

# BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF KITES & AIR CREATIONS

*Celebrating 21 Years of Flying High*

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Special Shapes to star at 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Kite Festival**

Special shape kite designers from New Zealand, Italy and Spain will head the line up at this year's Bristol International Festival of Kites & Air Creations. This spectacular two day aerial extravaganza, which is celebrating its 21st birthday this year, will take place in Ashton Court Estate, Bristol, over the weekend of **1 & 2 September**.

The high-flying contingent includes the world's leading special shape designer and maker Peter Lynn, from New Zealand. Peter is one of the most popular guests and a regular visitor to Bristol. His distinctive 28m long flying octopus and 30m manta ray kites are always a highlight of the event and when airborne these incredible aerial creations can be seen from the M5 motorway flying high above Ashton Court. Other show stopping special shaped kites in his collection include colourful giant geckos that paddle in the sky, huge flying turtles, flying fish and teddy bears.

From Europe the festival will again welcome Marco Casadio an Italian designer who now lives in France. Marco is renowned for his voluptuous mermaids and Neptune kites which are designed to mimic a graceful swimming action in the sky whilst his latest design is a chubby Italian Cherub made in collaboration with fellow kite flyer and Italian artist Claudio Capelli.

A new face at Bristol will be inspiring Spanish designer Pedro Gonzalez. He and his brother create distinctive 3D animal shapes including giraffes, and devils which are flown one above the other in a long train.

Other festival highlights in 2007 will include:

- paintings in the sky – dramatic painted portraits by Italian artist Claudio Capelli
- tribute to the stars – Kelvin Woods fantastic photographic style hand-stitched faces of stars including Debby Harry
- spectacular and colourful sea-themed kites including a flying scuba diver and Roly the mega killer whale
- the brute power of vast man-lifting kite surf wings and the thrills and spills of kite-propelled buggies and land boards
- aerial combat with traditional Japanese fighting kites each vying to be the last one in the sky
- The Decorators – world renowned quad-line display team performing synchronised routines choreographed and flown to music
- free children's kite-making workshops run by local kite group Avon Kite Flyers

Festival organizer Avril Baker says: "We are thrilled that many internationally recognized kite flyers will be travelling especially to Bristol to be with us for our 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary festival. These guys are great showman and work really hard to put on a good display for the crowds who love to see these big special shapes being launched and flown. "

The Festival programme runs on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd September from 11.00am to 5.00pm. To add to the festive atmosphere there will also be fantastic play structures and children's attractions, selected specialist kite traders, a licensed bar and an array of appetizing food and drink concessions.

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.

**There will be a media preview featuring many of the festival's invited guests and their kites on Thursday 30 August on Bristol's Durdham Downs from 2.30pm onwards.**

## **Notes to Editors:**

The festival is delighted to welcome Ritter Sport Chocolate as the event's main sponsor this year. Visitors will be able to try three varieties of Ritter Sport chocolate and join in the Kite Festival's own 'day at the races' at the Ritter Sport Chocolate Derby Hoppers! Adults of all ages are invited to take to a 'hopper horse' and race down the inflatable derby track.

As the Festival's main sponsor, Ritter Sport chocolate will also be entering into the spirit of the event by flying a specially designed Ritter Sport team kite in the Japanese kite fighting battles and running a 'People's Choice' competition where the public can vote for their favourite kite at the festival and a chance to win some fantastic prizes.

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