

BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF KITES & AIR CREATIONS

Celebrating 23 Years of Flying High

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NEWS RELEASE

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Special Shapes set to star at Bristol Kite Festival

Sharks, butterflies, snakes, angels, cherubs, cars and jogging legs-shaped kites will be launched into the skies at this year's Bristol International Festival of Kites and Air Creations taking place in Bristol's Ashton Court estate over the weekend of **12 & 13 September**.

Organiser Avril Baker is 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." Guests will be winging their way from as far as Australia & New Zealand to join flyers and enthusiasts from Europe.

Spectacular sea-themed special shapes will include flying mermaids, sharks and dolphins by Phil McConnachie from Australia jostling for space with creations by New Zealander, Peter Lynn, the world's leading special shape designer and a popular visitor to the festival. His distinctive 28m flying octopus and 30m manta ray kites are always a highlight of the event and can be seen for miles flying high above the skies of Ashton Court. His show stopping menagerie also includes giant geckos that paddle in the sky, huge flying turtles, fish and teddy bears. While fellow Kiwi Roberts van Weers will also be flying his distinctive shoals of fish and even a 3D monkey.

From Europe the festival will again welcome Italian-born designer Marco Casadio with his trademark giant mermaids and mermen and cute flying cherubs and whilst closer to the ground fellow Italian Edoardo Borghetti will fly his giant colourful 'bols' or spinning wheels Jan van Leewen from Holland is known for his comical trains of inflatable animal faces, buses and cars.

Artistic kites will also feature including beautiful hand stitched patchwork designs by Janneke Groen from Holland, which resemble like flying stained glass windows together with dramatic aerial portraits by renowned artist Claudio Capelli from Italy and Kelvin Woods from the UK.

For followers of extreme sports there will also be demonstrations of the brute power and thrills of vast man-lifting surf wings, kite-propelled buggies and land boards in the skilled hands of the Flexifoil pro-riders team and breathtaking displays by the current UK team and Individual sport kite champions.

The festival finale each day will feature a mass fly in of Martin Lester's iconic jogging legs, flying bodies, divers and spirit kites. His display will include a pair of giant footballer's legs complete with a football to mark the festival's support for the Back Bristol 2018 England World Cup bid.

Also on site there will be free kite-making workshops for children in conjunction with Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Notes to Editors:

The Festival programme runs on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September from 11.00am to 5.00pm. Free admission - 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 website, - www.kite-festival.org.uk.

Media Preview - many of the festival's guests will be displaying their creations on Bristol's Durdham Downs on Thursday 10th September from 2.30pm onwards.

For press & media enquiries or photographs please contact:

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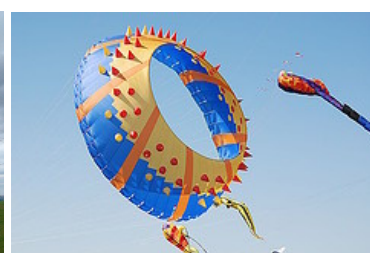
Robert Van Weers
Flying fish



Peter Lynn
Octopus



Peter Lynn
Gecko



Eduardo Borghetti
'Bol'