



BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF KITES & AIR CREATIONS

Celebrating 25 Years of Flying High

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NEWS RELEASE

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Accessible transport to Kite Festival

Bristol Community Transport (BCT) will, for the seventh year running, be providing accessible transport for those visiting the **Bristol International Festival of Kites & Air Creations** which is taking place in Ashton Court on **Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 September**.

The Festival arena programme runs both days from 11am to 5.00 pm and 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 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. The festival's nominated charity the Great Western Air Ambulance will again be offering the public the chance to look round their aircraft on site and even to parachute their favourite teddy bear from a kite as part of fundraising activities.

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 near the Clifton Lodge entrance to Ashton Court .

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 10.45am 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 from 12.20pm to 6.20pm 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 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 keen that everyone feels welcome and is able to visit the Kite Festival. We and are delighted to be working with BCT again to help those worried about walking far to still be able to attend the event by public transport. Over the years take up of this special shuttle bus service has grown and last year over 300 people used the BCT buses. We hope that by running the special service again this year even more people will be able to enjoy our festival than ever before.*

"BCT does 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."

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."*

The Clifton Suspension Bridge will also remain fully open to vehicles and pedestrians during the festival weekend.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Kite Festival:

Information on the kite festival is available at: www.kite-festival.org.uk. Information on public transport to the Festival site is available from Traveline South West at www.travelinesw.com or by calling 0871 200 22 33.

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. Clifton Lodge entrance will be closed to all traffic and the golf course will also be closed for the weekend.

Admission to the event is free. BCT 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.

Bristol Community Transport:

BCT is the largest operator of community transport in Bristol, and operates a fleet of 30 vehicles for use by community groups and not-for-profit organisations across Bristol. They also operate a series of community bus routes. Their services are available to support similar events to the Festival in and near Bristol. BCT was the first organisation in Bristol to be awarded the 'Social Enterprise Mark' in recognition of their status as an effective social enterprise.

For further information visit www.kite-festival.org.uk or contact:

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