

# BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF KITES & AIR CREATIONS

*Celebrating 22 Years of Flying High*

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### Blue Peter set to fly at the Bristol Kite Festival

Blue Peter, the BBC's flagship children's television programme, will be flying high over the skies of Bristol on Sunday 31 August. Blue Peter has chosen the Bristol International Festival of Kites & Air Creations as one of the locations to film activities to celebrate the programme's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Blue Peter presenters, including Andy Akinwolere, will spend the day at the festival on Sunday 31 August joining in the fun and trying out their flying skills.

As part of the activities to mark Blue Peter's special birthday a group of local children will start the day by painting designs onto 50 kites which have been specially made by kite expert Karl Longbottom. These kites will then be bridled and assembled into a spectacular long train ready for the children and presenters to fly in the main arena in the afternoon.

The Blue Peter presenters will also be taking part in the exciting Japanese kite fighting battles. Flying their large hexagonal kites, sporting the programme's distinctive ship logo, the Blue Peter teams will join other experienced flyers in mock aerial combat vying to be the last kite flying in the sky.

The aim of the battle is to bring down all the other kites by either cutting through opponents' flying lines, tipping other kites off balance or using the flying line to pull down other kites so that they touch the ground. These tricks require a great deal of skill and energy as flyers run around the arena manoeuvring themselves into the right position.

Avril Baker, festival organiser said: "It's great that Blue Peter will be joining us at the Kite Festival this year and we are really looking forward to contributing to the programme's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. The festival is a real family event and I am sure that children visiting will be thrilled to see the presenters and the programme team in action."

**Notes to editors:**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Bristol International Festival of Kites & Air Creations will take place in Ashton Court Estate over the weekend of **30 & 31 August 2008**.

Organizers are promising an action packed aerial extravaganza featuring spectacular flying displays, kite fighting battles, breathtaking synchronised routines flown to music and awesome power kites as well as colourful ground-based inflatables and air sculptures of all shapes and sizes. International kite guests will be winging their way from as far as Japan and Tasmania to join flyers and enthusiasts from the UK and Europe.

Festival highlights will also include:

- spectacular array of air creations including original air sculptures and a collection larger-than-life inflatable creatures including a 25 metre long pink alligator, a giant puffin and a walk through coral reef.
- a 30 metre long multi-coloured manta ray and a gaggle of geckos designed and made in New Zealand by festival favourite Peter Lynn
- the brute power and thrills of kite-propelled buggies and land boards in the skilled hands of the Flexifoil pro-riders team
- spectacular and colourful sea-themed special shaped kites including swirling octopi, a flying scuba diver, a giant mermaid and Roly the mega killer whale
- breathtaking synchronised team flying with routines choreographed and flown to music
- fighting kites of Afghanistan including kite-making workshops in support of the charity Afghan Aid
- free children's kite-making workshops

The Festival programme runs both days from 11.00am to 5.00pm. Free admission but parking on site £7 a car. 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 appetising food and drink stalls.

All the information can be found on the Festival's website, which will be updated throughout the year – [www.kite-festival.org.uk](http://www.kite-festival.org.uk).

**For press & media enquiries or photographs please contact:**

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**[Pre event media preview – Thursday 28 August](#)**

**Some of the festival's stars will be flying in early to display their kites at a media preview on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August, from 2.30pm, on Bristol's Durdham Downs.**