

# cowpat hill



WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS  
WINTER ISSUE 2002  
JANUARY - MARCH

## Note from the new Vice Chairman.

Just a short thank you to the members who elected me as the new Vice Chairman. I have a hard act to follow in the shoes of Arthur but I hope I shall do a good job.

Now is the opportunity to thank Arthur for all the work he has done for the club over the years. His tireless work will be missed greatly. But I hope we can rely on him to be around for us all and still throwing his teddies off his kites.

I think after the breakfast he cooked the other week at a tree planting in Cardiff I can think of a new role "CHEF".

I hope he will still write as many articles in Cowpat, as I am no scribe but I will do my best ( I will leave the writing to Di).

I would finally like to wish every one a happy and prosperous new year and look forward too seeing you all on a kite field sometime.

Tight lines

Don Baggott

## Dates for your Diary

7 <sup>th</sup> April 2002	Wellington Country Park	WS, Display & Teddies
27 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> April	Stowe Kite Festival	WS, Display & Teddies
4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Weymouth	
12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> May	Oxford Balloon & Kite Fest.	Our's so the <u>Works</u> .
18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> May	Cleethorpes Kite Festival	WS & Display
25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> May	Middle Wallop	WS
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Rockingham Castle Fly-in	WS, Display & Teddies

More to be Confirmed Check with David Robinson or Neil Harvey.

White horse kite flyers  
PO Box 585  
SWINDON  
SN3 4YR

# To the Editor

Dear Sir

First, some background. Most healthy people have articulated legs with a rather useful joint about halfway down. This joint is a marvel of engineering. (it wasn't actually engineered, it developed over millions of years of evolutionary pressure.) As in many joints, there can be some local enlargement to ensure effective operation – an example would be your door hinge which has bulgy bits sticking out. So it is with leg joints – we call them knees and most people have them. Not wishing to be an outsider in such matters, I have two of my own. They bend and, in order to keep them healthy, I expose them to the invigorating effects of fresh air and sunshine when the opportunity arises and the temperature allows.

I now come to the main point of my letter. It concerns offensive references and a dreadful inaccuracy. An article in your last issue, apparently originating from someone called Author, not only draws attention to my knees but compounds the insult by mentioning a silk *headscarf*. The carefully crafted kite was in fact an expertly made version of Giambattista della Porta's design cunningly constructed from a silken scarf but NOT a headscarf. The scarf was a NECKscarf and should not have been described as being anything else. The pure simplicity of the kite and its excellent flying characteristics obviously engendered a bout of petty jealousy and ugly thoughts in the mind of the writer.

Look to your own knees I say to Author – and then consider the feelings of others. Look to your own kites and see whether you would like them misrepresented in print.

These two injustices may have been a result of some temporary aberration – I hear you saying Gentle Reader. Not so. Worse is to come. Only a short while after the above disgraceful exhibition, the SAME PERSON promulgated the most despicable rumour – that Petworth was off. Can you imagine, Gentle Reader, the anguish that such a rumour can bring to the trusting mind? Of course, Petworth was not off. (It was gloriously on. What a splendid day. What a splendid place to put kites into trees. Thank you Joanna for a wonderful Petworth again.)

This Author person has to be stopped. We must all take serious steps to ensure that the fine principles of the WHKF are upheld and that nothing like this can ever happen again.

Despite your disclaimer stating that views expressed in the pages of Cowpat are not necessarily those of the Editor or WHKF and that every care is taken when compiling the magazine and that you cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions which may occur, I feel that the very least that you can do is to invite a grovelling and abject apology from this Author person (probably a pseudonym he his hiding behind) and publish this in your next edition.

Yours Denise O'Fend

# OXFORD BALLOON & KITE FIESTAVAL

11/12<sup>th</sup> May 2002

A new festival for your diaries, with the loss of the use of Science Museum at Wroughton, the White Horse Kite flyers have excepted an invitation to organise a kite festival to run along-side the Oxford Balloon Fiesta. The venue for this event is Cutteslowe Park, Oxford. This is a very large park that is adjacent to the A40, so should be very easy to find! Entrance for kite flyers will be free, on production of a free pass that will be in the next issue of "Cowpat" and "Kiteflier" magazines, plus a valid kite club membership card! Camping & Caravanning will be available on-site, again you will need a pass, this pass will be available from March, by sending a SAE to: White Horse Kite Flyers, PO Box 585, Swindon, SN3 4YR.

This festival will be in the format of past WHKF events, that is with the emphasis being on kite flyer's enjoying themselves, plus of course entertaining the public, incidentally there will be lots of those, last year the event attracted in excess of 20.000 on one day alone!

All of the fine detail is still to be sorted out, so please look for more detail in the next issues of the Cowpat & Kiteflier.

Regards  
David Robinson

## Bear Raising Scheme

Last year I wrote to Cowpat letting you all know that any monies raised The Ted Berets would be given to the RNLI so this year on Newbury Lifeboats day I contacted a representative from the charity who was pleased to come round and collect the tin off assorted scrap metal, foreign coins and out of date British ones that you get passed by the honest British public. I thought it would be about £80. The next day I got a 'phone call from a delighted man and the actual total can be seen from the attached certificate.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have given up you own flying time to make this happen. Most of the events which have gone into getting this have been the silly little ones where we have spent a day to drop 10 bears or less and I have been very grateful for those chances I have been given to get away for food or calls of nature.

I shall continue to contribute to the same charity in the future, so please don't leave me sitting alone. It's all in a good cause.

And finally thanks to those without whom this could not be done "The Teddies"

Arthur

  
**Lifeboats**

# **Certificate of Appreciation**

**Awarded to**

**Arthur Dibble & his 'Parachuting Teddy Bears'**

**For assisting Royal National Lifeboat Institution  
To raise funds.**

**£ 102.51**

  
**October 2001**

**On behalf of**

**Royal National Lifeboat Institution**

**175 years of turning small change into lifesavings.**

## **WELL DONE TO ALL THOSE BEARS**

Well done to all the ted berets and all them volunteers bears keep up the good work

And here's to a great 2002



# AND THE WINNER IS?

Every year this pushy lady comes to England and sells raffle tickets to win registration to Fort Worden Kite Makers Conference. The drawing was Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and the Fort Worden board has two drawings, one for here and one in the USA. This year I was very happy to call another lucky winner and I don't think that Pete Dawson has quit laughing yet. I guess he never thought that he would go to Ron and Marla's and attend the kite makers conference.

We would like to thank everyone that bought a ticket (or two) and we are looking forward to the Dawson's visit and know that they will return with many wonderful memories and stories to share.

Someone might want to tell Pete, that Ron and I run the raffle at the conference and he should bring some extra money for that pushy lady to sell him some more tickets.

Thanks to All, you're the best,

Marla and Ron Miller

## Starting Out

I think it was about five or six years ago now that our friends, Sarah and Donald tried to persuade us to join this club they were with the WHKF.

I wasn't that keen, as I had suggested kite flying as a hobby that Don and Phil could do and no more. But join we did, Don and Phil love the flying while I enjoy the "socialising" (as Dave calls it). When you tell people your with a kite flying club you sometimes get weird looks but for me I'm glad we did as we've made some good friends, met some lovely people and had some really good times, good laughs and hope to have many more in the future, so thank you Sarah and Donald.

Diane Baggett

# Welcome to Brighton Kite Festival

Thanks a hunch Arthur, for that really encouraging article you wrote about Brighton Kite Festival. Just how many WHKF members will be coming to visit us next year? Probably none, cheers mate!

Let's take this in order.

1 Most people in this neck of the woods eat at a reasonable hour, so that they can get to the pub on a Friday evening! If you had asked a well-informed Brighton Kite Flyer, you would have been pointed in the right direction for food - Brighton is the mecca for restaurants on the south coast.

2 Sorry it rained and got your clothes wet. We do all the necessary prayers to the wind and sun gods before the event, but it always rains on the righteous. Never mind, the youngest BKF members are running a tent erection workshop next year for those who are too old or incapable. Anyway, you had good weather to dry out your gear - this must have been a very unexpected bonus Arthur!

3 Most campers can see and hear the A27 traffic - did you not notice it before you pitched your tent? There is one hell of a lot of park further north of the flying site, but you might be on your own!

4 Brighton Kite Flyers always enjoy flying in the bottom of a bucket - we are well practiced and it does take some skill. I thought you liked a challenge Arthur!! All our festivals have been located in the bottom of a bucket - that's where the local council think we fly best!

5 So, the cider man had his licence refused because he applied too late and had been on holiday the week before, but he left THREE five gall barrels and we bought five galls of Harvey's bitter, which was on offer if you made some enquiries or your nose was in good working order! Obviously yours was out of action for the weekend! There was even enough bitter left for me to take home at the end!

6 So you had a long wait for the bar-B-Q? Oh dear! You even had a free ticket! Come on Arthur - you know what it's like organising a festival -get real - how often do things go exactly to plan - oh, I forgot - Swindon festival of course - silly me!

Ray Oakhill (with a few additional comments thrown in).

## Robinson ramble

Here we are Christmas over, and I haven't written my "ramble" I saw Tracy at the "Mince Pie Fly In" on the 29<sup>th</sup> Dec. asked her when the deadline was only to be informed that it was the 29<sup>th</sup> Dec. So I am sat here a day later wondering what to write!!

The "Mince Pie" was another "COLD" one, mind you, does anybody remember it not being cold! Perhaps Neil should re-name it the "Iceicle" meeting.

**Those of you who want to do the workshop should have your booking forms back to me by the time you are reading this, don't forget the deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> Jan.**

Since seeing a lot of you at the AGM, Janet, Ron, Marla and myself have been to Australia and Japan, the purpose of this trip was to celebrate Ron's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday & Janet's 50<sup>th</sup> (both in the same week!) We travelled with Japan Airlines, (highly recommended) our first port of call, on arrival down under, was Brisbane, at 7.30am. We collected our luggage and proceeded to the taxi rank, the first words uttered by the driver were "G'day Mate" which made us all chuckle, we think he was planted there by the Aussie tourist authority! We jumped into his cab and struck-up a conversation with him, he informed us that it had been raining all through the night and that they had had 6 inches of rain!

Which seemed hard to believe as the sun was shining and the temperature was about 24c, not bad for 7.30am!!! We spent two smashing days in Brisbane, the highlight being a taxi driver who took us on a half-day sightseeing trip, and only charged us the equivalent of £30!! It must be said, two days weren't enough in Brisbane, so it means that it as been written into Janet's diary to be re-visited!!

Next port of call, Sydney, arrived to lower temperatures than we had been used to in Brisbane, it was only about 19c and more humid. The strangest thing to the four of us was the Christmas trees & decorations everywhere, in the middle of summer!!!

Prior to the trip Ron had made contact with John Murray, who runs the kite festival each year at Bondi Beach, John lives in Sydney, and very kindly took us on a day's sight-seeing trip, the highlight of this day was being taken to a park, to fly kites, that is opposite the entrance to Sydney Harbour! the views are spectacular!!!

The next port of call, Tokyo, after a 9.5 hour trip from Sydney we arrive at Nurita, the airport that serves Tokyo, at about 5pm, it's about 40 miles from the city, we jumped onto coach that takes you in to Tokyo, eventually arriving there at about 7pm, the bus dropped us off opposite the main railway station, although it was 7pm it still looked like the rush-hour, there were thousands of people everywhere! Ron had directions to find our Hotel, which he was told, wasn't to far from the station, that's ok if you know in which direction to start walking! East? West? North? South? Plus of course we couldn't find any street names! So as the station was opposite we decided to walk across there and get a taxi, we found one immediately, the driver loaded our cases and then asked us where we wanted to go! of course he did this in very broken English, and as we spoke no Japanese, Ron showed him the hotel name that he had written down, he looked



at it and started to laugh, not content with this he called over some other taxi-drivers to show them Ron's piece of paper, they all thought it highly hilarious, we eventually got over to them to share the joke with us, and they all turned and started pointing across the road, our hotel was about 100 metres to the left of the station!!! we unloaded our cases and started to walk, but still couldn't find the hotel, so Ron had a brainwave, down a side street was a Starbucks coffee shop, Ron had guessed that this being an American institution there would be someone in there who spoke English, he was right! He found a young lad who just inserted the name of the hotel into his mobile telephone and up pops a full colour map of the area, on the screen, he just said follow me, and promptly walked us to our hotel!

The following day we found the kite museum, which was our main reason for visiting Japan, it's situated on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of a building that as a restaurant on the ground floor and offices on floors 2/3/4, the museum was smaller than I expected however it had a lot of very interesting things packed into it!!!

This was a whirlwind trip, two countries, and three major cities, all done in thirteen days! It was made easier by travelling with some very good friends! We want to go back and discover more of Brisbane and Japan, I hope we don't have to wait until Janet is 60 and Ron is 70!!!

Regards

Dave Robinson

## TREEPLANT AT DINAS POWYS

If you like a cold frosty morning with thick, squelchy mud then you would have been in your element at this tree-planting event. Neil, Dave, Arthur, Martin, Don and myself ventured into Welsh Wales to be there. It was a very early start with frost to be scraped off the cars before we headed over the bridge into Wales. On our arrival it was busy already with a lot of people but we soon set to and got the tent up and kettle on! Arthur's idea to put straw under foot was a godsend as it was very cold and this gave a good padding for our feet. I was hoisted onto Don's shoulders to pull a corner of the tent down which had got stuck, this took a little while as I was laughing too much but thankfully no one had a camera. I also had a meeting with a pinpong ball but we'll gloss over that one. The day turned out to be busier than I thought it would be and we made quite a few kites, about sixty I think. Dinner was cooked by Arthur and was very nice indeed, thank you Arthur. We weren't allowed to fly the Union Jack Kite but Martin, Don and Arthur did fly quite a few others. All in all it was a good day we all enjoyed ourselves but I could have done without the finale Phil breaking his arm, slipping on coke at a friends party!

Diane Baggett



## The White Horse Kitesurfers

It's the morning after my second kitesurf lesson and Cowpat has just arrived on my table (my brother's been hoarding it for a while I think). My arms still feel like jelly, my back hurts and I have to use both hands to pick up my plate of toast, as my grip is non-existent. I'm still sneezing salt and my eyes aren't really working properly.

So why put your body through the mangle? Well, the first time I saw someone kitesurfing was at Dieppe in 1996. This was Andy Preston from Flexifoil. We all stood on the beach and were thoroughly impressed, as he became a tiny speck on the horizon and then sped back to shore. He just hopped over the waves, without his kite (a Skytiger) coming anywhere near the sea. At the time I remember thinking that I must have a go at this, having tried everything else that involved a kite. As you all know, Swindon is a bit land-locked, and our farm pond isn't really big enough, so it wasn't until this year that I actually got out on the water. This was thanks to my girlfriend Esther buying me a kitesurf lesson for my birthday. As I now live in Exeter (on a diet of cream teas and zider), the sea is far more accessible. Whilst more famous for palm trees and faulty towers, Torbay is one of the best spots in the UK to learn to kitesurf, due to its relatively enclosed (but huge) bay and its winds. Under the watchful eye of windsurf guru and kitesurf expert André Shoreland I have now had two lessons, the one in May and one in November which my brother Chris joined me on. André has a tiny speedboat that can just hold three "students" and all the gear. The boat makes life a lot easier and safer when you're learning.

Having been a kite buggy enthusiast for ten years and having had some surfing experience I was sure that kitesurfing couldn't be too difficult, water's soft compared to the tarmac of Wroughton, or so I thought! To start with you have to get used to kite control in water (no running backwards when the wind drops!). During the first lesson we suffered from a lack of wind, but the second lesson was much better. We were using a 6m Wipika. Its main feature is that it's waterproof. It can't fill with water and sink as it has no cells, the fabric does not absorb water and it can be quite easily relaunched from the water with no assistance (providing you haven't got big waves!). They look a bit like a 10ft Flexifoil in flight, but with pointed ends. They are however single skin with a leading edge and struts that you inflate with a foot pump. We flew on two lines and this makes it very similar in response and feel to a 10ft Flexifoil, but with relatively more power on the edges of the window. You don't use handles, but a control bar.

We started off the suprisingly sunny November morning with a bit of body dragging. All this involves is holding on to the bar and flying the kite around the window. The wind was about 18mph so we were speeding though the waves at a good pace, drinking lots of seawater. Starting from the beach was nice as

unwinding lines whilst bobbing round in the water is a bit tricky. Once we were past the rocks, fishing nets, ferry and canoeists it got really fun (directional control around obstacles is quite good thankfully!). The wind was gusting up to 25mph. This got interesting as the kite was now picking us completely clear of the water, then dumping us down, then up again yo-yo style. If it all becomes too much and you let go of the bar, a safety system attached to your wrist pulls the kite out of the sky and you can rest and then relaunch. This works really well as I discovered. After about 15 minutes it was time for Chris elongate his arms and for me to have a rest in the boat. Body dragging in itself is a lot of fun, and a really good way to gain confidence in the water. By lunchtime we were now three miles offshore so it was time to go back to the beach, eat, and pick up the kite surfboard. During lunch sat on the beach, we were totally put to shame in our winter neoprene suits by a gang of OAPs who bounded down the beach and went swimming in just trunks and costumes, seriously hardcore!

Anyway, off again but now with the board as well. Trying to stand up on the board is difficult. You have to keep the kite overhead, and then clip it into the harness so you have one hand free. Then you must find the surf board (attached with a leash to your ankle) and get your feet into the foot straps (pointing the board in the right direction), whilst still controlling the kite (with one hand). Now you must unclip and swoop the kite into the power zone. This was where most things went wrong and lots of major wipeouts ensued. Normally the board was not in the right place so instead of elegantly rising up and moving across the ocean, I was being suddenly catapulted up into the air, then dragged face down through the sea. Seawater gets injected up your nose and the water is hard, and can wind you when you hit it chest first. There's also the flying surfboard to contend with. This gets thrown around and invariably hits your head, thank goodness for the helmet. The helmet also keeps your head warm (it's a surfing helmet, yes you can get special surfing helmets).

Toward the end of the afternoon we were all getting to the stage of standing up and plainning (moving across the surface of the water) for short periods, but we really needed a bigger kite to sustain motion. Torquay was now a long way off (4 miles) and it was getting dark. We were also very close to a huge anchored container ship so decided to wind up and head back in. We were all exhausted but enjoyed a crazy boat ride back across the waves to the bright and gaudy lights of the Torquay sea front.

I now reckon I'm at the stage where I'm ready to go out with out the boat, providing the wind direction is correct, i.e. not when it's blowing straight off shore towards France. All I've got to do is get a kite. I find the prospect of actually *buying* a kite somewhat unusual but I'm not willing to trade in my 1926 Singer sewing machine for a plastic welder and make one, well not yet anyway.

Andrew Rumming



## Sky chat

Well here we are into another year, wondering what it will bring to us all. Many things in the pipeline, but will they all come out of the tap. Reflecting back on to 2001 the Club managed to cope with most of the traumas of the year, I thank all of you that attended the AGM and making it an enjoyable meeting and since the AGM have been doing things. First Pete Willis and I managed to parachute a fair number of Teddy Bears and other droppable creatures in aid of Children in Need at Penhill School. The Club did not manage to organise a Light up The Sky Fly-in, probably just as well as there was no wind on that night. First Sunday of December some of use ventured into Wales to a Tree Planting Day just the other side of Cardiff. Ground conditions were a little on the wet side, no cars on the site proper and our trailer was hauled by a Unimog which had a very good try at getting stuck in the mud. Wing was very light but we did manage to fly some. The thing that capped it for me was when Martin Croxton was asked to bring down Dave's R's Union Jack parafoil because it "might" upset somebody. Are we as a nation of BRIT'S not proud to show our national flag, I might have understood it if it was the flag of St George or should we all be flying the EU flag??? I feel better with that off my chest.

The weather played its part again for Mince-Pie Fly-in, a covering of snow and a good mist with a little breeze greeted us first thing, followed by more snow and a lack of wind. Then by lunchtime the skies cleared and the wind blew and the sun shone, but it was a tad on the cold side. Still the "Girls" kept us warm with hot soups, drinks and mincepies. There were plenty of raffle prizes kindly donated by yourselves to which we raised £200.00 for Action Research. I would like to thank you all for your efforts in raising this money.

Now with 2002 with us time to think of Workshops, firstly we have Kathy Goodwin coming across in Feb. so do not forget first come first served. There are only so any places. Then in March there seems like a mass exodus of Club members to Fort Warden Kite Workshops. Our congratulations go to Pete Dawson in winning the raffle prize to Fort Warden, it shows that Marla with her persistence of selling raffle tickets does pay off to some one, good luck Pete. It looks as if our Kite Festival will be going ahead at Oxford with their Balloon Fiesta and we will be keeping you updated as we sort everything out. Other events are coming in all the time so if you know someone or an event that wants us to attend, please let us know as quickly as possible. Thank you.

Better close now or Tracey will be using the dreaded censoring pen.

Since this was written we have learnt that Madge is not so well and is at the moment in hospital. We all wish her a speedy recovery, but in the meantime enjoy being pampered .

Neil



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
White Horse Kite Flyers 2001.

1 Welcome

There was one minute's silence in respect of our past president Ron Gunter.

2. Apologies.

Len & Jen Purnell, Les & Tayah Purnell, Joy & Paul Methuen, Jan Poulter, Doug Irvine, Pete Willis, Doug Manners, Pete Dawson, Ken & Rachel Hay, Arthur & Martin Dibble, Franchesca Caton & Simon Hennessy.

3. Minutes of the 2000 AGM Accepted as a record of the meeting.

4. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Chairman's report

The full Chairman's report is published in this edition of Cowpat IIll.

6. Honorary secretary's report

Working towards festival site for next year. Neil, Dave and Janet attended a meeting with the organiser of Oxford balloon Festival 40,000 people attended last year. There were problems with camping, but these have now been resolved. A workshop is to be held in February and is to be run by Kathy Goodwin to make an asteroid box.

A letter of apology and thanks sent by Doug Irvine was read out as the group had gone to Boot camp.

7. Honorary treasurer Report

Copies of the accounts were passed to the members at the AGM.

8. Cowpat Editors report

Thanks were given for all the support over the last year. Apologies to anyone who had to pay excess postage on the previous magazine.

9. Vice chairman Resignation

A letter was received from Arthur tending his resignation from the committee. The letter was read out in full to the members. Arthur still intends to remain with the club and will stay an

active member as he has in the past. Resignations were also received from Brenda Purnell and Dave Jones. It was suggested that we use these resignations as a natural shrinkage of the committee. Brenda Purnell proposed that a new date for the AGM should be fixed. Any date as long as it wasn't the second Sunday of November. A vote was taken and all were in agreement for changing.

#### 10 Election of Officers.

It was agreed that the post for President be left open

Chairman- Neil Harvey (proposed Dave Robinson, seconded Don Baggett.

Vice chairman- Don Baggett (proposed by Donald Capewell, Seconded Dave Robinson)

Secretary- Dave Robinson (proposed Neil Harvey, seconded Di Baggett)

Treasurer- Janet Robinson (proposed John Barker seconded Don Baggett)

Editor- Tracy Willis (proposed Neil Harvey seconded Don Baggett)

#### Committee

Doug Jones, Martin Croxton, Ron Miller, Phil Scarfe, Pete Willis, Jon Caton, Di Baggett,

Donald Capewell and all the above officers.

#### 11 Festival 2002.

Talks still ongoing with Oxford. The festival will still take place on the second weekend in

May.

12 Other Events Mince pie Fly on 29<sup>th</sup> December. As many dates as possible that come in will

be published in Cowpat.

#### 13 Equipment for 2002.

Club looking to purchase a new tent to replace blue one. Nothing is definite at this time.

A suggestion was made by Dave Robinson that the club purchase a bench in Remembrance of our past President. The bench could possibly be sited at Barbury castle if permission was granted all were in agreement for Dave to pursue this. Betty Gunter donated a Cody and Reel to the raffle today, these had been made by Ron.

#### 14 Club projects

Suggestions for club projects and a co-ordinator were asked for no suggestions were given this is to be taken up at the next committee meeting.

15 Any other Business

Thanks to Headlands School for accommodating us at weekends when we couldn't get to Barbury. Our Sympathies to Lyn and Brian for loosing their stock. Lyn And Brian Will be staying at Barbury until September 2002.

Phil Scarfe has been invited by the Drachen Foundation to go and share ideas on Para foil Making. We did manage to get on TV The club appeared on Hooked on Hobbies a video is going around and anyone wishing to see it should see Neil.

16 A proposal for Honorariums for Neil, Dave, Janet and Tracy was made all in agreement.

Close of meeting.

### Chairman's Report 2001 (given at A.G.M.)

What a year!! The first thing we lost our President Ron Gunter. He with myself had the foresight to realise that Kite flying in this area needed a body to gel kite flyers together to promote Kite Flying. So way back in the early eighties things began to move and ending up with the formation of "The White Horse Kite Flyers" and Ron becoming our President. A post he held to his death, only change was that we made him Life President a few years ago. He is sadly missed and our thoughts are with Bet. Bet keeps in touch with me and through "Cowpat" to know what is going on in the WHKF.

Foot and Mouth reared its ugly head this year causing the loss of our flying site, but much more serious the loss of Brian and Lynne's stock and livelihood for most of the year. All the more galling when your stock were uninfected. We also lost a few events including our own Festival, bc it we ran a Fly-in at Headlands School. The weather was kind to us and an enjoyable time was had by all and the Club made a new friend in Dan (the good looking) Kuriashi. It will be interesting to see how many members will be using bamboo in new projects. Some other events were lost, but it seemed that most weekends we were out and about with workshops,teddy dropping and displays. We also had our fair share of weather, including a few clearing up showers. On the whole the weather was quite kind to us.

Club projects did not really get going this year, although Arthur and Pete W did make a train of Conyne Deltas. But the rest of us seemed to just sit back. Lets hope for more effort this coming year. The Club's new marquee worked well and stood up to the winds well and we will be discussing that later on in the meeting.

Next years Festival is causing some headaches at the moment, especially for Dave R. but again more later. Other events are already coming in, including some that fell by the wayside last year. So all volunteers one pace forward now ready for next season as it looks like being a busy one again. This year we have seen new members come along and giving a hand. But as always more hands make lighter work.

It is with regret that we have the resignation of our Vice Chairman Arthur, although he is not leaving the Club. He has also some interesting proposals to the constitution to be discussed later. Arthur has done sterling work for the Club all the years he has been Vice Chairman and I personally thank him very much for his efforts. I do hope as always that you all will take a full part in this AGM as this IS the time for you to have your say. But please do not be to long winded.

This year we have to thank our new mine hosts----- for allowing us to hold are AGM here. Ross and Dawn last years mine host are now settled in in Cornwall and after a



difficult start to the year because of F & M are now going well and send their regards to all. They also say please call in if any of you are in the area and sample their Fish & Chips. As you are aware that the AGM has been brought forward one week so that our Hon Treas. Can have her 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday in the sun in Oz. I thank you for co-operating with this request. It seems a bit drastic and expensive to go through all that trouble just to get out of holding a party here. Happy Birthday Janet. Because of the date change there are a few regular faces missing, most are doing time at a Boot Camp, well they are trying to improve their sports kite skills. Good luck to them all. Last year Doug & Doug Doug did well in the novice section at Middle Wallop and next year will have to compete at a higher level.(when will they ever learn)

This year a fair number of you have told me to sit down and shut up (in the nicest possible way) and watch the world go by. On most days it was well appreciated, it's the photos of me studying the inside of my eyelids that I don't like. I must also thank the Club for the donation to help buy another car when the old one was going to cost too much to repair. The back axle was in a bad state from pulling the trailer around here, there and everywhere. Thank you again. This year my family and I had the disappointment of an abortive holiday in the States, but we have another chance to go, not like all those poor people who died on the 11<sup>th</sup> September. As they say every cloud has a silver lining, although I doubt that Doug Jones thinks that way after hitting a British Rail platform with considerable force. He was booked on a trip to Lunen Kite Festival and very kindly offered his place to me at short notice. It was a trip well going for and a lovely time was had by one and all. I do hope that you are recovering well now Doug and begin to start using your right arm again for what it is meant for. Flying Kites, cheers Doug.

Now I have been going on long enough, if I do not stop soon I will be taking over from Robbo for rambling, so just a few thanks to some of the members. Firstly to our Hon Sec who worries for the whole Club all the time. That's why it is seldom that he flies kites, because he is busy worrying, and to Janet for having to live with it. Secondly to Tracey and Pete (he is the computer operative) for "Cowpat". The only thing is that we may have to limit the size to a set number of pages to get it the right weight for postage. Dave R. has a few complaints about excess postage charges. Sorry. Thirdly to the Millers, especially Marla for all they do for the Club behind the scenes and for Marla being Marla and Ron for the e-mails. Fourthly to all those who help get kite kits ready for workshops. Whether it is cutting out skins or taping ends and punching holes or making up complete kites. It all makes life easier on the day, thank you. Lastly to all of you who help to make the Club what it is in whatever way, thank you.

I hope that we go forward into next year without the world problems that are nothing to do with Kite Flying, but are all to often effect us. Thank you.

Neil.

To follow in next mag:-

Report on Boot Camp III

And a few other stories that would not fit in here!!!!

## And finally

As a new year starts people make resolutions. We've all eaten too much chocolate, that extra slice of Christmas cake and added yet another pound on. Talking to some other fellow committee members we thought we would like to loose weight but as an added incentive we would do it as a sponsored slim and monies raised would go to The Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Anybody wishing to join me can contact me at the address below for details and sponsor form lets loose weight and help a worthy cause at the same time. A Very Happy New Year to you all.

Tracy.

## Kite Flying Safety Tips

### The NEVERS of Kite Flying

- Fly a kite in wet or stormy weather, try to keep your kite line dry.
  - Fly a kite near power lines, transmission towers or aeriats.
  - Fly a kite with wire or anything metallic in the line.
  - Fly a strong pulling kite without wearing GLOVES.
  - Leave odd bits of flying line etc on the flying site.
  - Fly a kite at over 200 feet\*.
- \*Kite festivals may have C.A.A. clearance to fly higher.....ASK!

### The Things to AVOID

- Motorways, roads, car parks railway lines or buildings.
- Airfields and low flying air traffic patterns.
- Members of the public....stunt flyers please take care!
- Those kite easing trees.
- Animals, they can be frightened by kites.

*Remember...your kites can get really quite lonely up high in the sky. just occasionally, look up and give them a little SMILE.*

... AND PLEASE, MIND THOSE POWER LINES!

## Where the WHKF go to fly their kites

WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS fly at Barbury Castle Country Park, Wroughton, Swindon, Wilts on the SECOND Sunday of each month  
Will YOU be there?

Local WHKF contacts are:

Neil Harvey on: (01285) 740295

Don Baggett on: 01980 652843

Dave Robinson on: (01793) 824208

and

Lynn & Brian Simpson on: (01793) 845346

COWPAT HILL

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