

BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA

11-14 AUGUST 2016



MJ Ballooning

Ashton Court Estate

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/mjballooning**

How the fiesta started...

In the 1960s Don Cameron came to Bristol to work as an aeronautical engineer. Some days he would go to a gliding club and one day a member had a magazine showing the new type of ballooning that had just been created in America. Together they decided to build a hot air balloon, the Bristol Belle (G-AVTL). The group of seven all contributed to building it and all learned to fly in the balloon over time. This was Western Europe's first modern hot air balloon. As Don Cameron's passion for ballooning grew, in 1970 he quite his job and founded Cameron Balloons Ltd. In the pub one evening in 1978 the idea of a balloon meet at Ashton Court was discussed. This is how Europe's largest balloon festival began.



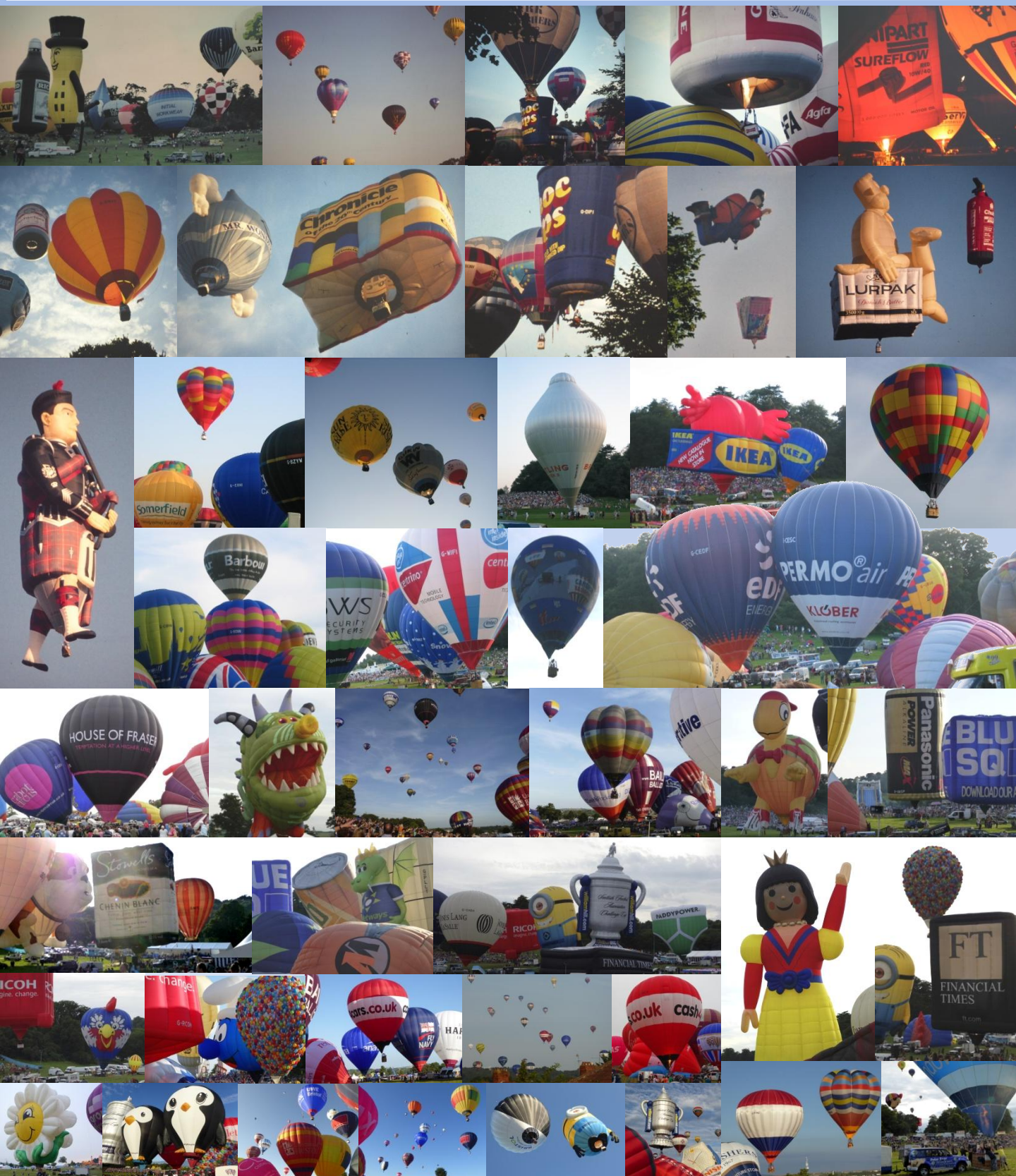
G-AVTL at the 2012 Bristol International Balloon Fiesta

The fiesta's first year was 1979, and 27 balloon teams turned up to participate, most being local pilots but with some coming from Germany. It took place between 7th and 9th September. Around 100 flights took place during those 3 days and it was a huge success. The fiesta continued each year, attracting more and more people. It's now in its 38th year and more popular than ever!

1983



Fiesta 1981 - 2015



Favourite Special Shapes



George Bear



Mister Bup



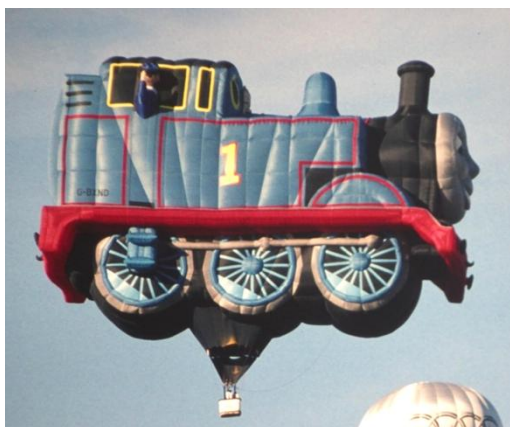
Chubb



IKEA



Choc Dips



Thomas the Tank Engine



Caramel Bunny



Snow White



BabyBel



Scottish Piper



Sonic



Churchill



Monster

Favourite Special Shapes



Coca Cola



Budweiser



AGFA



Stowells



Bud E Beaver



Unipart



Smurf



Bic Chick

Sainsbury's Flying Circus

Sainsbury's had five special shapes built in 1996 to create a huge advertising tool that could take off, literally. They all attended the Bristol International Balloon Fiesta for a few years after they came out of the Cameron Balloons Factory. In 1997 they were seen flying out of College Green together whilst their LBL 31A hopper stayed tethered. This attracted lots of attention, as it's not everyday you see a giant strawberry and bunch of carrots floating past your office window! College Green was packed - nobody wanted to miss this spectacle.



Favourite Special Shapes



Michelin Man



Lurpak



RAC Van



Festo



Rupert Bear



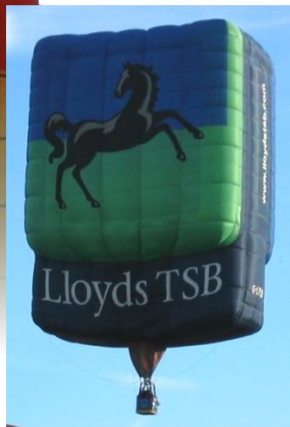
Action Man



Jaguar Car



Pete the Pylon



Lloyds TSB



Eagle



Bertie Bassett

Photo Credits Page 5-7

Chris Hayden: G-HEYY, G-BUNI, G-SEGA, G-ORAC, PH-IOH, G-BTML, G-DHLI, G-BVMJ, G-PYLN, G-BYIX, G-OHDC

Ballooning Pictures: G-CGIS, Sainsbury's Flying Circus

Matt Cleaves: N-804BB

JEM Ballooning: G-BXUG

ALL OTHERS: MJ Ballooning

Fiesta Schedule



Thursday 11th August 2016

12:00 – Gates Open
12:30-14:00 – Balloon Tethering
18:00-20:00 – Mass Balloon Launch
21:00 – Night Glow and Fireworks
22:30 – Gates Close

Friday 12th August 2016

06:00-08:00 – Mass Balloon Launch
08:00-10:00 – Balloon Tethering
12:00-14:00 – Balloon Tethering
18:00-20:00 – Mass Balloon Launch
20:30 – Gates Close

Note that arena events and mass ascents will be cancelled if weather conditions are not suitable. Ballooning is weather dependant, as are the other arena events.

Fiesta Schedule




Saturday 13th August 2016

06:00-08:00 – Mass Balloon Launch
08:00 – Model Balloons
08:00-10:00 – Balloon Tethering
12:00-17:30 – Arena Entertainment
18:00-20:00 – Mass Balloon Launch
21:00 – Night Glow and Fireworks
22:30 – Gates Close

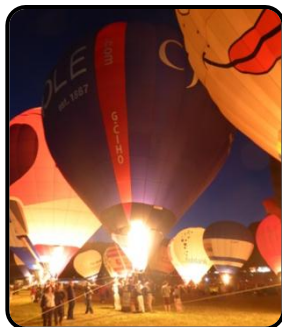
Sunday 14th August 2016

06:00-08:00 – Mass Balloon Launch
08:00 – Model Balloons
08:00-10:00 – Balloon Tethering
12:00-17:30 – Arena Entertainment
18:00-20:00 – Mass Balloon Launch
21:00 – Night Glow and Fireworks
22:30 – Gates Close



Note that arena events and mass ascents will be cancelled if weather conditions are not suitable. Ballooning is weather dependant, as are the other arena events.

Ballooning Info



Night Glow & Fireworks

The famous Bristol Night Glow is a great spectacle of the event, with 20-30 balloons glowing to music. It's often up to 30 minutes later than expected, but there will be a 10 minute countdown when the pilots start inflating their balloons. It usually last for just over 20 minutes and then the balloons are pulled down and the fireworks begin. The night glow is rarely cancelled, but we'll let you know if it is on social media.



Mass Balloon Launch

Starting at roughly either 6am or 6pm, you can watch 100+ balloons lift off in 1-2 hours. Special shapes fly in all the launches, not just in the launch on Thursday evening. Especially for the evening launches, make sure you get there early to guarantee yourself a place to watch the balloons take off. Don't worry if they're not flying for quite a while after scheduled time, as sometimes the balloonists have to wait for the wind to calm down to enable them to fly. It's more than likely at some point the ascent will be slightly delayed, so don't leave until you know it's cancelled! We'll be attending the pilot briefings in the balloonist marquee, so we'll try to post an update about what's happening on our Twitter Feed and Facebook Page. If we are unable to do so, wait until the official fiesta announce it.

Thursday Balloon Launch

On Thursday 11th August, about 40 balloons take to the skies, not 100+. The special shapes and ride balloons fly, as well as some private pilots. ...more info on Page 12-14...



Saturday & Sunday Morning Ascents
CLASSIC *fm*

Ballooning Info



Balloon Tethering

Tethering in the arena will firstly take place on Thursday afternoon, starting at normally about 1:00pm. After Friday and Saturday morning's mass ascents balloons will tether, but perhaps not after Sunday's because it's the last day. If the launches are cancelled there will be tethering instead. Friday afternoon at about 1:00pm will see more action take place, but not on Saturday and Sunday because there's no lunchtime press for advertising. While many of the usual balloons will tether, the BBM&L and other owners will get their balloons inflated.



Inflation Races

Inflation races are when 2 teams with a balloon each have a race to see who can get their basket off the ground first. In 2015, Exclusive Ballooning's Fortnum & Mason balloons and Flying Enterprises' Power Rangers were the ones that took the challenge. They may happen slightly later than the scheduled time. In 2015 there wasn't meant to be a race on Sunday afternoon, but there was so there's a good chance you'll see one! Some other balloons might take part as well.



Model Balloons

The model balloons work exactly the same as a normal hot air balloon, but of course on a much smaller scale. You can see them after morning and evening mass ascents and before nightglows. Sometimes the models are paraded around the arena, but most of the time you will be able to see them next to the balloonist marquee. Look out for the new Tibet model envelope!

Thursday Launch

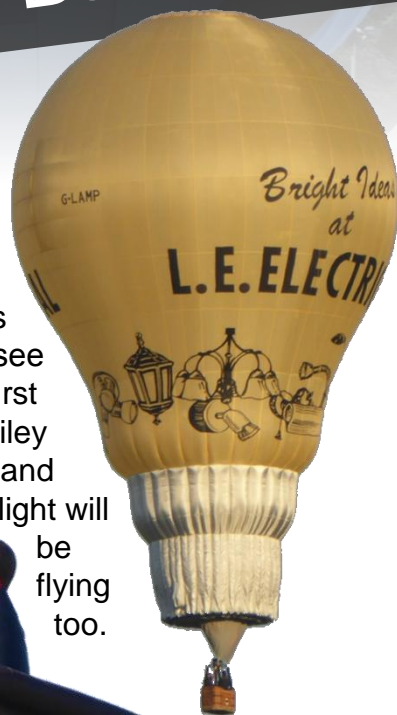
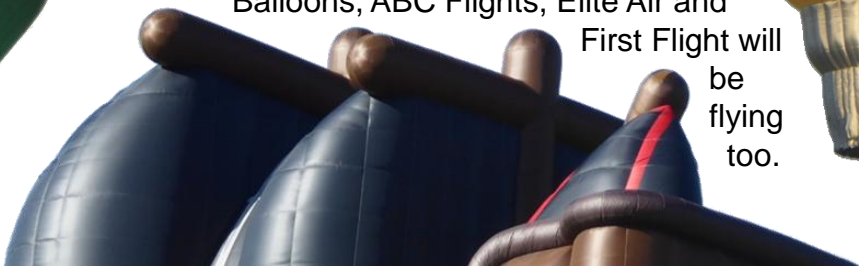


- Special Shapes
- Ride Balloons

The Thursday balloon launch at 6pm is not a mass ascent, but a launch for special shapes, ride balloons and the odd local pilot. Normally around 35 balloons take to the skies and it's a great chance to see most of the special shapes inflated for the first time this year! The Ballooning Network, Bailey

Balloons, ABC Flights, Elite Air and

First Flight will be flying too.



Thursday Launch

Here are the balloons you can expect to see at this year's Thursday evening launch. Not all balloons here will appear, but most of them will.



Thursday Launch



The collage features several hot air balloons with different designs and logos. The balloons include:

- A rainbow-colored balloon.
- A blue and white striped balloon.
- A red and black checkered balloon.
- A green and white striped balloon with 'MUM & MASON' text.
- A red and black striped balloon with 'SAPPER' text.
- An orange and red striped balloon with 'SHREZZ.COM' and 'BLONHARTEN' text.
- A yellow and black striped balloon with 'mford balloon' text.
- A red balloon with 'Virgin' text.
- A large dark blue balloon with a white grid pattern, 'ALUK' logo, and 'G-CINN' text.
- A white balloon with 'Caffaello' text.
- A white balloon with 'ESTD HARDYS 1853' text.
- A purple and white striped balloon with 'UTILITY WAREHOUSE' text.

+ more

Most of these balloons will appear on the Thursday, and some other ones will too if the launch goes ahead.

14 / MJ Ballooning / August 2016

mjballooning.com

+ more

Most of these balloons will appear on the Thursday, and some other ones will too if the launch goes ahead.

From pages 15 to 17 you can find out if the special shapes that attended last year's fiesta will be returning in 2016

White Label Hop

On Friday morning this giant hop shaped balloon tethered, registered G-MALT. Thunder & Colt made this in 1989 and it's now owned by the Hertfordshire Balloon Collection. We went over and it looked in very good condition for its age. They also own one of the Budweiser cans (G-BVIO). The owners probably won't be bringing 'hoppy' back this year.



Mr Wonderfuel British Gas Flame

The night before the 2015 fiesta started we had an email from the BBM&L about what balloons of theirs would be appearing. This was the first, and it was inflated after the mass launch on Friday morning alongside a few other shapes. The 31 year old envelope was only inflated in the arena for a short time. The BBM&L wouldn't tether the same shape two years in a row, so G-BLKU won't be at Bristol this year. Look out for G-PUTT and G-BTEF.



G-OXBY

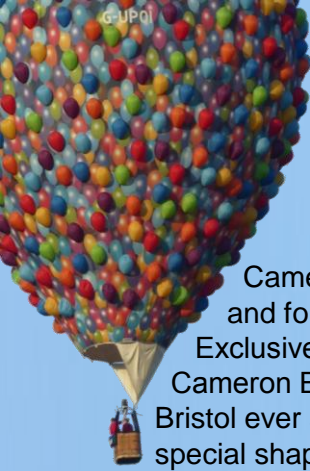
Built in 1989, we saw the BBM&L (British Balloon Museum & Library) tether G-OXBY on Saturday morning last year. We won't be seeing G-OXBY in 2016 as the BBM&L are bringing 2 other special shapes to tether! This balloon probably won't be seen for a while now because last year it was taken to Bristol and Tiverton.



Boy & Girl

Last year it was a surprise to see Oons Wiefke and Oons Kearlke at Ashton Court, despite some hints they would be there. It's unlikely they will appear this year because Lighter Than Air are bringing the Paddy Power special shape.





Swatch Watch

In 2015 G-BMJJ attended and flew 5 times for its 30th birthday. That was just a one off, so it won't be seen this year.

UP

Cameron Balloons built G-UPOI in 2009 and for the first year it was operated by Exclusive Ballooning. It's now flown by Cameron Balloons and they've brought it to Bristol ever since 2012 when it flew out of the special shapes rodeo. It only had the house cover

on the basket in 2009 because that was the only time when the contract was active. Doing this was a hassle for the pilot as they didn't have a clear view, so Exclusive Ballooning had to send up another balloon to help them fly safely. 7 years on, in 2016, Cameron Balloons will be flying it again as well as their other round demos.



Puddles & Splash

Both balloons are owned by Exclusive Ballooning and were

made by Ultramagic (type: B-70). Puddles was built in 2014, whilst Splash was only revealed a few days before the 2015 fiesta began. This took place at Longleat. G-UINS and G-UINZ flew together 5 times throughout the 2015 fiesta

and took off at the same time. They won't be back this year unfortunately - the only place in the UK that you can see them this year is Longleat!

Satzenbrau Bottle

Ballooningmedia have tethered their beer bottle special shape every year since 2013, but this year it won't be making an appearance. This is due to the new Southern Plasticlad contract being their priority. See page 14 to see if their light bulb special shape will be attending!

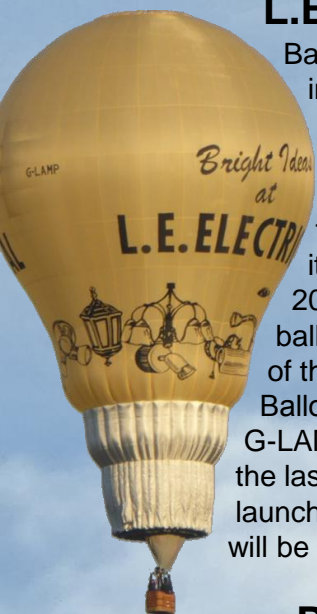
Pirate Ship

Exclusive Ballooning's G-ENMY stole the show after Friday mornings mass ascent. We could see this huge envelope, which is one of the largest in the world, in 2016.



L.E Electrical Light Bulb

Ballooningmedia bought this balloon in 2014 and it was manufactured in 2000. It's attended for 2 years as well as going to a few other local events along the way. They're bringing it again to light up Bristol in 2016 with their new round balloon and G-BIBO. Because of their new contract Ballooningmedia won't inflate G-LAMP as much as they have in the last couple of years. Every launch either G-BIBO or the light bulb will be flying alongside Southern Plasticlad.



William Hill Scottish Cup

Exclusive Ballooning had this special shape built in 2013 by Kubicek, standing 125 feet tall. It will be attending once again this year. G-WHIL was seen tethering lots in 2015, only flying on 2 of the 7 flyable slots. This is because they have some other contracts, so of course they need to fly their balloons as well as just the special shapes.



Stuart the Minion

Last year the Airship & Balloon Company flew G-DMEZ on Thursday and Friday, and this year the special shape will be returning. It may only appear on the first two days again, as



ABC now have the Tata contract and passengers to fly.

Palletways Dragon

Slick the Dragon has featured at Bristol ever since 2010 when it was made by Lindstrand. It's operated by Lindstrand Media and it was a firm favourite amongst many in Bristol. Despite the fiesta announcing the Palletways team would be there a few months ago, unfortunately they won't be.



RICOH
imagine. change.

Ricoh Cube

Built in late 2012, G-RCOH is operated by Exclusive Ballooning and will be returning for its fourth year at Ashton Court. The team will be tethering and flying the Bristol built special shape over the 4 days of the fiesta, weather permitting.



Luke Jerram's Moon

Measuring seven metres in diameter, the inflated moon features detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface. At an approximate scale of 1:500,000, each centimetre of the internally lit spherical sculpture represents 5km of the moon's surface. Over its lifetime, the Museum of the Moon will be presented in a number of different ways both indoors and outdoors, so altering the experience and interpretation of the artwork.

Museum of the Moon



Balloons Attending

Visit our Facebook Page to see what balloons are attending this year.



BBM&L



G-BLKU 'Mr Wonderful' - Friday AM 2015

The British Balloon Museum & Library was formed in 1979 by a group of balloonists. They preserve balloons when they're no longer flyable or when their contracts have ended. In their large collection of hot air balloons they have many old special shapes that were flown around the UK in the 1980s and 90s. These include all 3 Chubb Fire Extinguishers, the Financial Times newspaper, the Old Parr whiskey bottle, both British Gas Flames and the second Mr Peanut (G-NUTS) shape. They have lots more shapes too, as well as rounds. One of the round balloons they have is the Bristol Belle, which is the envelope Don Cameron partly built in 1967. This last seen at Bristol in 2012 when it tethered for about 30 minutes during a launch. This was the year that the BBM&L returned to the fiesta after 3 years away. They have inflation days that happen every 2 years too. This year even the Scottish Piper was inflated!

In 2002 they brought Mr Peanut



G-NUTS 'Mr Peanut' - Thursday PM 2012

for a tether one afternoon, and a decade later they tethered exactly the same balloon at the Thursday special shapes rodeo. In 2008 they flew the Beer Barrel G-PINT out of the Friday PM ascent, alongside shapes such as the Monster and IKEA. Half way through the 2012 ascent, G-BGOO, the British Gas Flame balloon (Mr Gas), started to inflate and the BBM&L got both stood up next to each other. A year later in 2013, they got their beer mug out of its bag for a quick tether before the glow. G-PUBS was in the arena with Flying Enterprises' Stowells shape after the Panasonic Battery and Cockerel balloons had left the site. In 2014 the BBM&L decided to bring two airworthy balloons, the Nescafe mug and Maxwell House coffee jar. After Miss Daisy had taken off on Thursday G-RMUG was left tethering with the title sponsor balloon, Hardys, amongst others. The night after conditions weren't as good, but the launch still went ahead, and after they had flown G-BVBJ was inflated and stood up next to Ballooningmedia's beer bottle. Last year they attended for the fourth year in a row, bringing Mr Wonderful and G-OXBY, which were both manufactured in the 1980s. The BBM&L were busy tethering on Friday and Saturday.

2016 This year the BBM&L are attending with the Golf Ball (G-PUTT) and Champion Sparkplug (G-BETF). They will both make an appearance at some point, whether that will be at the first ascent or after morning launches like 2015, we don't know. We can't wait to see them! G-BETF will need light winds to be able to stand up correctly. When they're about to inflate we'll let you know live from the arena!



Golf Ball G-PUTT - Built 1989



Sparkplug G-BETF - Built 1977



Maxwell House Coffee Jar G-BVBJ - 2014 Thursday PM



**The British
Balloon Museum
& Library**

G-NUTS photo credit: Ollie Warren

Ones to Watch

G-CCTS

Below are the balloons that are either brand new, haven't attended ever or for at least 5 years.



G-CIZM



G-STAV



G-VBAO



G-BSIC



G-BWEW



G-KLTB



G-OJNB



G-VBAH



G-TORK



G-BVWB



G-TIMX



G-LEAT



D-OKAP



G-CJEF



G-RFLO



G-OAER



G-BTEF



G-PUTT



G-CIND



G-CIUA



PH-MAR



HS-SAN



G-ERRI



PH-GRK



G-PIGZ



G-CJIH



G-BUSV



G-CCR

G-STAV, G-TORK: Ballooning Pictures
G-BSIC: Andy Marshall
G-BWEW, G-BTEF, G-BUSV: UK Balloon Register
G-OJNB: Martin Axtell
G-TIMX: Jamie Edwards

G-LEAT: James McDonald
D-OKAP: Andrew Kaye
G-CJEF: Dave Baker
HS-SAN: Frank Wechter
G-CIUA: Trevor Read
G-CCR: Chris Leatherdale

PH-MAR: Christoff Deyaert
G-PIGZ: Shropshire Star



MJ Ballooning

Paddy Power + CJ Hole

Built in March 2013 by Lindstrand, this year the Bristol Balloon Fiesta will see Paddy Power's lucky underpants (G-EGES) return. The shape has only been seen at the Bristol fiesta in 2013 when it appeared only once at the special shapes rodeo. Other appearances it's made include Taiwan, the Tiverton Balloon Festival and at Cheltenham. However, other than that it's not been seen much at all. It's currently for sale so they're probably bringing it to show it to everyone, and what better place to do it than at Europe's largest annual balloon festival! The envelope has been out of the bag for a total of 21 hours altogether, with well over half of those hours spent tethering. We don't know whether it will fly at Bristol, but we don't think it will. It's owned by Lighter Than Air and they also fly the CJ Hole balloon (G-CIHO), which is less of a regular sight across the Bristol skies nowadays than it was a year ago. CJ Hole will be at this year's fiesta. Last year they attended with CJ Hole and the boy and girl shapes, which both glowed on the Saturday night. G-CIGK also took off twice. If the Paddy Power shape is bought the artwork will have to be removed, which can be easily done.



Stowells Wine Box

The Stowells Wine Box G-STOW special shape was built by Cameron Balloons in 1998. It's operated by Flying Enterprises, who also own Raffaello, Hardys, the Power Rangers and Fishtank. Unfortunately this shape isn't seen very much anymore, as live contracts are always the priority. It's still in very good condition even though it's

Seen here taking off from the 2004 Friday morning mass ascent. This was a great launch with many shapes flying, including Chubb, IKEA, Churchill, Bud E Beaver and the Scottish Piper. There's a chance we'll be seeing 'PIPY' again this year! Even though Stowells won't be flying, it will be great to see it again.

Credit: Matt Cleaves

2004



nearly 20 years old, and could easily fly. It will be at the Thursday special shapes launch this year as it's passed its C of A (certificate of airworthiness) that took place a couple of weeks ago. They tethered it in 2010, 2012 and 2013 on the Thursday. The last time it took off from the Bristol Balloon Fiesta was all the way back in 2007, where many other special shapes flew too, including the Cadbury's creme egg and Jaguar Car. It passed its C of A with no problem so hopefully it will actually make an appearance this year!

2013



Longleat Lion

For 2016, Longleat have decided to have a balloon made to celebrate their 50th anniversary. It was built by Ultramagic in Spain and it's type B-70, just like Puddles and Splash the penguins. It's registered G-LEAT and says 'Longleat Sky Safari' on the back of the envelope. Exclusive Ballooning revealed their new balloon on 3rd March on social media. At the end of March it was seen tethering outside the Longleat house, its first time inflated in the UK. The following weekend they tethered it again, this time alongside Puddles and Splash the penguins, for G-LEAT's first public outing. Below you can see a photo of the Longleat Lion flying over London in June. Longleat were corporate sponsors for the London Balloon Regatta, showing off their balloon to many thousands of people.



^Credit: James McDonald^

Flying alongside...



Bristol 2016

This new special shape will make its Bristol debut at this year's balloon fiesta, as it flies alongside the rest of Exclusive Ballooning's fleet. Expect to see it taking centre stage at the Thursday evening ascent, where G-LEAT will hopefully be flying, or may remain tethered. Keep a look out for it over the four days!



©GrahamBloomfield

Thanks to Graham Bloomfield for this photo.

Ballooningmedia

G-BIBO

Built in 1980, this Cameron V-65 can still be seen flying in the Bristol skies today. It will be at this year's fiesta, taking turns to fly each slot with the light bulb. G-BIBO also took part in the press launch from the Downs on Friday morning, taking off by the Miles Architectural and Keltbray balloons.

Light Bulb G-LAMP

The L.E Electrical Light Bulb special shape was bought by Ballooningmedia in 2014. It was built by Cameron Balloons in 2000. Later that year they took it to the Bristol Balloon Fiesta, flying it from the special shapes rodeo and Friday morning launch. After flying it in Bradley Stoke in August 2014, it's next outing was the Bath Balloon Fiesta. It was back for Bristol once again a few months later. The team flew it many times, taking advantage of the amazing weather that greeted us that weekend. It's a difficult envelope to inflate because the mouth is so narrow. There isn't much room for the flame from the burner to go, and sometimes it's easy for the mouth to close in on itself. This happened at Tiverton last year, so it had to be pulled down and inflated again.

NEW

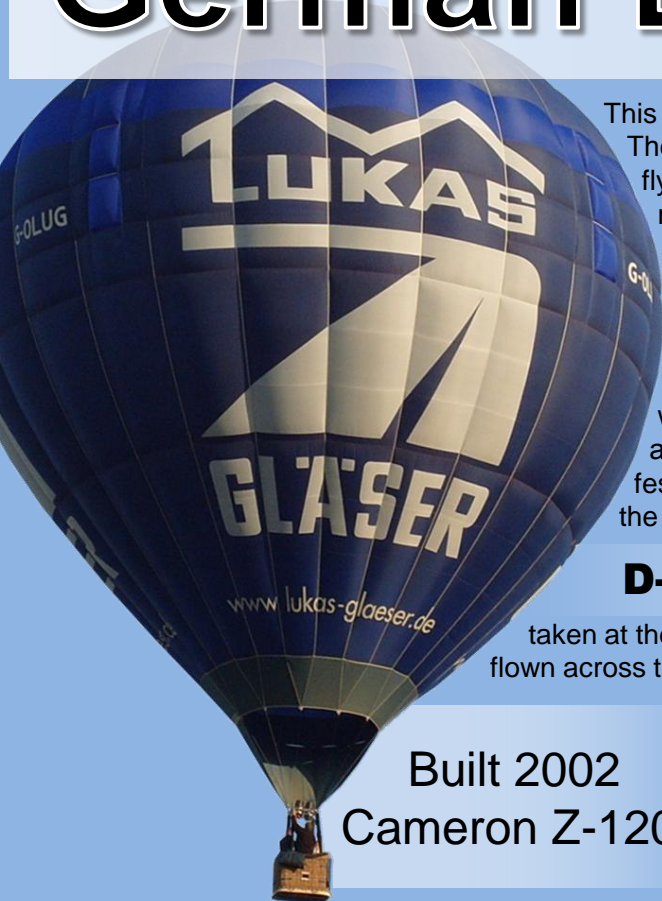
This brand new Southern Plasticlad balloon will debut at the fiesta. It's built by Lindstrand and registered G-CJIH. The

manufacturing process has taken

slightly longer than anticipated, but it should be ready in time for the Friday AM launch. Hopefully this mass ascent will go ahead to enable its first ever appearance. They are running a photo competition where you can win a balloon flight for two. Take plenty of photos and send your best ones to them for a chance to win!

All three of these balloons will appear. Ballooningmedia also have the Satzenbrau beer bottle and Unipart hopper (G-BXJH), but they have decided not to bring them this year due to their priority being the new Southern Plasticlad contract.

German Balloons



This year two balloons registered in Germany are attending. They're not going to be flown by the same pilot, but both pilots fly the BabyBel and Action Man special shapes that we saw return to Bristol in 2012. Unfortunately Action Man failed its CofA, so can now only tether. They also have the 'Murr Elektronik' balloon that attended in 2013, which is too German registered, D-OLLE. Snow White was another one of their very popular shapes, that was seen at the 2013 special shapes launch and Saturday morning launch. That was stored in Germany for 20 years until they finally got it out and flew it, and it wasn't in bad condition. They took it to many festivals, including Albuquerque. See below for more info about the two you can see from August 12th onwards!

D-OLUG

Lukas Glaser's last appearance at the Bristol Balloon Fiesta was in 2012. This photo was taken at the 2009 Saturday evening mass ascent. This one has even flown across the Channel in 2011, flying with 49 others!

Built 2002
Cameron Z-120



Lukas Glaser at the 2007 Saturday AM ascent



Lindstrand
Z-150A

D-OKAP

This balloon had its maiden flight in the UK on 30th July, taking off from Sywell and landing in Lavendon near Northampton. Bristol will be its first balloon festival under new ownership. Keep a look out for it, as we might not see it again.



**GET CLOSE TO THE
BALLOONING ACTION!**



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and check out their
website for ballooning
photos from all over the
UK



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Ballooningpictures.weebly.com

Social Media + Weather

If you want to ask us any questions over the four days of the 2016 Bristol International Balloon Fiesta, it's very simple. MJ Ballooning has a Facebook page and are on Twitter. You can message the page or tweet us (ideally tweet us or comment on Facebook) and we'll get back to you as soon as we can. On these 2 platforms we will be posting info, including what direction the balloons will be flying and of course, if they will be taking off. Before the event weather updates will be posted too. If you're at the launch site yourself, we would love to see any photos you've taken so we can share them! Also make sure you follow us on Instagram, so you don't miss our best photos from over the weekend!

ANY NEWS ABOUT THE FIESTA AFTER THIS IS EMAILED TO EVERYONE WILL BE AVAILABLE ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK. THIS MAY INCLUDE ANOTHER BALLOON ATTENDING ETC.

How can I find out if the balloons will fly?

Go to <http://xcweather.co.uk/forecast/ashton> - This is the best website to check the wind speeds. First of all, use the settings icon to make the site display knots (kts) instead of miles per hour (mph). This is the preferred way of checking the wind speeds for balloon pilots. Over 8kts is seen as breezy, and we don't want in excess to 10kt gusts. If it's windy but just about flyable, sometimes only pilots with a certain amount of hours are allowed to fly. However, remember this is only the surface wind, so at 1000ft or 2000ft the wind could be much stronger. If it's about 15kts up higher and calm on the surface, they will still fly as take off and landing will not be gusty. The strength of the wind is essential, but the weather is too. The balloons won't fly in the rain. Remember this is only a very rough way of checking if it's flyable. If you don't want to check the weather yourself, watch out for our updates.

#BalloonFiesta



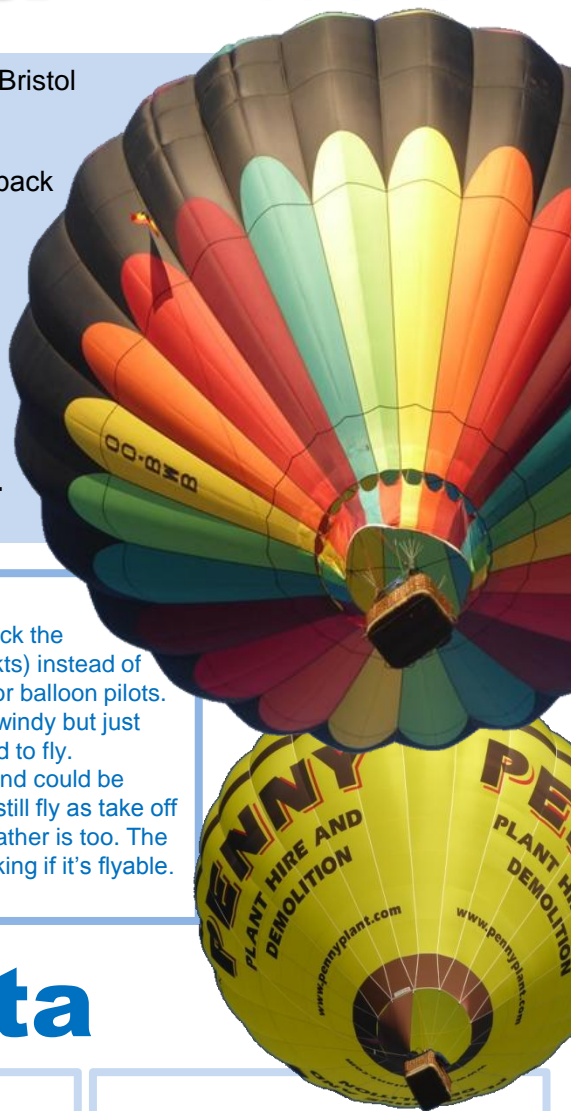
On Twitter we will be tweeting live from the balloonist marquee in the briefings and on the launch field. We'll be announcing straight away whether the launch is going ahead or not, plus much more.



Our Facebook Page will have the same information as on Twitter, but make sure you like or follow us on both so you don't miss a thing! This includes where the balloons will fly towards.



If you're on Instagram you'll be able to see our best photos from over the 4 days. These will be posted after the event, on Monday or Tuesday.



If we are unable to post anything due to connection problems as we experienced last year, have a look at the @bristolballoon Twitter feed (we recommend that you follow them anyway). If you're at Ashton Court sat in the crowd, listen out for the fiesta commentators announcing whether a certain event is going ahead.