



MJ Ballooning.com

Latest Bristol & Bath Ballooning News

Issue 1 – May 2015

Bath Balloon Fiesta 22nd - 25th May 2015



The weekend saw 2 slots go ahead, with balloons flying from Royal Victoria Park, the Royal Crescent and the maize field. Saturday evening was the best time to fly over the bank holiday,

so 14 balloons took off from central Bath, including PollyWallets, Snow Business and Snap Surveys. Ballooning Media's L.E Electrical Light Bulb also made an appearance, tethering for 5 minutes at the end. 9 balloons flew from the Crescent and 5 from Royal Victoria Park.

Read more on pages 7 - 9



Ashton Court Ballooning

See what ballooning action has taken place from Bristol, including the inflation of Elite Air's brand new Cameron Z-150.

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2015 Bristol Balloon Fiesta

Find out what balloons will be appearing at the fiesta this year, with a special feature about the 2014 shapes.

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May 2015 – Ashton Court Ballooning

04/05/15 – AM

The Bristol Balloons team were scheduled to be flying both Bristol Balloons and Torex this morning. Torex cancelled and just the G-CGZR team took off. They flew over the city towards Fishponds.

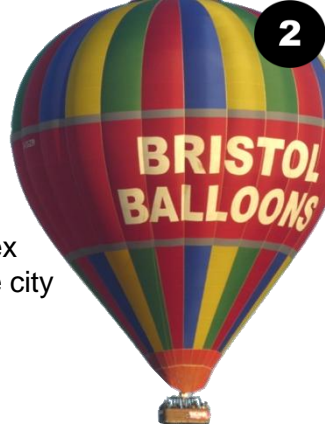
07/05/15 - PM



Pattersons flying over Fishponds, Bristol

A cloudy Thursday evening saw 6 balloons take to the skies over Bristol and Bath. The Ballooning Network met their passengers in Ashton Court at 6pm whilst First Flight's Pattersons (G-CIHC) turned up. Elite Air also arrived with both their balloons, Royal Navy (G-OFAA) and Cash4Cars (G-IBCF). Park Furnishers (G-CFCC), also known as 'Charlie Charlie', was the chosen balloon out of their fleet to be flown over Bristol by the Ballooning Network. All 3 teams laid their balloons out, with some facing Filton and some facing Hengrove. All 4 balloons took off and

Pattersons was first to leave Ashton Court. The Cameron Z-105 headed for Kingswood / Fishponds and the other 3 took a more Westerly route across Bristol. Elite Air with Royal Navy landed in Westerleigh (Bristol Balloons and Cash4Cars probably did too). It took no time for the balloons to clear the city with quick winds.



13/05/15 - AM

This morning saw 2 Cameron Balloons test inflations take place. Elite Air's brand new Polar Bear Windows balloon was inflated for the very first time. It's G-OPBW, a Cameron Z-150 and it can carry six passengers. It's joining their fleet of Cash4Cars and Royal Navy.

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May 2015 – Ashton Court Ballooning



Polar Bear Windows balloon first inflation on the 13th of May at Ashton Court - Photo Mark Price

Mark Price from Polar Bear Windows said "I don't like getting up early but today was worth it - bit emotional have to say when you make a dream a reality. Thanks to Clive Wiltshire, Matt Wiltshire and the Elite Air balloon team in getting it where it was this morning and big thank you to all the team at Cameron Balloons - glad we supported local company as quality is outstanding."

They deflated and packed it away and after that the Cameron Balloons team stood a new French balloon up. The Road to Mandalay balloon started to hot inflate and it ascended into the sky. They were above Ashton Court and then they landed and took off again. Bailey Balloons met their passengers and they didn't have a huge ride balloon today, instead Anana, their Cameron Z-140. It took off just after Road to Mandalay.

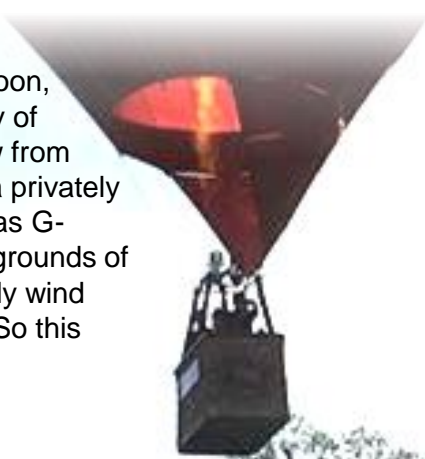


F-GMBQ, Road to Mandalay & Anana - Photos Liam Whitelock

13/05/15 - PM

As the other Ballooning Network balloon, Park Furnishers, took off over the city of Bath, Bristol Balloons (G-CGZR) flew from Ashton Court. This was followed by a privately owned balloon ascending and this was G-WADZ. After that Torex also left the grounds of Ashton Court. Because of the Easterly wind direction, all balloons headed West. So this wasn't the usual flight over the city.

Photos Mandy Simpkins



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May 2015 – Ashton Court Ballooning

17/05/15 - AM

With a wind speed of 5 knots on the ground and 15-16 up top across the city, it was good conditions for some ballooning. The Dribuild balloon team arrived early at Ashton Court, followed by Miles Architectural Ironmongery Ltd. Bailey Balloons had confirmed so they met

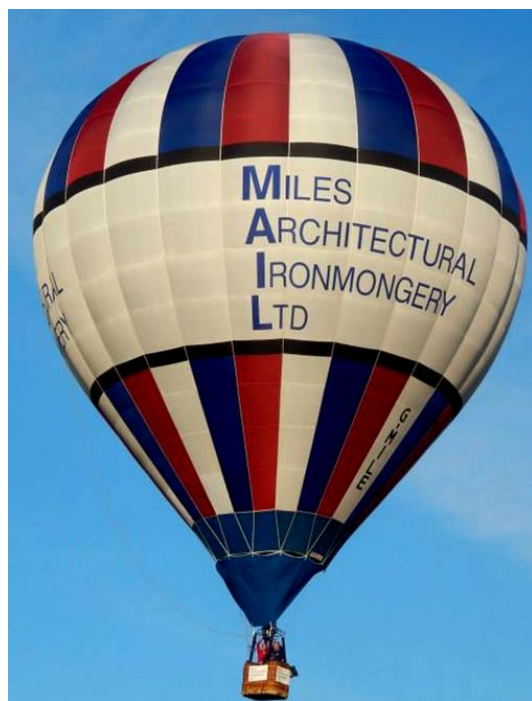


their passengers at 6:15am. Dribuild, made in 2013 by Cameron Balloons, inflated and was the first to take to the skies! Then the G-MILE team did the same thing. During this, Bailey Balloons and Phoenix Balloons started preparing for their flights. They ascended together and all balloons headed for the Longwell Green area. This was an excellent morning of ballooning at Ashton Court because we don't see these balloons fly very often.

Photos Ballooning Pictures



EDF Energy & Taittinger preparing for a flight over Bristol



Cameron N-90 – 1990 – G-MILE

23/05/15 - PM

Earlier in the day, Elite Air announced that all 3 of their balloons would be flying from Ashton Court in the evening. Cash4Cars and Royal Navy arrived with the brand new Polar Bear Windows balloon. Bristol Balloons and First Flight with A-GAS were also setting up. A-GAS ascended into the Bristol sky first, whilst Elite Air cold and then hot air inflated all 3 of their fleet. Polar Bear Windows (G-OPBW) took off, very shortly followed by Cash4Cars and Royal Navy. The maiden flight of the Polar Bear Windows balloon went smoothly without fault. It's a brilliant new balloon to have flying around Bristol! The Ballooning Network took off also, with G-CGZR.



Elite Air's fleet - Photo Graham Bloomfield



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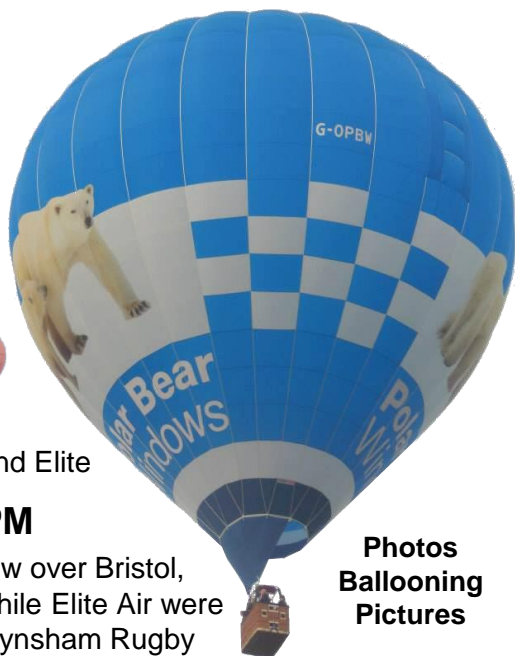


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May 2015 – Ashton Court Ballooning

25/05/15 - AM

As 7 balloons flew from the maize field as part of the 2015 Bath Balloon Fiesta, 5 teams were setting up in Bristol. ABC Flights turned up with G-BTHF, and it's unusual to see this flying. Elite Air were also there ready for their second flight in the Polar Bear Windows Z-150 envelope. Tango was setting up alongside them too. Bristol Balloons (G-CGZR) and Virgin met their passengers and Torex was meant to be flying from Tyntesfield. They decided to move to Ashton Court, so they arrived later than the others. They all took off and Elite Air landed in Whitchurch.



Photos
Ballooning
Pictures

25/05/15 - PM

Bristol Balloons once again flew over Bristol, travelling over Hengrove. Meanwhile Elite Air were deciding whether to fly from Keynsham Rugby Club, but they cancelled.

26/05/15 - AM

Bailey Balloons floated over Bristol with Anana and Red Letter Days.

27/05/15 - AM

Festo & Anana photos Bailey Balloons



Cameron Balloons arrived at Ashton Court early and they test inflated a new upside down Festo special shape. Bailey Balloons, G-CEJC and the Cameron Balloons demo, G-CHIO, were also in Ashton Court. Bailey Balloons had brought Anana this morning.



View all photo albums here:

<http://www.mjballooning.com/2015-bristol--bath-flights.html>



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May 2015 – Ashton Court Ballooning

30/05/15 - AM

We arrived at Ashton Court at 6am to find 7 balloon teams already here. Elite Air were ready to go and they were the first to take off. CJ Hole was the only balloon setting up at the top of Ashton Court.



After that A-GAS, owned by First Flight, followed them and headed for Keynsham. Lighter than Air Ltd with CJ Hole was next to ascend. Meanwhile Anana, the Bristol University Hot Air Ballooning Society, Tango and Purple Rain were cold inflating. All 4 were stood up for several minutes until Bailey Balloons took off. At first they were travelling towards Downend, but they gained height and took the same path as the others. Bristol University were behind them and then Tango also left the grounds of Ashton Court. They went low over the mansion house. Purple Rain was last to get in the air and it was nice to see G-PURP back flying over Bristol again! Anana landed at Keynsham Rugby Club and A-GAS, CJ Hole and Purple rain landed at the chocolate factory in Keynsham. Tango flew all the way to Colerne and the flight lasted 1 hour 40 minutes.



PBA Club Fun day

The weather wasn't good enough for any flying to take place, but there was some tethering in the afternoon. Balloons that tethered included BallooningMedia's Satzenbrau Bottle, Doombar, JHA and G-BNPE.



G-BIRE - Photo BallooningMedia



JHA & G-BNPE - Photos Mandy Simpkins



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2015 Bath Balloon Fiesta

Balloons that attended



G-CDGN

Rainbarrow

G-CFXP

Snow Business

Visit Bristol

G-CIJL

PollyWallets



G-CCPP

G-BWIP

Ascent

G-UUPP

Snap Surveys

Red Box

G-BYHU

Above +
Beyond

G-CBLO

L.E Electrical
Light Bulb

Overview

The Bath Balloon Fiesta's first scheduled slot was Friday evening from the Recreation Ground, but this didn't go ahead, unlike 2014 when G-BOOZ and G-OJEN took off from Royal Victoria Park. This was due to low cloud.

Saturday morning was looking 50/50, but ride balloons went for it and they flew in calm winds. The Bath Balloon Fiesta pilots all cancelled the launch from Alice

Park. The winds dropped out so they all could have flown easily.

For many days before, the Saturday evening slot from the Royal Crescent and Royal Victoria Park had looked very good. The pilots met at 6pm and decided that it was by far the best slot of the weekend and to fly. 9 balloon teams went to the Crescent and 6 stayed in the park. G-CFXP started to inflate with G-CBNI and at first it seemed quite breezy. Once they were up it was fine. Others here were G-CDGN, Snow Business, Visit Bristol, the Molland Balloon Team, PollyWallets, G-CCPP and G-BWIP.



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2015 Bath Balloon Fiesta



They all took off from the Royal Crescent, and meanwhile in Royal Victoria Park the other balloons were also flying. The Ascent Balloon Company were the first to leave the park, followed by Cameron Balloons' G-UUPP and Snap Surveys. Red Box took off a short time after and then so did the newly owned G-BYHU. Ballooning Media were there with their trailer that had either the light bulb special shape or G-BIBO inside. After all the other teams

had left to go on retrieve, we saw that they had G-LAMP! They prepared for a tether and stood it up for 5 minutes. They wanted to get it out of the bag because the last time it had been inflated was at the Bradley Stoke Flyout in August 2014.



On Sunday morning nothing happened and the evening wasn't looking hopeful either. Balloon teams arrived at Royal Victoria Park for 6pm. Snow Business had a CofA whilst the pilots were deciding whether to fly. They concluded that it was too windy, despite seeing the A-GAS balloon pass overhead. It was also decided that they would all meet at 5:30am at the maize field the following morning, instead of the original launch site, the Western Recreation Ground. Monday morning arrived and there were a few spots of rain in the air. We arrived at 6am just before the Ascent Balloon Company started up their fan. Other balloons there were Above + Beyond, plus Snow Business that had passed its CofA, G-CBLO, Cumbria Gas, Rainbarrow and G-CCPP. Ascent was the first to ascend and at



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2015 Bath Balloon Fiesta



first it was heading towards Bristol, but it went up higher and then changed direction. Second to take off was G-CCPP, followed by Above + Beyond. They were at Royal Victoria Park 12 hours before, so it's good that they actually got to fly. This was the only appearance of G-CBLO over the weekend too. After they had left the ground, Snow Business and the Gas Supplies Cumbria balloon took to the skies. The Rainbarrow balloon team had finished their hot air inflation and were ready to go. They were the last to leave the maize field at roughly 6:40am.

The 2015 Bath Balloon Fiesta had many more entries and was excellent but the pilots could have easily flown Alice Park and on Sunday evening. The 2 slots that went ahead were very good, especially when 9 flew from the Royal Crescent. We even got a light bulb special shape stood up on Saturday evening and we are looking forward to next year!

To see MJ Ballooning's photos of the 2015 event, here is the link to our website:

<http://mjballooning.com/bath-balloon-fiesta-2015.html>

If you have any photos you would like to share, contact us via Twitter or Facebook.



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May 2015 – Royal Victoria Park Ballooning

07/05/15 - PM



Photo Chris Hayden

Whilst 4 balloons were preparing for a flight over Bristol, in Bath 2 ride balloons arrived in Royal Victoria Park. Bailey Balloons brought their own G-CDIH and Virgin also arrived with their brand new balloon! The old virgin balloon, G-VBAE, was built in 2012 but it had been flown lots. Fresh from the Cameron Balloons factory, the A-400 ride balloon G-VBAM had its maiden flight this evening. We will see this balloon fly over Bristol and Bath for many years to come!

13/05/15 - PM

A beautiful evening in Bath saw 3 balloons take off from the park. The Virgin Balloon Flights team were the first to arrive with their new G-VBAM. The Ballooning Network's Park Furnishers ride balloon was the second to ascend, followed by Bailey Balloons' Red Letter Days.

Photos Matt Siera



15/05/15 - AM

Red Letter Days (G-PRZI), operated by Bailey Balloons, took off alongside Virgin. They flew somewhere in the direction of Farmborough / Chew Valley Lake.

17/05/15 - AM

Whilst the other Bailey Balloons team flew with Dribuild, Miles and Taittinger across Bristol, in Bath they turned up with Red Letter Days. The ride balloon once again went up from Bath with Virgin Balloon Flights flying too.



23/05/15 - AM

Bath Building Society and Virgin flew over Bath.



23rd of May at RVP - Photo Chris Hayden



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May 2015 – Royal Victoria Park Ballooning

23/05/15 - PM

As 14 balloons taking part in the Bath Balloon Fiesta took off from the park and the Royal Crescent, Red Letter Days, Virgin and Bath Building Society flew. They went over the Royal Crescent closely missing the rooftops, allowing the passengers to see the other balloon teams flying and setting up below.



25/05/15 - AM



After all 7 balloons had left the maize field, we went to Royal Victoria Park to see Bailey Balloons and Bath Balloons. They aren't allowed to turn on the fans until a certain time, but they were both hot inflated and stood up by about 7:10am. They started their journey across Bath, flying over the centre of the city.

26/05/15 - PM Red Letter Days flew over Bath once again, alongside Above + Beyond.

27/05/15 - AM

After flying from Blaise Castle to Brislington the previous evening, the Ballooning Network were out and about again with Torex, also known as 'Oscar Whiskey'. This morning they set up and were the only team flying out of Royal Victoria Park. They landed at the maize field.

Photo Liam Whitelock



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May 2015 – Maize Field Ballooning

13/05/15 - PM

A-GAS, flown by First Flight, took off from the maize field near Bath. It followed Bailey Balloons with Red Letter Days that ascended from Royal Victoria Park, and they both headed for Pensford.



23/05/15 - AM

The BUHABS arrived for their flight over Bath. The Bath Balloon Fiesta pilots all cancelled the evening before.

23/05/15 - PM

As 17 balloons left central Bath, David Hathaway (G-BZFD) and Bristol University ascended.

24/05/15 - PM

The A-GAS balloon (G-CDMC) flew over central Bath. This was the only balloon flying in Bristol or Bath on this Saturday evening. Pilots were in RVP for the Bath Balloon Fiesta, so they could have flown but decided not to.

26/05/15 - AM & PM

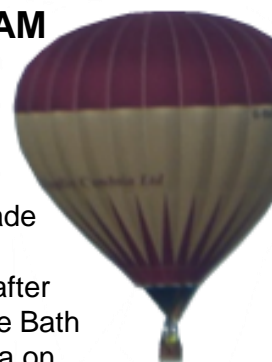
Virgin flew in the morning and Above + Beyond took off in the evening.



Photo Nicholas Thomas Photography

27/05/15 - AM

The Gas Supplies Cumbria Ltd balloon (G-BWIP) made another appearance after flying from the Bath Balloon Fiesta on Saturday and Monday.



Badger Balloon Team



Follow their adventures on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bristol-Badger-Balloon-Team/305204462988778?sk=timeline>

Photo
Liam
Whitelock



Torex landing after its flight over Bath on the 27th of May.



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2015 Bristol International Balloon Fiesta News 13

Here are the 2014 special shapes that appeared over the weekend – see if they are likely to be attending again!

Exclusive Ballooning

Exclusive Ballooning will be at the fiesta once again this year. It's almost guaranteed that they will bring the William Hill Scottish Cup and the Ricoh Cube. The 2 special shapes will be on show, tethering and flying, everyday possible to get as much media coverage as they can. They will be with all the other Exclusive Ballooning round balloons, such as Renishaw and Fortnum & Mason.

L.E Electrical Light Bulb

BallooningMedia have announced that they will be at the fiesta with the light bulb special shape once again!



Babette

It was the Babette special shape's first appearance in Bristol last year. We have contacted the owner and are awaiting a reply to find out their plans for 2015. It's likely the team will be returning for a second year.

Nescafe

The BBM&L will not be bringing back the Nescafe mug special shape. It has already been on show on Thursday last year, so they will choose another one if they are to appear.



Miss Daisy

It's very unlikely that we will see Miss Daisy return to the 2015 fiesta.



Smurf

The Smurf will not be attending again this year. The owner was going to enter the frog prince special shape instead, but that won't be appearing either.



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2015 Bristol International Balloon Fiesta News

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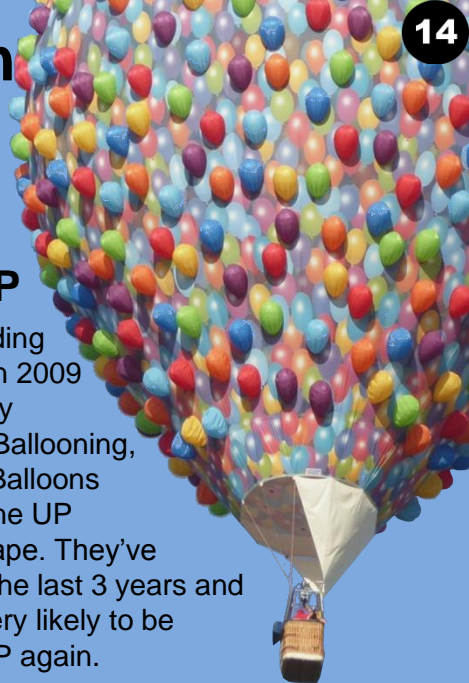
Palletways Dragon



Lindstrand's Palletways special shape has attended the fiesta ever since it was made in 2010. It's now coming to the end of its very successful contract, but it should be on show again in 2015.

UP

First attending the fiesta in 2009 operated by Exclusive Ballooning, Cameron Balloons now own the UP special shape. They've brought it the last 3 years and they are very likely to be bringing UP again.



Maxwell House Coffee Jar

Owned by the British Balloon Museum & Library, Maxwell House was built in 1993. It won't be returning in 2015 because the BBM&L don't like to show their balloons more than once when they tether. They may not be attending at all, even with a balloon that hasn't been on show at the fiesta over the last few years.



Satzenbrau Bottle

This special shape first attended the fiesta in the early 1980s. It returned in 2013 and 2014 to tether. BallooningMedia are definitely bringing the LE. Electrical light bulb this year, but they may decide to also bring the beer bottle to tether if the weather isn't good. We will know soon what their exact plans are.



Cockerel

The team have been coming to Bristol for many years, so will almost be sure to attend in 2015.



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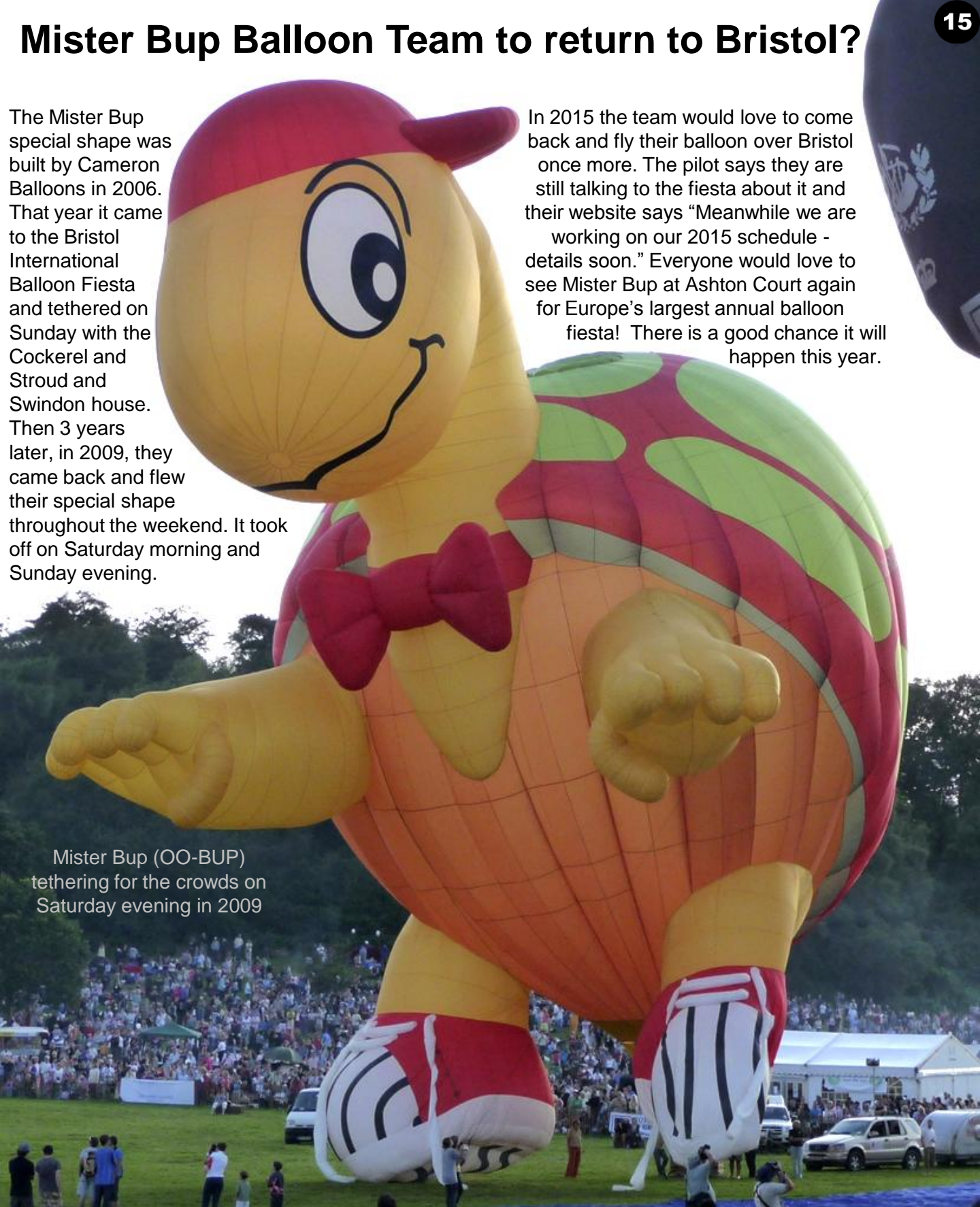


Mister Bup Balloon Team to return to Bristol?

The Mister Bup special shape was built by Cameron Balloons in 2006. That year it came to the Bristol International Balloon Fiesta and tethered on Sunday with the Cockerel and Stroud and Swindon house. Then 3 years later, in 2009, they came back and flew their special shape throughout the weekend. It took off on Saturday morning and Sunday evening.

In 2015 the team would love to come back and fly their balloon over Bristol once more. The pilot says they are still talking to the fiesta about it and their website says "Meanwhile we are working on our 2015 schedule - details soon." Everyone would love to see Mister Bup at Ashton Court again for Europe's largest annual balloon fiesta! There is a good chance it will happen this year.

Mister Bup (OO-BUP)
tethering for the crowds on
Saturday evening in 2009



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Swatch Watch special shape to appear at 2015 Bristol International Balloon Fiesta



On the 20th of May it was announced that the Swatch Watch special shape (G-BMJJ) will attend the 2015 Bristol International Balloon Fiesta. This is to celebrate 30 years since the balloon was manufactured by Cameron Balloons. It's still flyable and in excellent condition. We can't wait to see it flying above Bristol in August!

Photo Damian Busby



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