

COWPAT HILL



Vol. 1, No. 10

NEWS SHEET OF THE WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS

November 1990

PRIVATE SKY

ONE SKY ONE WORLD

1500 People, 300 Kites, Thamesdown Rotary, 21 Disabled Children, Sunshine, Wind and add to all this, YOU!, the White Horse Kite Flyers and what do we get? Well for me this all added up to a great days kite flying with some smashing memories. To see and share the excitement that showed on the faces of the disabled children is something that will remain with me for a very long time to come. One of the children that I will remember was a little girl of ten shaking with excitement whilst I was setting up her kite, I might just relate this story when people ask me why I fly kites!

It was also very satisfying to see so many kite-flyers turn up, especially those who had travelled long distances to be there: Martin Croxton, Doug Jones, Tom and Family, Peter and Chris who all fly regularly at Horsenden Hill, Greenford, MIDDX. Richard Everett and family from Chipping Norton, Vic Walker from Oxford, Dave Tomlinson and family (complete with **TWO** sets of Inlaws), Arthur **DIBBLE** and son (got it right that time Arthur - Ed.) all from Thatcham, John and Richard Horne from Minchinhampton, Mr and Mrs Stephen Burbridge from Andover, Roy and Nora Wiggins from Newbury and Alan and Louise Leather and children from Bicester. Apologies for any names omitted but thank you all for taking the time and trouble to come to Barbury.

The unluckiest of all these must surely have been Martin Croxton, who was flying his new 12ft x 12ft 'Serious Sirius' which was expertly made by Sandra and Richard Everett (the tenner's in the post Dave - Ed.) when a sudden gust of wind snapped a 23mm! dowelling downrall. Then his Mega-Parafoil decided to crash while fully inflated, the impact was so great that it split open five of its eighteen cells. (I'm pleased to say that both kites have now been repaired and flying! - Ed.) The amazing thing about all of this was that at the end of the day Martin **STILL** said that he had enjoyed himself! Neil Harvey's 'Pegasus' made a flying appearance, who said that horses

can't fly? Doug Jones busied himself all day taking aerial photographs from his kite, it goes without saying that he had some superb results.

Janet, Madge and Myself had a great time after the initial hiccup of 28 'Eddy's' with bridles of the wrong length, I should explain... Peter Newson, a friend of mine for many years, is a Rotarian and he knew I was a kite-flyer. He contacted me about 10 weeks ago asking if we, the WHKF would be interested in helping him and Thamesdown Rotary in a day of kite flying for the disabled, this we all readily agreed to. Peter then said that they would want a kite for each of the children that would be attending, but they would be unable to spend a fortune on each kite, so I agreed to make the kites for the cost of the materials. Thing was, I decided to do this 3 weeks before the event, anyway with help from Janet and Madge and many late nights we managed to get the kites finished on the weekend before. So, I took 5 of them at random to test fly so that we would not have any disappointed children on the day. Of course these being a Richard Everett designed 'Eddy' they flew first time with slight bridle adjustments. So on the morning of ONE SKY ONE WORLD at Barbury we arrived quite early to set things up. I decided (luckily) to try out a few of the 'Eddys', only to discover that they wouldn't fly in the prevailing wind conditions... PANIC! All I can say is a thank you to Sandra, Doug and everyone else who helped reset all of the bridles in a very short time so that the children could fly their kites!

Peter Newson has, since the OSOW day contacted me on behalf of the Thamesdown Rotary to thank everyone taking part on the day. A day that all the Rotarians enjoyed so much that they would like to repeat it all again next year but with **MORE CHILDREN!** perhaps 50 - 60! (better get kite building Dave! - Ed.)

Part of the OSWO day was taken up with the skills of 'TED' Devil parachuting, and there is no better parachutist than 'George Mannequin', thank you George for your fine display. Only complaint from George.. "... It's a long walk back up the hill after every drop!". Myself, not having legs much longer than George's, I can only sympathies with him! (Um Dave! This George? he's a dummy! "...and dummies

Remember, when out flying your kites, look up and give them a **SMILE**, they get lonely up there!

WATCH FOR THOSE POWER LINES!

DO NOT talk!" least ways, that's what George said
- Ed.)

Thank's again to you all.

David Robinson.

The Roberts Family

(Mick over 40, Christopher 8 and Andrew 10!)

High Flyers

There I was, sat in the kitchen of the cottage we were staying in at a small village in Cumbria called Hawkshead, the time was half past eight in the morning and I was crunching my way through my 'Wheaty Bangs™' when I thought to myself "...what a day to fly an 'Everett Kite' on Helvellyn"! (that's another tenner in the post! - Ed.) At 3,116 feet high it could be a record! My boys aged 8 and 10 were woken up and a mad rush was made to get ready. By Nine Thirty we were packed and ready to go. Hawkshead village first for a 'Bite' on the summit and then a drive through Ambleside and on past Rydal Water, which left me thinking "... is this the right day to go hiking?" (I should point out that Mick is a windsurfer! - Ed.) Rydal Water was like a mirror, you couldn't see where the water stopped and the land began. On we pressed to Thirlmere reservoir and stopped at the car park called the 'Swirls'. A quick check on our clothing and we were off. Straight up! Boy it was hard work and between the moans of "... Stop dad I'm tired" and "...When are we going to eat" we made it three quarters of the way up to a place called Browncove Crags at 2819 feet. At this point there was a rush of wind over the mountain and we pressed on to the summit with the wind getting stronger by the minute. I thought to myself "...Should have gone windsurfing" but on we pressed, reaching the summit in just over two hours. With lunch over we got down to the serious bit! To the amazement of crowds of walkers out came a 'Sled' kite! After a stuttering start, off it went in the ever increasing wind. We flew it for about ten minutes, then with photographs taken the kite went back into the bag and we trudged off taking a last look at the spectacular views before we began our descent. An hour and a half later we were back at the car park, tired but elated at our achievement of flying a kite at 3,116 feet!

Mini Kite Festival!

Martin and Doug came to Chipping Norton on 21 October to get the damaged Mega-Parafoil repaired. In the afternoon we went to try and photograph an old Tweed Mill by using a kite but the wind was too strong for safe aerial photography, so we decided to fly the 'Serious Sirius' instead! Dave Robinson had also come up from Swindon with all the newspaper cuttings about the OSOW at Barbury. Within 10 minutes of launching our kites the field was full of people flying kites! Our find of the day? a 'Gibson Girl' being flown on 'Bailer Twine' which later broke and sent the kite off on a 2 mile flight! Doug, Martin and David were nearly in tears at this sight! It was later recovered and both Doug and David made offers to buy this antique find but to no avail!

Richard Everett

Articles For COWPAT HILL

We would be pleased to receive articles for possible publication in COWPAT. Hints, comments, plans even the odd moan! we'll try to make use of whatever you send! See Ron on any Second Sunday or send it to:

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The Who Did What Bit

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Another COWPAT HILL News Sheet in December