



Issued: 6 July 2010.

## **PRESS & MEDIA OPPORTUNITY**

Date: **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

Time: 11.00am to 12.30pm

Place: Durdham Downs at Sea Walls (*area bounded by Rockleaze Road & Circular Road*)

Event: **Bristol Boxkite Centenary Celebration.**  
Mass ascent of 100 mini box kites by local school children

**One hundred box kites made and decorated by primary school pupils from Bristol and South Gloucestershire will be flown on Durdham Downs on Saturday 17 July to celebrate the centenary of the first public flight of the famous Bristol Boxkite aircraft.**

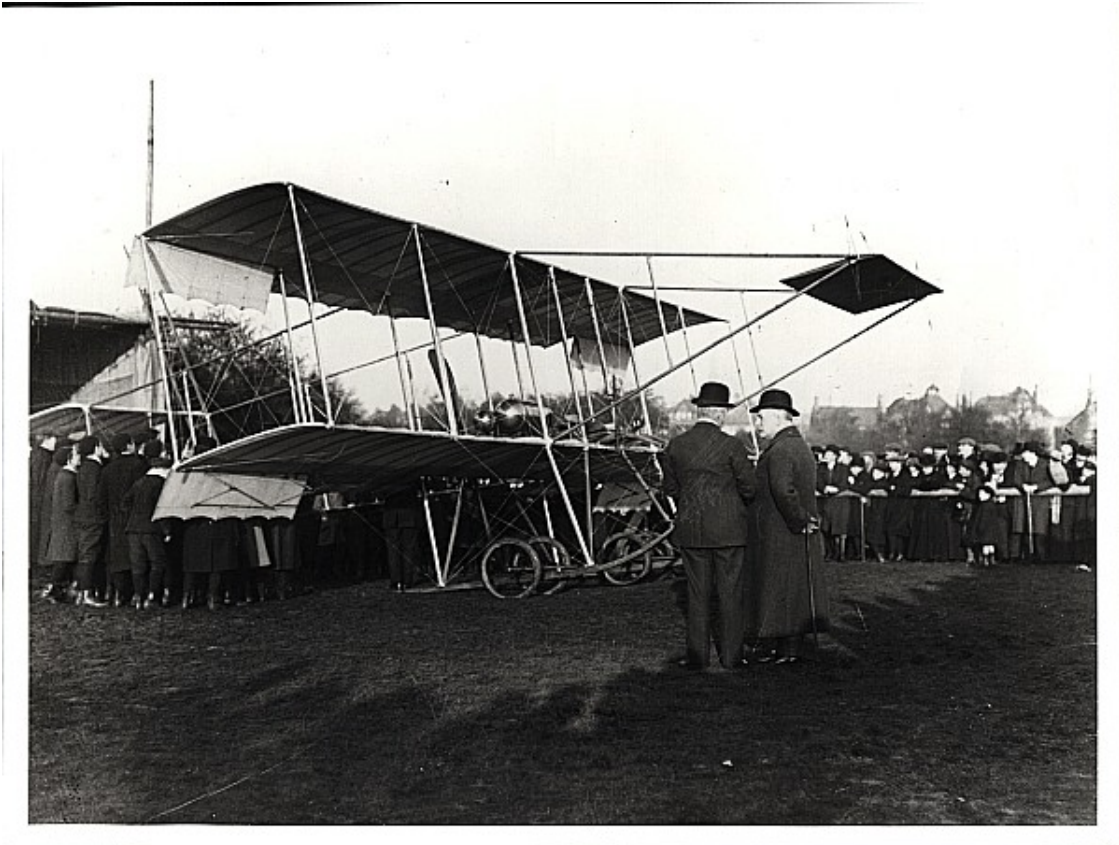
This historic celebration has been organised by the Bristol Aero Collection, in conjunction with Bristol International Kite Festival, as part of the Year of Flight celebrations (BAC 100) marking 100 years of the Bristol Aeroplane Company. The Bristol International Kite Festival (4 & 5 September) will also be celebrating BAC100 with a historic pageant of kites through the ages focussing on kite development over the past 100 years.

The Bristol Boxkite was designed and manufactured by Sir George White's newly formed British & Colonial Aeroplane Company and in 1910 flew from Filton to the Downs. Photographs record the Boxkite aircraft flying over the Avon Gorge and Isombarb Kingdom Brunel's iconic Clifton Suspension Bridge. Sir George White's company was the forerunner of the Bristol Aeroplane Company, Bristol Aircraft Ltd, Bristol Aero-Engines Ltd, and Bristol-Siddeley Ltd which developed into today's BAE Systems, Airbus and Rolls-Royce at Filton and Patchway. 'Bristol' aircraft and engines became known worldwide and are synonymous with all that is best in British aviation: Bristol Cars Ltd continue as an independent company.

Sadly no original Bristol Boxkites aeroplanes survive today, although three authentic flyable reproductions were created for the film *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines*. One was sent to Australia, one to the Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery where it still hangs in the foyer, and one to the Shuttleworth Collection in Bedfordshire which is still flown during their flying displays.

Interviewees: Oliver Dearden, Chairman, Bristol Aero Collection  
Avril Baker, organiser, Bristol International Kite Festival

Contacts on day: Oliver Dearden 0786-017-1787  
Avril Baker 0780-395-4120



Sir George White (with cane) on Durdham Downs 1910

**Notes to Editors:**

Participating Primary Schools include:

Hillfields, Fishponds  
Shield Road, Filton  
Charborough Road, Filton  
Filton Hill, Filton  
St Michaels, Stoke Gifford  
Coniston Road, Patchway

Permission has been granted for photographs to be taken of children taking part in the flying activities within the roped-off Flying Area.

## **Bristol Aero Collection:**

The Bristol Aero Collection was formed in 1990 to collect and show to the public Bristol designed and manufactured artefacts from the inception of the Bristol Aeroplane Company and its predecessors at the end of the nineteenth century through to Concorde and Space satellites at the end of the twentieth century.

Over the last twenty years this has been achieved through the dedication of volunteers at Filton who show Concorde G-BOAF to the visiting public and other volunteers at Kemble where a wide ranging collection of artefacts and archives in the museum are displayed in a hangar environment. This covers Bristol aircraft, helicopters, aero-engines, missiles, rockets, satellites, road transport, housing, boats and commercial products.

### **The Future**

It is the objective of BAC to bring together Concorde G-BOAF and the Aero Collection's artefacts and archives, presently at Kemble, into a New Aviation Museum being planned by The Concorde Trust adjacent to the Filton runway and accessible from the Mall at Cribs Causeway.

In addition to celebrating and promoting aviation and its major economic impact on the Bristol area the new Aviation Museum will, through an entertaining and stimulating experience for all visitors, undertake a schools' education programme encompassing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics thereby encouraging the young people of today to enter a local industry which has a world-class reputation in science and innovation.

Website: [www.bristolaero.com](http://www.bristolaero.com)

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Filton  
Kemble

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## **Bristol International Festival of Kites & Air Creations**

This year's festival will take place in Ashton Court over the weekend of 4 & 5 September. This aerial extravaganza will feature amazing special shapes, kite-fighting battles, synchronised team routines flown to music and awesome power kites. Colourful ground-based air creations, children's entertainment and free children's kite-making workshops. Visitors can buy from kite stalls or bring their own kite to fly. Also on site fabulous food, a licensed bar and a new Crafts2Fly4 craft marquee.

**For highlights from last year and ongoing updates & information for 2010 visit [www.kite-festival.org.uk](http://www.kite-festival.org.uk) or call Bristol Kitestore tel: 0117 974 5010**

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