

BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF KITES & AIR CREATIONS

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PRE EVENT PHOTO & MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

DATE: Thursday 28 August 2008
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 from around the world with an amazing selection of colourful, special-shaped kites and air creations will be limbering up on Bristol's Durdham Downs on **Thursday 28 August**, in preparation for the 2008 Bristol International Festival of Kites & Air Creations.

This year's 22 anniversary festival is taking place in Ashton Court Estate over the weekend of **30 & 31 August 2008**.

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

- **Giant swirling beasts and sea creatures kites**, including a new giant cuttle fish together with a larger than life manta ray, octopus and teddy bear - designed and flown by **Peter Lynn**, from **New Zealand**
- Stunning quad-line synchronised routines flown by 6 person team **iQuad** from **USA**
- **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**
- Spectacular 3D cellular kites, inspired by Gothic cathedrals, made by **Robert Brassington** from **Tasmania**

- **Traditional and modern Japanese kites flown by Mosaaki Modegi**, president of the Japanese Kite Association and director of the Tokyo Kite Museum
- **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**
- **Rock n'roll themed air creations** by local designer **Anne Harris**, including: Ali the large pink aligator(*See You Later Alligator*) Molly the spider (*Good Golly Miss Molly*) a large Puffin with shoes on (*Blue Suede Shoes*) and a Purple People Eater.

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.

On Saturday **Scrapheap Challenge** will be providing engineering mayhem and madness as teams vj for glory with their blow football machines competing against resident expert Dick Strawbridge. Whilst on Sunday **Blue Peter** presenters will be joining in the fun as they fly their own kites as part of the programme's 50th anniversary celebrations.

The festival has for the second year running teamed up with the Bristol Children's Hospital's 'Grand Appeal'. The charity's distinctive mascots Wallace & Grommit will be appearing at the festival to help raise funds for vital equipment on the adolescent and oncology wards.

Ends

Notes to Editors:

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

Admission free for pedestrians/cyclists. Parking on site £7 per car. Vehicular access via Longwood Lane entrance only – follow AA Signs.

The Clifton Suspension Bridge will be closed to vehicles but open to pedestrians and cyclists. Bristol Community Transport will provide a minibus linking in with local bus services at bus stops nearest to Clifton Lodge to enable anyone with mobility difficulties and their companions to access the site.