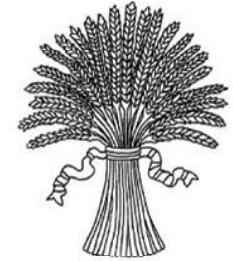


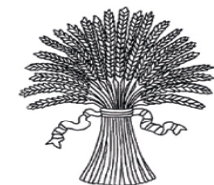
# WHEATSHEAF TRUST



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Talking about Risk

Jonathan Cheshire  
Chief Executive





# Perceptions of risk

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Is it more likely that

- You will die in a road accident in the next 12 months, or
- The asteroid Apophis will hit the earth in 2036?
- Road accident :  $1/43,500$
- Apophis:  $1/45,000$



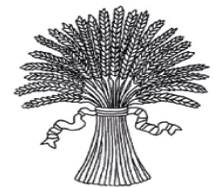


# Perceptions of risk

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Is it more likely that

- That you will be killed by a shark, or
- That you will die from a lightning strike in the next year?
- **Shark: 1/3,000,000**
- **Lightning: 1/18,700,000**





# Perceptions of risk in sail training

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- Pride of Baltimore II
  - Gypsy Moth
  - Asgard
  - Concordia
  - Royalist
  - Lord Rank
  - Zodiac
  - Frederyk Chopin
- 
- So - are we on the defensive?





# Risk is good! Professor Heinz Wolff

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'we have a biological need for risk-especially present in young people-but essential to all. If not managed well by society by providing enough legal risk-in schools, sports clubs, the arts and social & family environments- this need for risk will become mismanaged and cause risk-seeking behaviour by individuals-antisocial, criminal or simply unhealthy. A Risk in Time Saves Crime!'





## Heinz Wolf (cont)

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'Risk prevention for the few means waste creation for all. As resources are finite, society must therefore set priorities based upon which risks are most important. The current attitude of society to many forms of risk is totally irrational, scientifically indefensible, and economically damaging: pre-occupation with safety dissipates a significant amount of national resource.'





# Evolutionary Psychology

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- We are the descendants of the early humans who were the best risk-takers
- We are hard-wired to take risks





# Societal Advantages

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- The more we try to reduce risk, the more likely young people are to find antisocial ways of enjoying risk
- Unintended consequences – eg. the school run







# Risk is good! **Libby Purves**

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Referring to Ellen MacArthur and other great adventurers in a Times article (8th February 2005): ' these fearless people are an aristocracy of adventure, a tiny minority who assert their human right to push their limits and risk their lives. Meanwhile the rest of us sink ever deeper into a fearful, torpid, timid, risk-averse culture which causes incalculable harm to health, education, mental balance, the spirit of enterprise, even the economy. Every week we have more evidence of the slimy, choking advance of jobsworth regulation which seeks to make us "safe" but actually makes us weak'.





# Other arguments

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- The standard
  - Teambuilding
  - Confidence
  - Trust
  - Tolerance
  
- As against other forms of OE
  - you can't get off

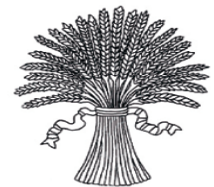




## Other arguments

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- The wilderness experience - in Western Europe, pretty much the last wilderness
- The vessel as an allegory for the planet: a self-contained ecosystem. Finite supplies of
  - Food
  - Water
  - Fuel





# Who are we talking to?

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- Parents
- Government
- Regulators
- Schools, social workers, other commissioners
- Press/media





# What's our story?

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Over to you!

