

# **BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF KITES & AIR CREATIONS**

*Celebrating 21 Years of Flying High*

w: [www.kite-festival.org](http://www.kite-festival.org) e: [info@abc-pr.co.uk](mailto:info@abc-pr.co.uk) t: 0117 977 2002

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **WALLACE & GROMIT FLY HIGH FOR KITE FESTIVAL**

Aardman's Oscar-winning plasticine characters Wallace & Gromit will be trying out their kite flying skills at this year's Bristol Kite Festival to mark a new partnership between the Bristol International Festival of Kites & Air Creations and Bristol Children's Hospital charity, the Grand Appeal.

As the Kite Festival celebrates its 21<sup>st</sup> year, the Grand Appeal, spearheaded by the popular duo, has been chosen as the event's official charity partner.

Young patients from across the region being treated at Bristol Children's Hospital are set to benefit from the new partnership, with money raised at the event helping to fund a new 'datascope' heart monitor for the oncology and adolescent wards.

Wallace & Gromit will be joining in the Festival fun, which takes place at Ashton Court on September 1 and 2. The famous characters will be making a star appearance in the main Arena when they will help 14 year-old Ellie Pope, who is currently being treated for leukaemia at the children's hospital and her team of angels fly her specially designed pink sparkly Angel kite. They will be joined in the main arena by a whole host of heavenly angel kites designed by local kite maker Nick James and flown by various kite flyers attending the festival.

Visitors to the Grand Appeal stand in the main marquee will have the chance to enter a competition – also open to patients at the Children's hospital - to win a kite specially signed by Wallace & Gromit's creator Nick Park.

Charity organisers will also be running a fundraising tombola over the Festival weekend to win a host of exclusive Wallace & Gromit and Aardman prizes.

The popular annual event features an action-packed two days of colourful flying displays, spectacular kite-fighting battles, synchronized routines flown to music and amazing special shapes. Complementing this aerial extravaganza will be an array of ground-based inflatables and air sculptures, including 25 metre long dragons, a purple people eater and a walk-through coral reef decorated with sea creatures.

Kite Festival highlights in 2007 include sea-themed kites such as giant mermaids, swirling octopi, a flying scuba diver, killer whale and a 30 metre long multi-coloured manta ray designed by Peter Lynn. There will also be extreme sport kite surf wings, kite-propelled buggies and land boards, aerial combat with traditional Japanese fighting kites and free children's kite-making workshops run by Avon Kite Flyers.

Avril Baker, Kite Festival organizer, said: "Having taken part in the Cancer Research UK's Race for Life with Ellie and her team of Angels, we were inspired to raise money this year for young cancer patients who come from all over the region to be treated at Bristol Children's Hospital. Kites are a great way of having fun and we hope that lots of people will join us at the festival and help raise money for this very worthwhile cause. One of my personal highlights of the festival will be seeing Wallace & Gromit with Ellie Pope supported by a host of heavenly angel kites. "

Laura Densem, fundraising manager at the Grand Appeal added: "We are delighted to be chosen as charity partner for such a popular family event and in true Wallace & Gromit style, are looking forward to a weekend of 'cracking' entertainment!"

The Festival has recently announced Ritter Sport chocolate as main sponsor's of this year's event, and is delighted to once again have both the Bristol Evening Post and GWR FM as media partners giving their promotional help and support to ensure the event gets off to a flying start.

To find out more about the Kite Festival visit [www.kite-festival.org](http://www.kite-festival.org) or contact the Festival Office on 0117 977 2002.

For further information about the Grand Appeal and its fundraising activities, visit [www.grandappeal.org.uk](http://www.grandappeal.org.uk) or call 0117 927 3888.

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For Bristol Kite Festival press & media enquiries or images please contact:  
Avril Baker or Lynn Gibbons, Festival office tel: 0117 977 2002  
e-mail: [kites@abc-pr.co.uk](mailto:kites@abc-pr.co.uk) or visit [www.kite-festival.org](http://www.kite-festival.org)