

# BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF KITES & AIR CREATIONS

*Celebrating 23 Years of Flying High*

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## NEWS RELEASE

**Date: 4 September 2009**

### **Accessible transport to Kite Festival**

Bristol Community Transport (BCT) will, for the fifth year running, be providing accessible transport for those visiting the **Bristol International Festival of Kites & Air Creations** which is taking place will be held in Ashton Court on **Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 September**.

In response to the Kite Festival's recent fundraising appeal BCT is also providing this service free of charge to the organisers as their contribution and support for the event.

The Kite festival arena programme runs both days from 11am to 5pm. It will feature spectacular flying displays, aerial battles, breathtaking choreographed routines and awesome power kites as well as colourful examples of kites, trains, banners and inflatables of all shapes and sizes. To add to the fantastic 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.

To enable anyone who experiences mobility difficulties and their companions to access the heart of the festival site BCT will be providing a free shuttle service linking up with local bus services that drop off festival goers at bus stops nearest to Clifton Lodge. The Clifton Suspension Bridge will also remain fully open to vehicles and pedestrians during the festival weekend.

The BCT minibuses will collect passengers from the Clifton Lodge entrance to Ashton Court (close to bus stops for services the 358 and 359), at quarter past and quarter to the hour from 10.15am until 4.45pm on both Saturday and Sunday. The minibus service will then collect passengers from the heart of the festival at twenty minutes past and ten minutes to the hour and drop them back to near the bus stop. At peak times there may be some movement in the timetable allowing for queuing traffic entering and leaving

Ashton Court. The pick up points will be clearly marked with signage. Timetable information is available at [www.bristolcommunitytransport.org.uk](http://www.bristolcommunitytransport.org.uk) and will also be displayed at the pick up points

The minibus shuttle service is aimed at meeting the needs of those with mobility problems including wheelchair users. Subject to sufficient space on each bus the service will, however, also transport anyone from the bus stop to the heart of the festival site, and back again at the end of their visit.

The organisers of the Festival recognise the importance of providing accessible transport to the Festival and also making appropriate links with existing public transport provision. They also appreciate that for some people it can be a long walk from the bus stops near Ashton Court to the Festival on "The Plateau". The service is completely free to festival visitors.

Festival organiser Avril Baker says: *"We are delighted that BCT will again be providing this shuttle service for us, and believe it will enable many more people to attend the event by public transport who were worried about walking a long distance. We have successfully worked with BCT for several years and those that have used the minibus service found it of great benefit. We hope that by running the special service again this year more people will be able to enjoy our festival than ever before.*

*"We would also particularly like to thank BCT for their sponsorship of our event this year as they are covering all the costs of providing the shuttle service. BCT do a fantastic job providing volunteer drivers and bus services to help community groups and other not-for-profit organisations across Bristol. We are delighted to be working with them again and hope that in return we can help raise their profile and public awareness of the great work they do for the city."*

Jan Jones, Chief Executive of Bristol Community Transport explains, *"It is essential that everybody has the ability to attend these famous and large scale events at Ashton Court and BCT is proud to provide accessible transport that meets a wide variety of need. The service is socially inclusive and not just for disabled people, many people can experience mobility difficulties when attempting to tackle these steep gradients at this site including parents with buggies, the elderly, or those with breathing difficulties or suffering from temporary illness."*

Information on the kite festival is available at [www.kite-festival.org.uk](http://www.kite-festival.org.uk) . Information on public transport to the Festival site is available from Travelline South West at [www.travelinesw.com](http://www.travelinesw.com) or by calling 0871 200 22 33.

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### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **Kite Festival:**

Access to the Festival site is via Clifton Lodge for pedestrians and cyclists, with vehicle access via Beggarbush Lane/Longwood Lane only for the Festival car park.

Admission to the event is free. Minibus shuttle service is free. Car parking on site £7. For further information about the event and arena programme please visit [www.kite-festival.org.uk](http://www.kite-festival.org.uk)

#### **Bristol Community Transport:**

BCT is the largest operator of community transport in Bristol, and operates a fleet of 27 vehicles for use by community groups and not-for-profit organisations across Bristol. They also operate a series of community bus routes and a Ring-and-Ride service. Their services are available to support similar events to the Festival in and near Bristol. They are one of only a handful of organisations awarded the 'Social Enterprise Mark' in recognition of their status as an effective social enterprise.

**For further information visit [www.kite-festival.org.uk](http://www.kite-festival.org.uk) or contact:**

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