

BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF KITES & AIR CREATIONS

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PRE EVENT PHOTO & MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

DATE: Thursday 30 August 2007

TIME: 2.30pm onwards

PLACE: Ladies Mile, Durdham Downs, Bristol

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FESTIVAL HIGH FLYERS PREPARE TO TAKE TO THE SKIES

Specially invited kite flyers with an amazing selection of colourful, special-shaped kites and air creations will be limbering up on Bristol's Durdham Downs on **Thursday 30 August**, in preparation for the 2007 Bristol International Festival of Kites & Air Creations.

This year's 21st anniversary festival is taking place in Ashton Court Estate over the weekend of **1 & 2 September 2007**.

At the preview on the Downs on 30 August will be:

- **Giant swirling beasts and sea creatures kites**, including a manta ray, octopus and teddy bear - designed and flown by **Peter Lynn**, from **New Zealand**
- Larger-than-life **flying mermaids** by Italian kite maker **Marco Casadio** plus his newest creation **an Italian cherub** and flying **pirate ship**
- **Paintings in the sky** - dramatic hand-painted **portraits** by Italian artist Claudio Capelli
- **Tribute to the stars** - photographic style hand-stitched faces of stars including Debbie Harry, Johnny Cash and Mohammed Ali
- **Artistic creations** - intricate designs hand-stitched onto large Japanese kimono kites, like stained glass windows by **Janneke Groen from Holland**

- **Avon Kite Flyers** 30 metre long **raspberry pink & black gecko**, two 13 metre flo-yellow and turquoise **baby geckos** and Martin Lester's distinctive **jogging legs**, flying body parts and his latest design an ethereal **spirit**
- The home grown talents of Bristol-based **Nick James** with his host of **heavenly angels, devils and birds**
- The festival's **20th anniversary kite** – created from panels hand stitched or painted with designs contributed by kite guests over the years

The Festival programme which runs from 11.00am to 5.00pm both days features an action-packed two days of colourful flying displays, spectacular kite-fighting battles, synchronized routines flown to music the thrills and spills of kite powered buggy racing and land boarding.

To add to the festive atmosphere there will also be free children's kite-making workshops, fantastic play structures and selected specialist kite traders, a licensed bar and an array of appetizing food and drink concessions. Local gourmet pie company Pieminister have come up with a special 'Fly High Pie' to mark the occasion whilst Bristol Beer Factory, which is running the event bar, will also be selling a festive brew called 'Blown Away'.

The festival has teamed up with Ritter Sport Chocolate as the main sponsor this year and is supporting Wallace & Gromit's Grand Appeal helping to raise funds for vital equipment on the adolescent and oncology wards at the Bristol Children's Hospital.

Admission free for pedestrians: parking on site £6 per car. Vehicular access via Longwood Lane entrance only. The Clifton Suspension Bridge will be open during the festival weekend

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Public information tel: 0117 974 5010 or visit www.kite-festival.org

Further information & photographs available contact Festival Office 0117 977 2002 or see media section of website