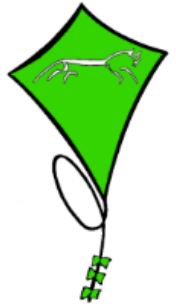


COWPAT HILL



*Journal of the White Horse Kite Flyers
Summer 2022 July - September*

Could this be the last issue of Cowpat Hill????

Since I returned for my second stint as editor and now publisher of our magazine I have been struggling to get enough copy to make worthwhile issues.

I get very embarrassed having to constantly pester people for articles so in future I don't intend to send out reminders. If there's not enough to fill the minimum of 12 pages there will not be a magazine.

A page is only one side of A5 and requires about 400 words of 12pt.

If you fancy taking over as editor please let me know and I will gladly stand aside.

My thanks to those who have supported me with regular contributions.

Arthur Dibble (Editor)

Since writing this article I have received several new items (some up to 36 hours late) that have made this a bumper issue. My thanks to those concerned.

www.whkf.org.uk

Diary Dates

July 2022

2/3rd Barmouth

10th Barbury Castle club fly-in

9/10th Berrington

16/17th Shropshire

30/31st Portsmouth

August 2022

6/7th Jolly Up 31

13/14th Teston

14th Barbury Castle club fly-in

27-29th Bognor

September 2022

2-4th Lytrham St Anne's

10-11th Burnham-on-sea

11th Barbury Castle club fly-in

10-18th Dieppe

17/18th Filey

24/25th Fun Fly

October 2022

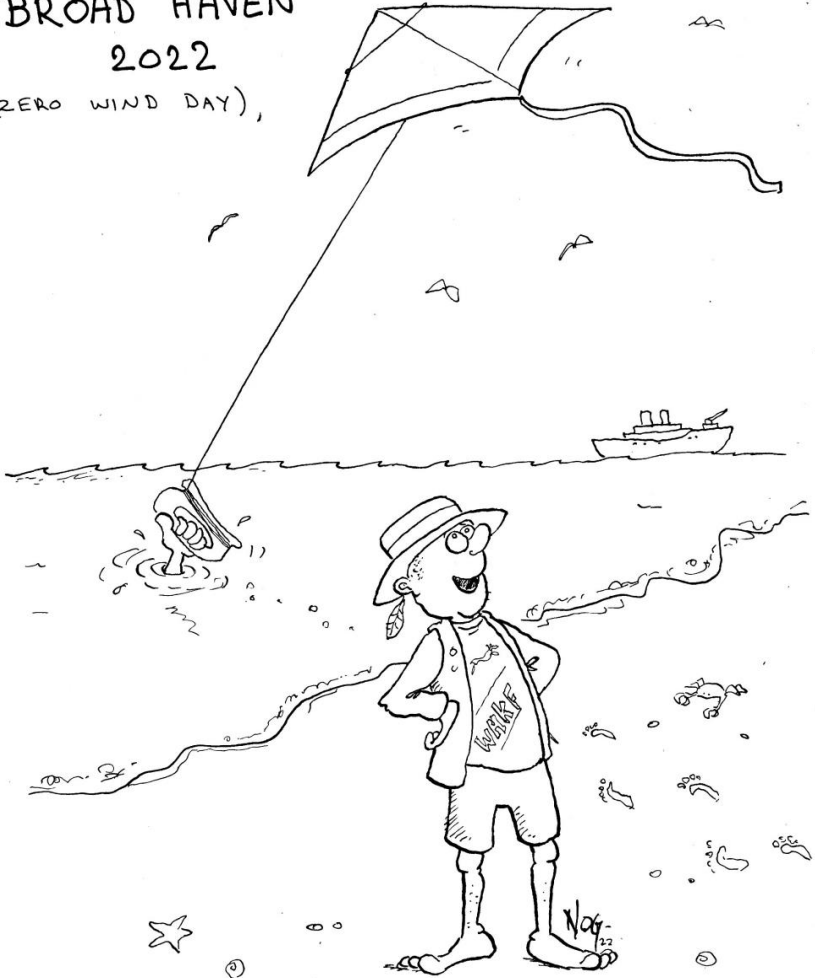
2nd Watch for announcement from John Elvin

9th Barbury Castle club fly-in OSOW

(Next issue of Cowpat Hill)

Dead line for next issue 25th September 2022

BROAD HAVEN
2022
(ZERO WIND DAY),



" THAT'S IT... JUST KEEP ON WALKING
BACKWARDS AND IT'LL STAY UP... "

WORKSHOP

We are looking into the possibility of running a 'home grown' workshop this autumn. The project would be a spiky ball ground bouncer/ line laundry as pictured in your choice of colours. The size is approx. 4ft across. The dates we are looking at are the weekend of 22-23 October in Swindon, cost to be confirmed but we estimate around £80.00 to include lunch both days.

The project consists of cutting out the shapes and sewing them together at your own pace with a set of instructions plus me on hand for guidance (I've made a few of these). Hopefully it's doable in 2 days but if you don't finish you will go away with the knowledge and instructions to complete it at your leisure. Whether this goes ahead is dependent on getting enough participants, if you'd be up for it please send me contact details and we'll keep you posted!

Dave Cross WHKF



Broad Haven

Once again those of us who attended had a great time, so much so that several of us have already booked accommodation for next year. Unfortunately the tides are not as convenient in 2023 with high water at around mid-day. There will still be a few hours in the mornings provided you don't linger too long over breakfast. Then as one member suggested we can spend the afternoon in the pub preparing for an evening display and hopefully some night flying.

With these time constraints it is suggested that it will not be the full official event as it was this year. However it will be recorded so that the standard club insurance will cover us. We will announce closer to the dates if CAA clearance is being applied for but very few people flew above 200ft this year, perhaps just those who were looking for some air movement when it was non-existent at ground level.

Sadly the Hilton Court Gardens where we used to fly on the Monday have closed so there is no camping there. That means that like this year it will be three days flying on Broad Haven beach.

Dates will be 29/30th April & 1st May. The non-event will again be hosted jointly by MKF and WHKF and any further details will be posted on our web pages, Facebook and magazines.

As can be seen on the next pages we had a great display when we were joined by members of other clubs.

Finally I would like to thank the local residents who welcomed us with open arms, all seemed to be genuinely glad to see us back after a two year absence thanks to Covid. It was really good to see so many families come onto the beach and join us, thrilled by the aerial display and having fun with the ground ones.

Please add 1 hour for BST

29/04/2023			30/04/2023			01/05/2023		
	Time	Height		Time	Height		Time	Height
High	00:38	4.9 m	High	02:12	5.1 m	High	03:13	5.4 m
	13:39	4.7 m		14:52	5.1 m		15:42	5.5 m
Low	07:25	2.8 m	Low	08:45	2.5 m	Low	09:39	2.1 m
	19:54	2.8 m		21:03	2.5 m		21:53	2.0 m



BROAD HAVEN KITE FLIERS RENDEZVOUS

Saturday 30th April, Sunday 1st May and Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May 2022





Cuckoo Land (from Bob Cruikshanks)



For a long time now, even living in the depths of Zimmerset, I have not heard the call of the Cuckoo and certainly not in the last two years. So, when I do hear the distance call it generally means that I am either north of Spaghetti Junction or somewhere in Europe ie, over the Channel not within Great Brexit. What led to the call of Cuckoo land? Earlier in the year I received an email from **Saša Iskrić**, secretary of the KAP Jasa (kite team Slovenia) and a kite flier that I have met previously. The team were organising the first kite festival in Slovenia in the Prekmurje region. It was being held at the Murska Sobota airport and one of the supporters/sponsors was the Indian Embassy in Slovenia; just to name a couple of things that caught my attention, not to mention it could be an opportunity to give my colourful attire an airing.

Fliers attending were predominately from bordering countries namely Italy, Hungary and Austria but there were many travelling in campervans and cars from further afield and making a holiday of the time plus allowing additional kites, particularly large softies or pudding kites. The festival was 3 days long but was due to finish on the Saturday to enable those driving to return home, if required, on the Sunday. EasyJet was my preference but one UK resident, Derek Kuhn, elected to drive the 1200 miles in his camper, albeit he did stop off to visit friends/family in Germany going outbound but had a hasty journey home, phew more him than me!

The month of May came around and trying to remember after two years of non-air travel what I usually packed was strange, not to mention routines at the airport and queues. Needless to say that I got to my departure gate with 5 minutes to spare but that's another story over a beer! Met at Ljubljana airport by **Janez Vizjak**, another member of the 3-man organising team and also a familiar face. His first question "do you want a beer or some food"? He obviously knows me well but given a two-hour drive I was conscious of my aging bladder plus being up since 2:00am, which was 9 hours ago so we cracked on.

We duly arrived at the airfield in Murska Sobota and were met by many old and new kite flier faces; now it was time for a beer and something to eat. The airfield was a large expanse of grass, with several hangars, a control tower and a well frequented restaurant and bar. After several hours 'rest' my designated apartment roommate **Rene Maier** arrived and offered a lift to the hotel complex.

Once we had checked in and found our apartment, which was also being shared with Axel Kostros, we freshened up and returned to the airfield for the evening welcome dinner. During dinner the program was outlined and the final member of the organising trio **Gregor Mramor** briefed the airfield management's concern regarding ground anchors, which was understandable and reiterated daily if not hourly.

Breakfast was taken in the hotel complex dining room where social distancing was not a consideration, well not if you wanted anything to eat/drink from the buffet. Clearly the pandemic was not something that appeared to have affected Slovenians; thank goodness for the triple vaccine!

Thursday, the first day's festival was bright and sunny; bugger I thought, forgot the sun cream! Many of the pudding fliers were trying in vain to get it up but with little success. Adopting the Bob C mantra 'It's never the wrong wind just the wrong kite' a few of us stick fliers had the correct gear in our bags and duly entertained the Cuckoos. Word obviously hadn't got around that there was a festival at the airfield but we were advised that it was early. Midday and the call for pre-lunch 'nibbles' was announced by the Italian fliers, which was rude to ignore and an opportunity to re-acquaint one's self with the kite family that I haven't met for two years or more. The rest of the day was light to nothing wind but there's always something in the Bob C bag to pull. During the day several other fliers arrived including the one Indian representative, Abdullah Maliyekkal, which brought the number of fliers to 80+.

Day two was a repeat of Thursday, albeit my red face was not from embarrassment but better late than never I scrounged some sun cream from my roommate. Again the stick fliers were working hard, some with long launches but I was having fun free-flying my low/no wind collection. My old Martin Lawrence Buzzard is always a firm favourite of mine and occasionally attracts real birds as it soars. It was whilst flying the Buzzard that I met **Katerina Bytko** and her mother **Larisa Bytko** from Ukraine. Katerina, a member of the Ukrainian Kite Beauties team, was interested in the Buzzard so it was a great opportunity for me to spend time passing on some low wind flying techniques.

Jan Grutterink from the Netherlands, a master of appliqué, presented Katerina, Larisa and the Ukrainian Kite Association with a very symbolic designed kite.



During the afternoon several pudding kites were hauled aloft across the back of the airfield behind vehicles, one doing an extended 360° with a mega Octopus.

Overnight there was a prolonged downpour and more was forecast for Saturday so, sadly, the organisers felt it best to cancel the day's festival. Some took the opportunity to begin their journey home and others, including yours truly, went off in groups to do some sightseeing. With an improvement in the afternoon weather and wind **Herman Plattje** and a few others took advantage and closed the festival with a display of big stuff and the 'We ♥ Slovenia' streamer.

With the power of social media, the local radio and TV the numbers attending the festival particularly in the afternoons was a great acknowledgement for the efforts of the 3-man organising team of Saša, Gregor and Janez who had convinced the local authorities, the Indian Embassy, and several other sponsors to provide accommodation, beer and many other things required to hold Slovenia's first kite festival. Yes, there were things that may have been better but overall for a first event by a group of fliers who have only been active for circa 5 years it was a success.

Robinsons Ramble.

It won't be long until the Fun Fly will be upon us, it will be the usual format, but there will be a major difference this year, there WILL NOT be any rubbish bins. You will have to take your rubbish home! It has always been a problem for us, in disposing of the rubbish.

Due to unforeseen circumstances we will not be using St. Joseph's School, in the future. I will be working on a new venue ready for the Clubs AGM in November.

On the 12th of June it was the monthly fly in at Barbury Castle, the weather was superb and the wind was excellent. Martin Croxton travelled down from London and had some Parafoils up, Dave Cross and Arthur, had their usual displays, Mike and Sheila had a good display. Dave Cross was busy flying his great display. Janet, Neil and myself were sat in the sunshine relaxing and enjoying the display, and answering lots of enquiry's from Spectators, as to why their kites didn't fly as well as the ones on display. It was nice to see Andrew Ruming and his family, his son and daughter are enthusiastic fliers. Andrew is a very good kite maker and flyer, he brought along an old Dunford Flying machine kite that he had bought from EBay that had seen better days! However with some advice from those present & an image on his mobile he got it flying! And it flew quite well. There were plenty of people taking photos on their mobiles & cameras & enjoying the scene.

Lots of children were loving Arthur's teddy bears. It was nice to have some interest & to give out our Club brochure to those asking questions.

David Robinson



On June 10, 1752, Benjamin Franklin took a kite out during a storm to see if a key attached to the string would draw an electrical charge. Or so the story goes. In fact, historians aren't quite sure about the date of Franklin's famous experiment, and some have questioned whether it took place at all.

Even if Franklin's kite and key experiment did happen, it didn't play out the way many people think it did. Contrary to popular myths, Franklin didn't conduct the experiment to prove the existence of electricity. In addition, it's very unlikely that lightning struck a key while Franklin was flying a kite—because if it had, Franklin probably would have died.

Kite Experiment: What Do We Know?

Surprisingly little.

Franklin Didn't Write Much about the Experiment

Everything we know about Franklin's kite and key experiment comes from two sources. The first is a letter Franklin wrote to his friend Peter Collinson in October 1752 that was published in *The Pennsylvania Gazette* and read before the Royal Society. The second is a section of Joseph Priestley's 1767 book *History and Present Status of Electricity*, in which Priestley recounted what Franklin had presumably told him about the experiment.

In the letter, Franklin wrote that an "Experiment has succeeded in Philadelphia" using kite and key, and detailed how one could go about reproducing the experiment. He didn't specify when the experiment took place or whether he had actually conducted it. Fifteen years later, Priestley provided some more details, writing that 46-year-old Franklin and his 22-year-old son William had conducted the experiment sometime in June 1752.

Scholars of Franklin have speculated that the experiment occurred around June 10, though no one really knows what date it happened on. Some have theorized that it occurred later in 1752, while others have questioned whether it happened at all, or at least acknowledged that there is room for doubt.

"The episode of the kite, so firm and fixed in legend, turns out to be dim and mystifying in fact," wrote Carl Van Doren in his 1939 Pulitzer Prize-winning biography, *Benjamin Franklin*. The legendary aspect of the kite and key experiment has led many people believe, incorrectly, that it marked the discovery of electricity.

Ben Franklin Didn't Discover Electricity

Electricity was already a known phenomenon during the mid-18th century. There were, however, debates about the nature of this phenomenon, and Franklin was one of a group of philosophers and scientists who theorized that lightning was a form of electricity.

In March 1750, Franklin wrote a letter to his friend Collinson about his idea for a lightning rod. That July, he published an idea for an experiment using a lightning rod to try and catch an electrical charge in a “leyden jar,” a storage container for electrical charges, thus demonstrating that lightning was a form of electricity.

Franklin’s ideas circulated in Europe, and in May 1752, two French scientists—Thomas Dalibard and M. Delor—separately carried out successful versions of Franklin’s experiment. According to Priestley, Franklin hadn’t yet heard of these successes in June 1752, when he was waiting on the construction of a spire to conduct his own lightning rod experiment.

Apparently, Franklin decided that instead of waiting for the spire, he could test his theory by flying a kite with a key attached to its string when he sensed an approaching thunderstorm. [D]reading the ridicule which too commonly attends unsuccessful attempts in science, he communicated his intended experiment to no one but his son, who assisted him in raising the kite,” Priestley wrote.

Ben Franklin Didn't Get Struck By Lightning

So what would this experiment have actually looked like? Although many artists have tried to depict it, “most of the pictures and drawings that you see depicting Franklin in this experiment are inaccurate,” says Harold D. Wallace Jr., a curator in the division of work and industry at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

“They show Franklin standing out in the middle of a field,” he says, “whereas most likely he and William were inside some kind of shed or lean-to or something to keep them from getting rained on, in case the rain did start.” (Franklin likely started the experiment after sensing lightning in the air, but before any rain began to fall, says Wallace.)

Franklin’s goal probably wasn’t for the kite and key to get struck by lightning; and indeed, Priestley never claimed that they were struck by lightning. If they had been, Franklin would’ve almost certainly died or at least been seriously injured (in 1753, the German scientist Georg Wilhelm Reichmann died while trying to conduct Franklin’s lightning rod experiment).

What probably happened is that the key picked up some ambient electrical charge from the storm. Priestley wrote that Franklin touched the key and felt the charge, confirming he had caught some electricity from the lightning.

Even if Franklin never actually performed the kite and key experiment, he did come up with the lightning rod idea that others tested. Together, these experiments helped prove that lightning was a form of electricity that people could harness, both to protect tall buildings from damage and to perform more experiments.

“The idea of mitigating natural dangers is such a big game changer,” says Michael Madeja, head of education programs at the American Philosophical Society Library and Museum. “The lightning rod also helped provide a decent source of charge for things like leyden jars or other electrical experiments.”

Fun Fly 24/25 September

Everything is going ahead with the following ordered and confirmed:- 1 toilet / 1 disabled toilet / 1 Elsan / Marquee / the cooker / fridge & gas cylinder. Water will be available from the cricket club but you will need your own filling pipes and fittings for standard taps. CAA height clearance to 500ft will be applied for shortly.

To cut down on the work involved the catering will be slightly simplified so that the “Kitchen staff” do not have to spend all weekend chained to the stove. Details can be found elsewhere in this magazine. Once again we will be asking for pre-booking of the Saturday evening meal.

As last year there will be nothing organised for Friday night and we will not be providing drinks except for the help-yourself coffee and tea.

Last year we asked people to take away their own rubbish but at the end we were left with a number of bags for the committee to dispose of. Therefore this year there will be no black bags left out and we will NOT be providing disposable crockery, cutlery or glasses. Please make sure you bring your own and take away all rubbish including cans and bottles.

On Saturday evening there will be the usual kite related auction with 50% of the proceeds helping to cover costs and 50% to a chosen charity. Any kite related donations will be gratefully received. Please do not bring unrelated items as it is embarrassing to have to turn these away.

WHKF Fun Fly Café Menu

Breakfast –

Bacon Roll – Rashers of crispy Bacon, served in a roll with ketchup or brown sauce.

Sausage Roll – A duo of griddled sausages, served in a roll with ketchup or brown sauce.

Mushroom Roll – Pan fried Mushrooms, served in a roll with ketchup or chilli sauce

Add a Fried Egg

Lunch –

Burger – A prime burger, tender & juicy, served in a crusty roll, topped with sauté onions & cheese.

Bratwurst – A juicy Bratwurst sausage, served in a finger roll with cheese, mustard & ketchup.

Vegetable Burger – A prime vegetarian burger, served in a crusty roll, topped with sauté onions & cheese.

Saturday Evening Dinner –

Beef and mushroom Ragu served with creamy mash and green beans.

Vegetarian alternative

Followed by a fruit crumble and custard

Please register if you require the vegetarian options so we can make sure we have the correct amount available.

JOLLY UP 31 on Aug 6th and 7th 2022

Gates open and camping is available from *Friday* midday onwards (£15 per tent/camper for Fri and Sat night, there is a small extra charge for a Sunday night stop-over)

Pie and Mash will be available in the Marquee on the Friday evening, please order and pay at the bar.

There will be Hog Roast on the Saturday evening (£10.00 and *please* bring a plate and cutlery where possible!) Please let us know in advance if you require a vegetarian option.

As usual we will be doing Jacket Potatoes at lunchtimes over the weekend, and Bacon/Egg rolls will be available on both mornings.

The Auction will be held on the Saturday evening, please bring any donations on the Saturday (*before 4pm please* to give us time to set it all up and Hayley to sit down for a while :-)) There will be a Live Band in the Marquee after the Auction too, stick around and enjoy!!

There will be a silent Auction on the Sunday.

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

For further info, please either contact:

Roy on 07778 352825; Chris on 07456 342970; or e-mail roy@kitesup.co.uk

Pre-order your tee-shirt / polos-shirt: from hayley@kitesup.co.uk

Sky Chat

It is that time again, Arthur will be shouting at me for my bit for "Cowpat" if I do not extract un digitus, Well the weather has been fairly kind to us just recently and at the last Barbury I had a wonderful day in the sun just sat there watching all the others flying a marvellous display of kites with the usual banter going on between us all. Did me a power of good. It looked like that Dave R's letter to the council has had some effect on them in the fact that the stingers and the thistles had been cut back, made walking about so much easier. Top field may be awaiting mowing for hay.

Some of our members and family members have been under the weather lately and I wish them all a speedy recovery, the trouble is that the older we all get the more ailments we seem to pick up and the longer it takes to shake them off. I have been looking for a new dynamo to try and keep my battery charged up but cannot find one, far too old to try and fit an alternator! We must hope that we can encourage some new and younger people to join us to enjoy our hobby and the fresh air outdoors away from the Covid Bugs. There must be some pluses in that?

Not to long now to the Fly-in, so let us hope for a fine and breeze week-end and if not a very chatty one, meeting up with everyone. As I am not getting around to the Festivals and other gatherings I am missing out in not bumping in to many of the flyers from other Clubs. The other trouble is that in to-day's economic conditions that it has got expensive to travel about and the pension has not gone up yet? Let us hope that the World gets better soon and we all can get back on to a better footing.

It is a shame that that Dave Cross's Spiked Ball Workshop is not going ahead at the moment. I do not think many of us have got around to thinking about doing workshops again yet! When we get used to being able to meet up again in groups indoors I think that we will find workshops will take off again. I hope so as there is a wealth of talent out there awaiting to be tapped.

I will close this "Sky Chat" off now so that I am not holding Arthur up doing his wonderful work in putting "The Cowpat Hill" together, even though he is always wanting more articles for it. Why not for a change do YOU do an article for The Mag, it may be the start of a new career. Till we meet again on a field I hope, Tight Lines and Clean Winds.

Neil.

Minchinhampton Common Friday Afternoons

Minchinhampton Common is a large area of common land in the Cotswolds near Stroud. A fantastic place to visit at any time of year, in the summer the grassland is grazed by free roaming cattle including shaggy highlands and longhorns. Wild flowers abound including several species of orchid. But the best thing about it is it's a wonderful place to fly kites. I am lucky enough to live fairly nearby and it has always been my flying venue of choice, with loads of space and parking pretty much anywhere along the edge.

Since changing my work hours a few years ago I often go up there on a Friday afternoon, and a few others from WHKF and Avon Kite Flyers come along too. It's not an official event or covered by club insurance, just an informal get together to fly and chat. It doesn't happen every Friday, just when the wind looks good and we feel like it! (and occasionally on a Saturday or bank holiday.) There are no toilets up on the common, but often an ice cream van, and there is a pub nearby.

If anyone would like to be informed when it's happening drop me a message via Facebook or on Thenog52@gmail.com and I'll let you know. We usually fly from the track to The Old Lodge from about 2ish.



Notes from the Chair

This is the second in a series of occasional notes from the chair.

As Club members you will remember that following advice from our esteemed Financial Advisor, the Committee voted that existing members of the club, at that time, would be eligible for 3 years of free membership providing that, annually, they expressed a wish to remain members. Unfortunately, that offer comes to an end at the AGM this year and consequently, if you wish to remain or indeed become a member of the club subscriptions will become due. Notice of a positive intent to remain a member must be made prior to or at the AGM, without this notification your membership will, after the prescribed period, be cancelled and your records removed from the Club's Database, this is to comply with our stated policy under Data protection.

The fees for memberships are:

Individual: - £16

Additional Family Members at the same address: - £5

Signed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Thompson', written over a horizontal line.

D. Thompson

WHKF Chair.

Competition Time

The Broad Haven rendezvous was great fun as always but the Bank Holiday Monday lunchtime did leave us windless. As we all stood around chatting (so what's new) I found myself pondering what the collective name for a group of idle kite fliers is? Answers to the editor!

* My suggestion is a Whimsy



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.

Your local contacts are: -

Neil Harvey +44(0)1285 740295 Dave Robinson +44(0)1793 824208

Arthur Dibble +44(0)1635 865976

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

Dave Robinson; Neil Harvey; Martin Crowther, Bob Cruikshanks

Please send articles to cowpat.ed@whkf.org.uk

Subscriptions for new members for 12 months from December 1st 2021 £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.

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. Data provided by you will be stored on a Club data base for the purpose of circulating this magazine and other Club information.