. We can hope that we can carry on meeting now, but it is taking a long time for this Corvus 19 to die down. It looks as if the virus is now more contagious but not as deadly and with the vaccine programme going so well we may, may have it beat. The main problem is that now so far into the Summer no-body is that keen in putting energy into events until next year when we hope everything has settled down and back to near normal. We have time to build up our energies for then. I am afraid that it is going to take a lot of energy to get a lot of Clubs and Events moving again and all of us as two years older now. It may be a case of starting off smaller and building back up larger slower than we would have liked. The main thing we must not be beaten by the Virus.

I write in three different magazines regularly and have been forced to write similar articles for the two years and it would be nice and will be nice to talk more about our hobbies than the Virus, but it is coming and by Christmas it could and should be a very happy one and in the New Year we can go forth with renewed gusto. I am looking forward to it but my body may not!

I have to apologies to Arthur for being late with is article as I have been catching up with some of the visiting that has been put on hold for more than 12 months. I am not rushing to catch-up on all of them but after 80 years there are many people I must try and catch up on, but I am afraid during lock-down I have lost some great friends.

Anyway here's to clean winds and tight lines and hoping that you All are fit and healthy and raring to go.

Neil

## Robinson's Ramble

This has been a terrible time for everyone, I hope you and your family are all keeping healthy.

It was a long time coming but it was great to be able to meet up with some of you at Barbury, it was a beautiful day, only problem was that there wasn't any wind! However it was a good social meeting. It was good to meet our new members, Peter & Carol Ryan, who travelled from Surrey.

This won't be a very long piece from me, except to say all things being equal we will be dedicating the Fun Fly to the memory of Doug Jones, and we have invited Doug's best friends Gerry & Marilyn to come to the Fun Fly, they have accepted our offer. Gerry wrote a very nice letter in reply to our invitation, which should be printed in this magazine.

Best wishes

David Robinson

## KITE FLYING

S	E	W	I	N	G	M	A	C	H	I	N	E	R
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G	R	O	U	N	D	A	N	C	H	O	R	T	I
S	P	T	K	R	R	V	D	F	E	E	S	I	E
R	A	L	R	U	L	U	F	E	I	B	D	K	V
E	R	I	I	K	T	I	U	A	S	O	U	O	N
N	A	S	L	A	C	F	N	T	N	X	I	T	D
N	F	A	A	K	L	O	O	E	C	K	C	O	E
A	O	K	D	K	R	N	S	H	E	I	N	I	L
B	I	E	N	O	K	R	H	D	R	T	T	K	T
D	L	I	O	R	I	A	A	K	N	E	K	I	A
S	C	E	L	L	U	L	A	R	U	I	E	M	K
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BOX KITE  
SLED  
FOUR LINE  
CELLULAR  
ROKKAKU  
EDO  
WINDSOCK  
RIPSTOP  
DELTA  
GROUND ANCHOR  
KITE ARCHES  
BANNERS  
SEWING MACHINE  
FESTIVALS  
MIKIO TOKI  
KNOTS  
PARAFOIL

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2049997/>

Hi Janet and David,

Many thanks for your kind invitation, what a lovely way to remember Doug: He would be so pleased to know that you're holding this event in his honour!

As it happens we are having our annual Kites and Bikes event in Harrow Recreation Ground on Sunday 26th September when we will also be remembering Doug, but we would love to come to Lechlade on the 25th. We will be on holiday in South Wales the previous week and will be on our way home that day, so visiting Lechlade will fit in very well, subject as you say to Covid regulations, Let's hope it will be all under control by then and there won't be any restrictions.

We still have lots of Doug's kite stuff which WHKF are welcome to have, and we can bring it with us or give it to Martin in advance. There are literally thousands of his photos, and several albums of the kite events he attended over the years in UK, Europe, USA, Canada, Australia etc so we will bring a selection for anyone who is interested. We are also thinking of doing a small exhibition of his general photography which we could mount on some display boards, trouble is there are enough pictures to fill the National Gallery. So it would only be a small selection, but a nice way to commemorate his photographic skills.

If you can send us more details of the Fun Fly nearer the time we look forward to seeing you all again and to celebrating the life of a wonderful friend whom we still miss greatly.

We hope you and all members of WHKF are well, and looking forward to being able to get flying again very soon.

Gerry Devine

## Doug Jones Memorial Fun Fly Menu

### Breakfast –

**The Doug Jones Full English** – Bacon, sausage, black pudding, mushrooms, tomatoes & hash browns all served with a fried egg, ketchup or Brown sauce.

**Bacon & Egg Muffin** – Two rashers of crispy bacon, topped with a fried egg served in an English muffin with ketchup or brown sauce.

**Sausage & Egg Muffin** – Homemade sausage patty, topped with a fried egg served in an English muffin with ketchup or brown sauce.

**Mushroom & Egg Muffin** – Oven baked field mushroom, topped with a fried egg served in an English muffin with ketchup or brown sauce.

### Lunch –

**The Burger** – A prime burger topped with sauté onions & cheese, served in a crusty roll with mixed leaves, tomatoes & red onion.

**The Aubergine Burger** – A thick slice of Aubergine & pepper oven roasted, topped with a slice of Feta cheese, served in a crusty roll with mixed leaves, tomatoes & red onion with a sweet chilli sauce.

**The Bratwurst Sausage** – A traditional Bratwurst sausage, par boiled then pan fried until golden, served in a finger roll with sauté onions mustard & ketchup.

### Saturday Dinner –

**Steak & Kidney Pie** – Tender pieces of Steak & kidney in a rich beer & onion gravy, topped with puff pastry.

**Vegetable Hotpot** – Onions, courgettes, sweet peppers, beans & more in a rich herb & cheese sauce, topped with a Tarragon dumpling.

All main courses will be served with a selection of fresh vegetables & potatoes.

Please let us know if you would like the vegetarian option as in previous years we have over shopped for this.

## Scientists Want Robots to Fly Massive Kites on Mars to Harness Energy for Human Colonies



Representative Image. Credits: Reuters

A proposal developed in response to a contest run by the European Space Agency (ESA) suggests using massive kites flown by robots to harness high Martian wind speeds.

Ever since the space race heated up 50 years ago, colonising other bodies in our solar system or beyond has been the underlying vision to find permanent settlements in space. Most of the premier space agencies are aiming to get humans on the Red Planet by the end of this decade and it is getting closer to reality. Now scientists are working on innovative ways to power these habitats, as any long-term base camps on Mars will need to be powered by renewable energy. A proposal developed in response to a contest run by the European Space Agency (ESA) suggests using massive kites flown by robots to harness high Martian wind speeds. According to [Daily Mail](#) report, researchers from



the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands propose flying giant kites flown by robots to generate energy. The kite will be attached by cable to a spindle and as it sails higher, the cable unspools, generating energy for a base camp.

The team developed and tested similar kites to harness wind power on Earth, however, these would be much larger, with a surface area of 530-540 square feet and the weight of the entire system, including the control unit and ground station, is around 640 pounds (approx. 290 kilograms). They estimate if coupled with solar panels, lithium batteries and compressed gas, the system could power five US households. The team expects the cost of the system, excluding transportation, would be about 8.95 million Euro, or roughly USD 10.87 million.

The research team's methods may seem audacious, but it might be the right one. Because producing and storing renewable energy on Mars is equally challenging as shipping fossil fuel to our neighbouring planet would be prohibitive. Also, the red planet gets less than half the sunlight of Earth, making solar power ineffective and wind turbines and batteries are too heavy to be shipped, hence the idea to harness the wind energy during dust storms on Mars could be a possibility. Surface winds are faster on Mars than on Earth, about 10 to 20 miles an hour on average.

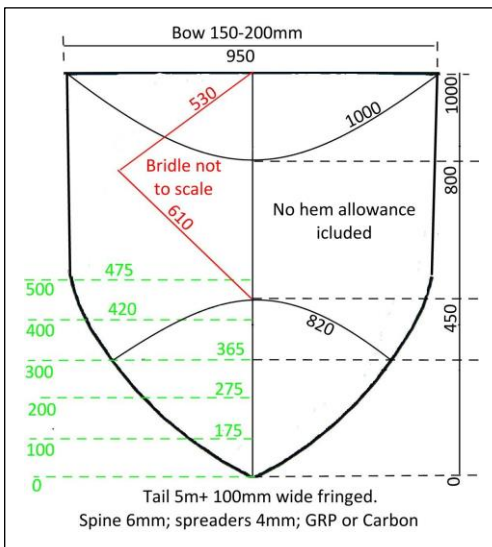
According to an open-source online journal [arXiv](#), the research team in their proposal wrote that, 'generating renewable energy on Mars' is technologically challenging when compared to Earth. As the key energy sources such as solar and wind are weak due to low levels of 'atmospheric pressure and solar irradiation.

Looks like there's plenty of space. Any volunteers to go and help them?

## SHIELD

During lock down I have been looking for a simple kite design that I had not seen before and could not find ready detailed on the internet. On a recent visit to a school I noticed their badge was in the shape of a basic shield. Not a fancy one like the recent offerings from Sky Bums. It also had a nice bold graphic that you should be able to see when the kite was flying. The dimensions made it suitable for sparring in the Ohashi style. The outline and graphics were transferred using a projector. I then made a blank kite before adding graphics to make sure it would fly. The top spar was easy, just use a long piece of GRP fitted to one pocket and bend it to the opposite side and see what looked right, cut to length and fit but when it came to the lower one I could find no guide lines so having fitted a spine and top spar I put it on its back and pulled at points along the lower edges until it seemed OK. The good old adage of if it looks about right it won' be far off. Spar length set as per top spreader. Next problem is where to attach the bridle so take the easy option and use top of the spine plus the lower spar crossing point. Add a decent length tail and all that is left is a test flight. Delighted after a bit of messing about with the towing point it flies beautifully. Back home and graphic added

If you are interested in having a go here are the plans and a couple of pictures. Please help yourself.



## Making a SUL sport kite heavier – part 2

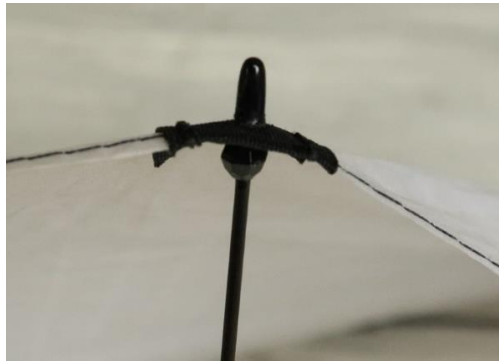
It seems a silly thing to do – buy an expensive super ultra-light (SUL) sport kite which already flies well, and then make it heavier. Nevertheless this second of two articles contains some notes on why and how one would do just that.

This part concentrates on the connection between the stand-offs and the sail. The adjacent picture shows how this connection is made in many quality non-SUL sport kites. In the picture the kite is on its belly, and the view is a close-up of the connection between one of the stand-offs and the rear edge of the sail.



The “sail-grabber” at the tip of the stand-off rod fits into a hole in a pocket that has been formed by adding a flap of fabric to the sail. This leaves the back of the sail free of anything that could catch a line during tricks.

In contrast the pictures below show some methods used for connecting the standoffs of a SUL kite to the trailing edge of its sail. In each case, the standoff is connected directly to the trailing edge, which gives opportunity for a kite line to get caught against the connection during tricks. The picture on the left below is of the connection on the Prism 3D, where the standoff rod sticks through the trailing edge and is secured from falling out with a rubber band. When packing the kite away the rubber band can unhook so that the standoff rod can be disconnected. But when tricking the kite line can get caught against the rod. Also with time the rubber band perishes and has to be replaced. In the picture on the right, the standoff connection of a Sky Burner i-Nak is permanently secured with a thin plastic end-cap, which the line can still catch against.

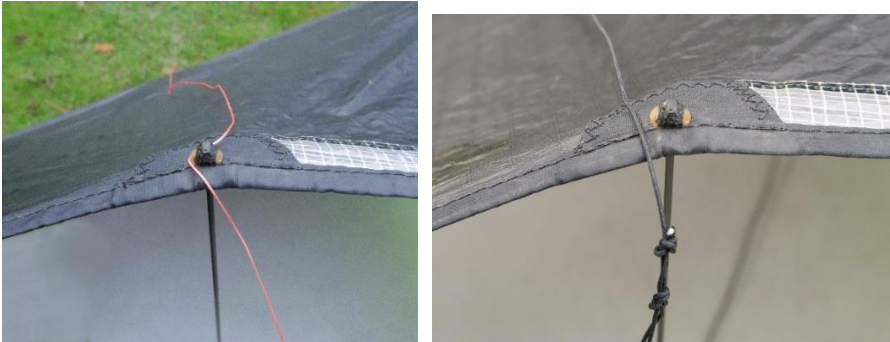


The next picture shows two standoff connections on a Prism QPro SUL. These kites came with two part stand-off fittings. The lower part goes on the sail end of standoff and protrudes up through a hole in the sail. It is prevented from falling out of the hole by a cap, that because of its beetle or ladybird like appearance, is often called a “lady-bug”. This arrangement is shown on the left side of the picture. Unfortunately 1) the lines can get caught against it, and 2) the lady-bugs often fall off in flight. In the picture, the glue added to prevent this lady-bug falling off can just be seen between the ladybug and the sail. As replacement lady-bugs are very difficult to get, the writer found that E-clips available from a local hardware store were a good substitute. One of these can fit around where the lower part protrudes through the sail, and is shown on the standoff to the right. Perhaps because the lower part without cap protrudes less far up beyond the back of the kite, the line seems to get caught less against this arrangement than it does with the lady-bug cap.



The picture below left is of one of the customized connections on my Sky Burner Ocius SUL. Fresh out of the kite shop, the end of each

standoff rod is secured by gluing the end of a zip-tie around it. During tricking this kite, it is fairly common to trap a line between the zip-tie end and the sail. To reduce the chances of this happening, some sloping edges have been filed onto the sides of the zip-tie, which deflect the line over the end of the standoff. The slopes have been built up at the surface of the sail with 5 minute epoxy. To tighten the fit between the modified zip-tie and the sail, an E-clip has been placed at the other side of the sail between the stand-off's bead and the sail. But despite all these measures, during tricks it is still possible for the line to get trapped, as shown in the picture.



It seems that the only perfect way of avoiding catching the line on the standoff connection is to have the pocket arrangement. But perhaps a thicker line would be less likely to get trapped. The writer is now trying short lengths of thicker line: a “leader line” between the kite bridle and the thin main kite lines. In the picture on the right, part of the leader-line is shown next to the stand-off connection. This leader line is made of lightweight bridle line, which is in essence, the same thin and light spectra line used for the main lines, sheathed in a black woven cover that thickens the line. So the only additional weight is that of the sheath. The writer’s leaders for the Ocius SUL are 765mm long and weigh 0.8 grams for the pair. The kite has only been flown with these lines for a couple of hours so far - It might be the writer’s imagination, but leader lines do appear to change the feel of kite flying and tricking in lighter winds. Nevertheless so far the lines have not got caught in the standoff connection.

## Large parts of Port Elizabeth without power after two electrocuted flying kites

BY RAAHIL SAIN - 20 January 2021

A Port Elizabeth teenager and young child were shocked and sustained multiple burn wounds while flying kites near electricity cables at Windvogel on Wednesday evening, police confirmed.

Municipal spokesperson, Mthubanzi Mniki said the incident caused a fault at the Ditchling substation and resulted in a power outage across large parts of the city.

Police spokesperson Captain Sandra Janse Van Rensburg, confirmed that an 18-year-old man and a boy, 7, sustained multiple burn wounds at around 6pm.

“According to police information , two males aged 7 and 18 years old were flying a kite close to electrical power lines when the kite touched one of the electrical wires,” she said

“The electrical current passed through the 18-year-old who was electrocuted and sustained serious burns while the 7-year-old sustained minor injuries. Both were treated at the scene by paramedics and transported to hospital for treatment.”

Democratic Alliance (DA) PR councillor Gordon Sampson, described an horrific scene which took place behind Second Street.

“They were flying kites and the string got caught in the over head lines. “The teenager was burning, there was lots of flames and smoke. He was burnt really badly, all over his body. The little boy was burnt on his face,” said Sampson.

According to Sampson the lines were high voltage of 132,000 kilovolts.

Police, emergency and electrical teams were on the scene.

Sampson said both the teenager and child were stabilised on the scene surrounded by concerned community members.

He added that they were both transported to hospital for further medical assistance.

**HeraldLIVE**

## Broad Haven 2021

Sadly we had to cancel this event due to Covid restriction. However some of us had self-catering accommodation booked and following a relaxation in regulations were able to take a holiday there.

It is a shame that it was cancelled as the Saturday and Sunday were beautiful with good flying winds. Monday however was a different matter with 50mph gusting winds and torrential rain so the Roch Garden Centre would not have been fun.

Even if it wasn't an official event I was joined by Dave Hardwick from the Midland Group and we put up a few kites.



I was also delighted to be able to try out my ladybirds that were a lock-down project specifically for using at Broad Haven where others had been so popular in 2019. They worked very well and if you want to have a go at making one I have put an English translation of the original plans, plus some note of my own, on our web pages at :-

<http://www.whkf.org.uk/How%20to%20make%20a%20Ladybird.pptx>

The good news is that Covid permitting the event has been re-scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022. High tides are about 07:30 BST so we can “follow the tide out”.

We have already booked our accommodation so look forward to seeing you there.

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.

*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; P Massey

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Subscriptions for new members for 12 months from December 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 £16 (including 4 issues of Cowpat Hill and kiteflying insurance at events) and is free for existing members. £5 for each additional family member. Renewals will be reviewed annually. Personal Liability Insurance £13 per person.

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