



BATH

BALLOON FIESTA

27- 30 MAY 2016

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Event History



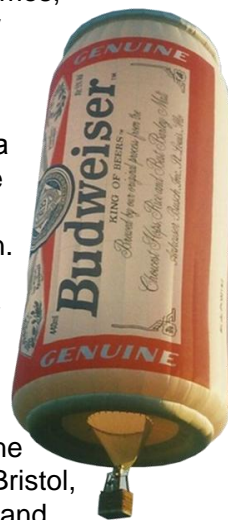
Above: Balloons at the Royal Crescent in 1997

such as Taywood Homes, London Camera Exchange and G-HINT. This was the first large balloon Flyout from Bath, and the first of many to come. This continued to take place with the Converse trainer special shape attending one year in the late 90s. Also throughout this time Cameron demos, the Chubb round balloon (G-BXTJ) and Unipart took to the skies of Bath. Later in the 90s, they launched together from the Recreation Ground. But the event stopped in around 2000/2001 because of a run of bad weather.

The Bath Balloon Fiesta had a few year's gap of not going ahead, but in around 2003 the fiesta continued. Seen on the left, on the 29th of April 2005, it was held from the Recreation Ground once again. Many balloons were there, even the G-CCSI IKEA hopper. Another hopper, G-BWOY, that we saw in 2014 at the Bishop Sutton Flyout, ascended alongside the Roman

Baths Cameron A-105 envelope. This was owned by the same person who used to organise the Bath Balloon Fiesta. BWS Security Systems, that still glows at Bristol, flew, amongst others such as G-BYLY, Trademaster Tool Hire and Snow Business (G-SBIZ). Towards the end of the launch Sun Rise, built in 1990, took off. This was followed by one or two round balloons that closed a very successful Friday of ballooning.

One year later they did it all over again, but this time two launches took place, each from the Recreation Ground. Friday evening saw the Roman Baths balloon inflate with Snap Surveys first, then the IKEA special shape fly alongside them. Both Snow Business balloons (G-KAYI and G-SBIZ) became airborne at the same time. G-BRTV, Visit Bristol, G-BOEK, Roundtrees and G-LOWS were also there. The second launch that went ahead in 2006 came 24 hours after in much brighter conditions. This ascent was slightly larger with Edward Ware Homes, the IKEA hopper/round balloon, G-PATG, G-MCAP, G-BOOZ, Cancer Research, Ascent, Carousel Carpets, G-CDDM and Sun Rise flying with many others.



Event History

As the fiesta continued into 2007 one main ascent took place on Saturday evening (5th May 2007), but from

two locations at the same time. A-GAS was first to take to the skies of Bath from the Recreation



Ground. The Above: Photos from the Bath Recreation Ground, Courtesy and Copyright Phil's Balloons

IKEA special shape flew from there, as did Snow Business, Ascent (G-CBFF), Flying Enterprises' Fishtank, and the Bristol University Hot Air Ballooning Society, amongst others. The other flights were planned to take place from the Royal Crescent lawn. This historic location made an amazing background for the balloon teams and pilots as the others could be seen in the distance. Special arrangements have to be made to fly from the Royal Crescent, although it's adjacent to the regular launch site of Royal Victoria Park. First to inflate was the Visit Bristol Z-105, which was only replaced in 2015 with a newer version (G-UWEB). At the time it had a Ridgemill banner attached and as the pilot hot inflated, the old yellow Bath Building Society envelope passed overhead. The ride balloon became airborne from the park. Sun Rise, G-CCOI, Cancer Research (now called Rainbarrow G-CBNI) and G-CEMF were all lined up with the famous architecture behind them along with Visit Bristol. After they lifted into the sky, G-LEXI, Roman Baths and G-BOEK joined them. This left G-LOWS and another round balloon to inflate, partly due to the slight lack of space available. The Westerly wind direction took the balloons near the Recreation Ground. It was a very well planned night of ballooning, with 20-30 balloons flying from the city together.



G-IKEA Photo: Matt Cleaves

As 2009 arrived a small meet was organised from Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd of May with a few pilots taking part. For the second planned ascent of the fiesta on Saturday morning, G-BIBO and Sun Rise took off from the maize field.

Exclusive Ballooning, the only commercial company flying, had Silverline, Kingspan and Robert Hitchins at the event, plus a special shape. Blue Square (G-CFXI) was on show for the first time just before the 2009 meet, being hot inflated at the London Marathon. It was built by Lindstrand and the

balloon's maiden flight was completed on Sunday morning. There was also a round balloon made (G-CFXL), but they didn't bring it this weekend. It was slightly grey, but this didn't stop Exclusive Ballooning gaining publicity for Blue Square along with their 3 sponsored round balloons. Also at this launch from the Royal Crescent was Snow Business, Sapper and G-BPYV. They flew right over the Crescent and Circus before landing near Melksham, which is east of Bath.



G-BIBO and G-BSNU - Photos: Matt Cleaves

From 2010 to 2012 no fiesta was arranged. Unfortunately in 2013 the planned gathering had to be cancelled due to weather not suitable for ballooning.



Event History



In 2014 Bath was ready for another great May weekend of flying! The first planned ascent was from Royal Victoria Park and two balloons turned up to fly. G-BOOZ and G-OJEN became airborne, flying alongside 3 ride balloons including Bailey Balloons' Red Letter Days. It was a cloudy start, but the weather was improving for the Saturday morning lift off. The teams arrived at Alice Park and it was near to perfect flying conditions. G-CBNI, which used to be the Cancer Research balloon, stood up next to Cameron Balloons' UP special shape. This was built in 2009 to

advertise the Disney movie and for the first year G-UPOI was operated by Exclusive Ballooning. Cameron Balloons now own this, and have done ever since the commercial contract ended. They don't fly it with the inflatable house cover that attaches to the basket anymore, that was just for 2009. Also at this launch was G-BOOZ, the Ascent Balloon Company, G-OJEN, Betty P (G-CDGN), Purple Rain, Snow Business and Ballooningmedia's V-65, G-BIBO.



Friday PM & Saturday AM Photos:
Ballooningpictures.weebly.com

Like every Saturday evening at the Bath Balloon Fiesta, the balloons would meet in Royal Victoria Park to fly from there and the Royal Crescent. However, in 2014 the balloonists decided to cancel due to there being no wind. They sent up lots of helium met balloons, but they just went straight up which is no good for flying. This would lead to them getting stuck above Bath, which is of course very tricky, so it wasn't worth the risk. Bailey Balloons also did not fly, but almost all of the teams drove to the maize field after. The purple rain balloon team became airborne on the outskirts of Bath that evening, and they said there wasn't a problem with the wind, flying from maize. Many more landing opportunities are available from there as a large amount of fields are surrounding it, not a city, like Royal Victoria Park. However, the wind on Sunday evening looked much more favourable for the scheduled sites, and so did the morning's slot.

The location very early for Sunday AM was the Weston Recreation Ground. It was cloudy as well as flyable, so the usual balloons all inflated at the same time and took off. ABC Flights (G-BYHU) also flew. Now (2016) G-BYHU isn't owned by them anymore, but it's still flying around this area and attended in 2015.



Sunday AM Photos:
Ballooningpictures.weebly.com

Event History

After the excellent launch in the morning, the balloonists arrived at Royal Victoria Park for another ascent. The wind speeds were much better than Saturday PM's, so they went for it. G-CBNI was first to inflate and take off, leaving Cameron Balloons and Ascent to fly from one half of Royal Victoria Park. With ride balloons on the other side, Ballooning-media, G-OJEN, Snow Business and G-BOOZ were preparing for take off. They all ascended, flying away from the centre of Bath towards the north of Bristol. Many people enjoyed watching the balloons fly on a lovely evening in Bath.

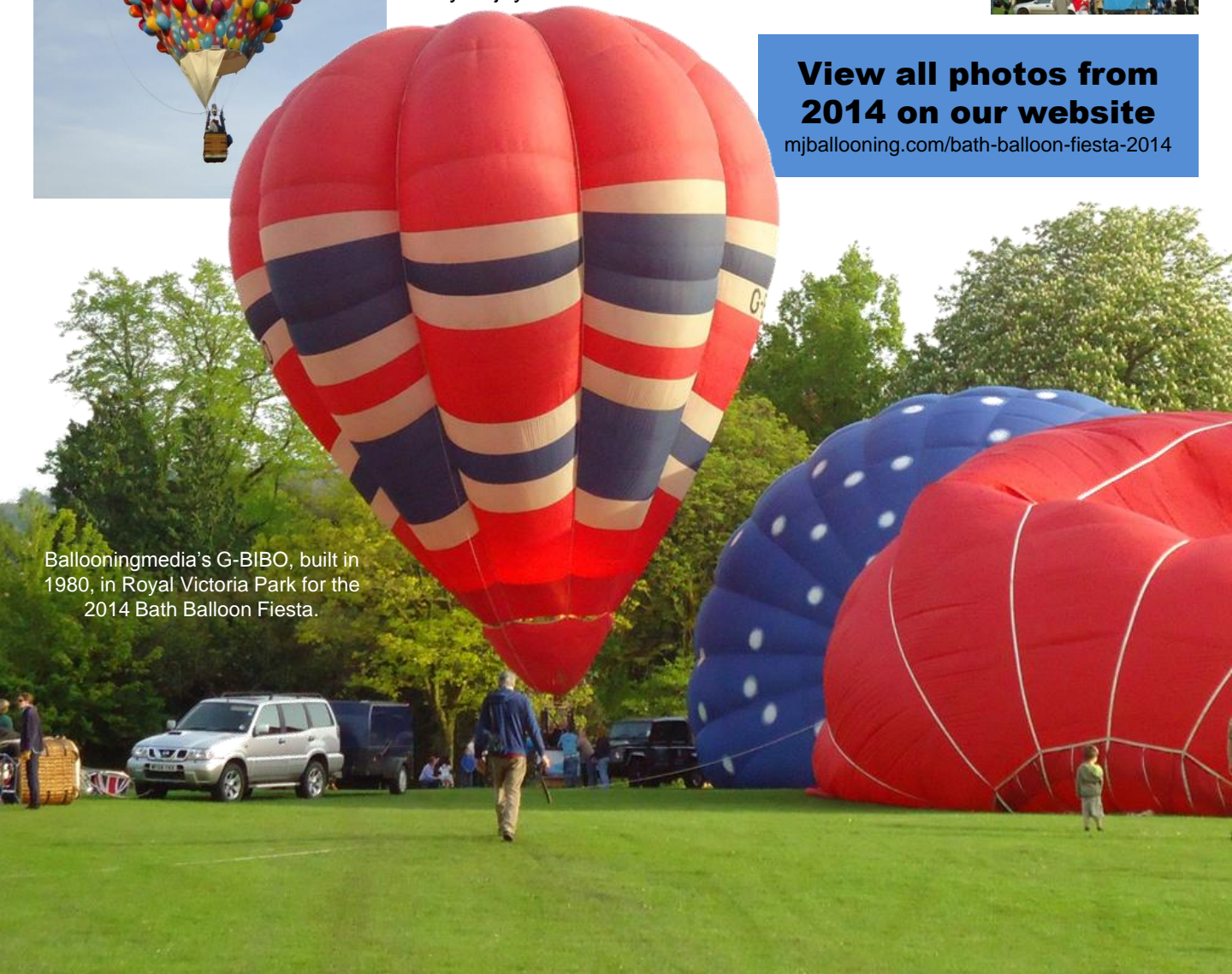


That was the end of another successful Bath Balloon Fiesta! With even a special shape attending, it was a really enjoyable and relaxed weekend.

**View all photos from
2014 on our website**

mjballooning.com/bath-balloon-fiesta-2014

Ballooningmedia's G-BIBO, built in 1980, in Royal Victoria Park for the 2014 Bath Balloon Fiesta.



Event History

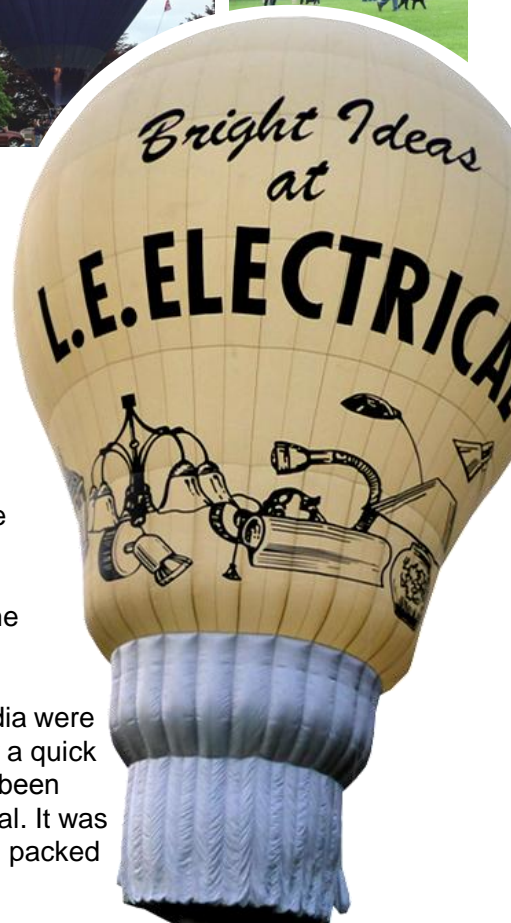
Last year the Bath Balloon Fiesta became even more popular as pilots from other regions, outside the Western Region, entered. The schedule was the same as previous years, but Friday PM had to be cancelled. It was on the Friday night when we received a list of the balloons attending and we were amazed to see how many pilots had signed up to fly! For Saturday morning the decision was made not to fly the night before due to low cloud, but the weather forecast turned out to be completely wrong. The ride balloons went ahead with their flights as usual from Bath. After the disappointment of missing a flyable slot, Saturday evening was looking like the only good one left. Nearly every team arrived at Royal Victoria Park at 6pm.



The briefing took place and most of the balloonists went to the Royal Crescent to set up, whilst Red Box, Cameron Balloons with G-UUPP, Snap Surveys, G-BYHU and Ascent stayed in the park with the rides. First to inflate in the slightly tricky conditions at the Crescent were G-CBNI and G-CFXP. The wind suddenly dropped out for the rest of the flights, allowing the Rainbarrow Balloon Team and G-CFXP to become airborne alongside G-CDGN. G-SBIZ and Visit Bristol joined them and meanwhile above Royal Victoria Park, Ascent, G-UUPP and Snap Surveys had taken off. The Westerly wind took them straight over the Royal Crescent lawn. The Molland Balloon Team had specially arranged to come to Bath with G-CIJL, and they were next to take to the skies. G-CCPP was left at the Crescent. This envelope is owned by the same pilot who flies Niceday. PollyWallets and G-BWIP (Gas Supplies Cumbria Ltd) followed as Red Box and G-BYHU came racing over the trees.



Just as we thought it was all over, no. Ballooningmedia were getting their light bulb special shape out of its bag for a quick tether. This was to give it an airing because it hadn't been flown since August 2014 at the Bradley Stoke Carnival. It was stood up for 5 minutes before it was pulled down and packed away.



Event History

Sunday morning was called off because it was very wet and there wasn't much hope for the evening's ascent either. The bad weather passed over and the sun soon came out. By early evening it was perfectly flyable, but for some reason the pilots waiting around in Royal Victoria Park cancelled. First Flight flew from the maize field, proving that it was flyable. Instead of flying from the Weston Recreation Ground the following morning (Monday AM), they all arranged to meet at the maize field, which is just over 2 miles away from the city centre. The meeting time was 6am.

As discussed, the teams arrived and began to cold inflate. The balloons that took part were Ascent Balloon Company, G-CCPP, Above + Beyond, G-CBLO hopper, Snow Business, G-BWIP and G-CBNI. They flew towards Keynsham at first, but as they gained height the wind direction at that level changed and pushed them towards Bath.

They could have flown on 4 out of the possible 6 slots, but 2 slots went ahead. Nevertheless, it was another good Bath Balloon Fiesta.

Do you have a photo like this one? Send them to us on social media and we'll share them!



Schedule

Expected Launch Times

This is when the first few balloons will start to take off

Morning: 6:00am

Evening: 7:30pm

The schedule for the Bath Balloon Fiesta has not been announced yet, and is only a rough guide anyway. Friday evening's launch will definitely take place from the Bath Recreation Ground. It has been a regular launch site for the flyout over the years, but hopefully this year the weather will allow the balloons to fly from there once more! It will be the base during the weekend for the balloonists. The pilot briefings may happen here before the balloon teams drive off to the launch site as well (info on social media will be available live from the site). The last couple of years the Recreation Ground has been on the schedule, but it's not been flyable. This central location will allow the pilots and passengers to get amazing views across the city, and there's plenty of space to set up and inflate! They will fly from the area shown below.

The main slot on Saturday night will be from Royal Victoria Park and the Royal Crescent (see next page).

It's likely that two lift offs will be from RVP or the Recreation Ground, but the other flying slots could also take place from the other following locations:

- Alice Park (possibly too small)
- Weston Recreation Ground
- Odd Down
- Kensington Meadows
- Maize Field



Friday PM
Saturday AM
Saturday PM
Sunday AM
Sunday PM
Monday AM

Royal Victoria Park & Royal Crescent



Recreation Ground



We will confirm where the balloons will be flying from hours before the launch is scheduled to begin

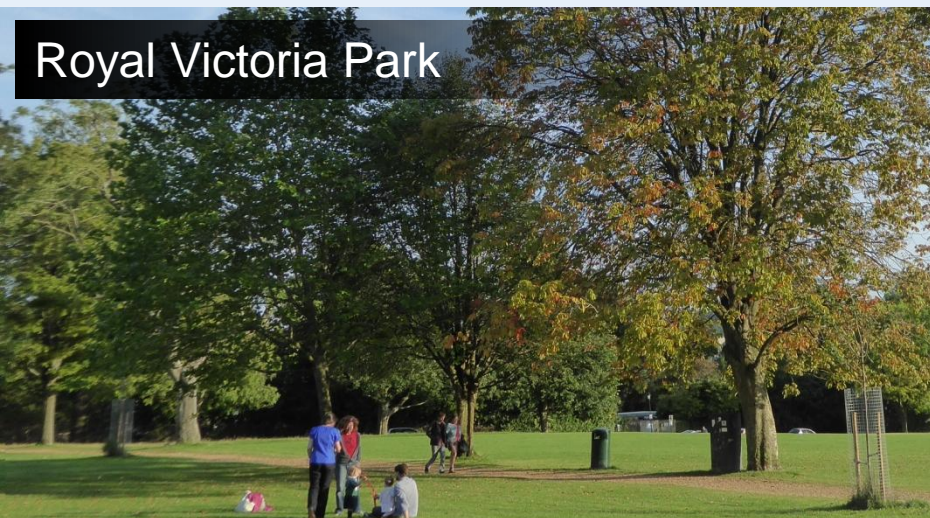


Schedule

Saturday PM is scheduled from the Royal Crescent and Royal Victoria Park. Depending on the number of balloons that have turned up, they will fly from the park only or from both sites. It will probably be a similar story to 2015. If some of the balloonists drive off in their vehicles from Royal Victoria Park it either means that they're not flying or they've gone to set up at the Crescent instead. If they cancel others could still fly, however.



Royal Victoria Park



This is where the ride balloons will be flying from as well as some of the private pilots. Park your car and walk over to the main open area. As you approach you'll see the balloon teams parked up on the grass, hopefully getting ready to fly!

Royal Crescent



What better place for the pilots to fly from than here? It's a stunning setting and always amazing when balloons take off from the Royal Crescent. The lawn closest to the Crescent itself will not be used, but the larger space at the bottom will be. The balloons from the park may fly over like last year too if it's a Westerly wind direction!

Schedule

Maize Field

If the direction from the planned launch site isn't good, the balloonists may decide to divert to another site, possibly the maize field. Maize is located opposite the Globe pub on the Bristol Road. This happened last year when they flew from here instead of the Weston Recreation Ground.



Like Ballooning Picture's Facebook Page and check out their website for ballooning photos from all over the UK



facebook.com
/ballooningpicturesuk



Ballooningpictures.weebly.com

Balloons Attending

CONFIRMED...



Rainbarrow
G-CBNI
Lindstrand 90A
2002



Molland Balloon Team
G-CIJL
Cameron Z-105
2014



Gas Supplies Cumbria Ltd
G-BWIP
Cameron N-90
1995



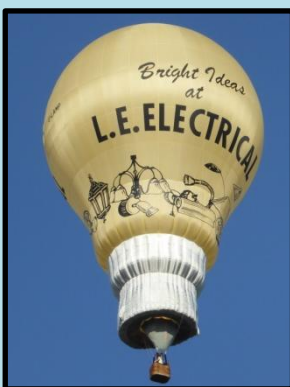
Visit Bristol / UWE /
Business West G-UWEB
Cameron Z-120
2015



Above + Beyond
G-CIHG
Cameron Z-90
2014



Ascent Balloon Company
G-CCVZ
Cameron 0-120
2004



L.E. Electrical Light Bulb
G-LAMP
Cameron 2000
Ballooningmedia



Snow Business
G-SBIZ
Cameron Z-90
2002



G-CCPP
Cameron C-90
2003



G-BYHU
Cameron N-105
1999



G-CFXP
Lindstrand 105A
2009



G-JEMS
Ultramagic S-90
2016

Balloons Attending



Purple Rain
G-PURP
Lindstrand LBL 90A
2011



Pollywalleys
G-POLY
Cameron N-77
1978



G-CGVV
Cameron Z-90
2011



G-CUIK
Cameron O-65
2015

OR



Snap Surveys
G-CCTS
Cameron Z-120
2004



Tango
G-BUEI
Thunder AX8-105
1992



Pattersons
G-CIHC
Cameron Z-105
2014



Photo: Ballooning Pictures

Haynes Motor Museum
G-HIMM
Cameron Z-105
2009

MAYBE...



Betty P
G-CDGN
Cameron C-90
2005



Polar Bear Windows
G-OPBW
Cameron Z-150
2015



Servo
G-SERV
Cameron N-105
2003

Model Balloons



Thanks to Rob Grzesiczek for these 7 photos.

Model balloons have been invited to fly during the main slot of the 2016 Bath Balloon Fiesta, which is Saturday evening. You can always see these miniature hot air balloons at the Bristol Balloon Fiesta, so it's great to have them in Bath. They work exactly like the full-size balloons with a flame and burners. We look forward to seeing them in Royal Victoria Park or at the Royal Crescent on Saturday 28th May. If this launch is cancelled you can expect to see them on Sunday evening most probably, but hopefully the weather behaves itself!



Join us for the rest of the season!



MJ Ballooning

Taken by MJ Ballooning at the 2015 Bristol International Balloon Fiesta

G-JEMS + Q&A

G-JEMS is a newly registered balloon in the UK. It was built at the beginning of 2016 by Ultramagic, who are based in Spain near Barcelona. It's an S-90 and will be flown with 3 people in the basket at any one time. It will be attending the Bath Balloon Fiesta this year and will be flying every slot if it's flyable, but it won't be taking off from the Royal Crescent lawn. We spoke to pilot James McDonald and asked him some questions.

When did you first become interested in ballooning?

Aged 4. I was lucky enough to be taken to one of the last Leeds Castle Balloon Festivals where there were many of the old favourites including Bertie, Lurpak and Chubb hanging around over the castle. It was seeing this number of balloons in one beautiful location that made me want to come back, and a few years after I made it to my first Bristol Balloon Fiesta in 2004. It all spiralled on from there!

Have you wanted to become a hot air balloon pilot from a young age?

I never intended to become a pilot until around 7 years ago when I had returned to the Bristol Fiesta in 2009. However, after not flying for a number of years I became nervous about flying once again for an unknown reason. Once I did get back in the air in 2011 I soon knew I definitely wanted to become a pilot. I began my training in 2013 and completed in June 2015.

What's the best moment you've experienced in ballooning so far?

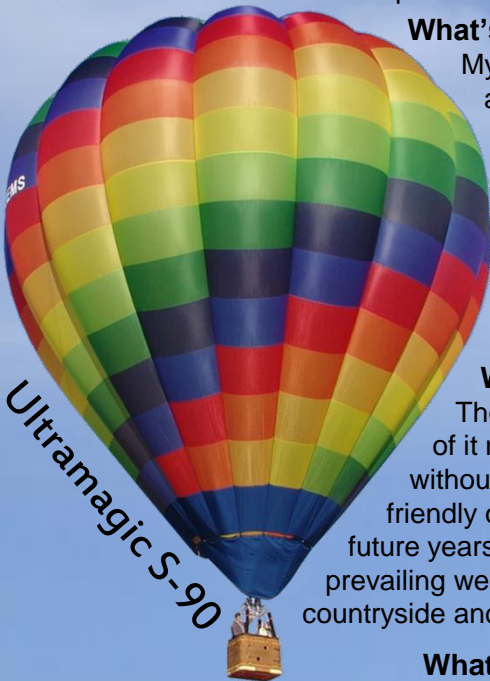
My GFT with Brian Smith. It was a perfect, sunny, calm morning taking off around 6am from Headcorn Aerodrome in Kent. We floated off towards Biddenden while on the way carrying out various practice landings as part of the test amongst others. When at Biddenden we landed in a public field where Brian was ready to jump out for me to be able to continue with my Solo. It was a great feeling to know it was just me in the basket doing all the flying. I flew low across a woodland before coming into land on a small track in a hayfield. It doesn't get much better than that!

What made you want to attend Bath this year?

The great historic location being up there at the top, but also the flexibility of it not being a public festival. It makes for a much nicer experience to be without the pressure of flying to entertain the public. And finally the very friendly organiser for making me feel welcome to attend this year and many future years to come. The area also provides fairly easy landing opportunities if the prevailing westerly is in force during the weekend, pushing us over to open countryside and away from the city.

What are the ideal conditions when flying from Bath?

Firstly dry conditions underneath, so hopefully there will be no rain just before take off, or any expected over the flying period. Temperature will also be important for some pilots taking part as it will affect the load they can carry, however for me, I will only be flying 3 up including pilot, therefore I will have plenty of lift to spare! On the surface a gentle 5 knots from the west to take us out towards countryside and further away from the restricted airspace of Bristol Airport. Ideally there will also be different wind directions at different heights which will allow all pilots to control their track and aim for certain landing spots, rather than having to land where they are forced to. The wind dropping just as we come into land would be useful, but this is Britain so we won't bank on that!



Thanks to James for speaking to us! We're looking forward to crewing for him and hopefully flying in G-JEMS.

Molland Balloon Team

The Molland Balloon Team offer charity flights in return for a donation to the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. Their balloon, G-CIJL, was built by Cameron Balloons in 2014. It's a Z-105, which means that it holds 105,000 cubic feet of air. The team's first visit to Bath was last year when they took off from the Royal Crescent. We will be seeing them again in 2016 if it's flyable at some point over the weekend, which is very likely. The envelope had been flown for 24 hours altogether in December 2015, but it's been flown after that date now. This is not much time compared to other balloons here this weekend, especially the ride balloons (see page 18). Like their Facebook page to keep updated with their activities! We're looking forward to hopefully seeing them return for the second year in a row.

Photo: The Molland Hot Air Balloon Team preparing to take flight at the 2015 Bath Balloon Fiesta.

Ballooningmedia



Unipart G-BXJH

This is a hopper balloon and was last inflated in the Middle East!



Satzenbrau Bottle G-BIRE

Built in 1981, this special shape can be seen at the Bristol Balloon Fiesta tethering every year.



G-BIBO

This Cameron V-65 was made in 1980, and you can still see it flying across Bristol on a sunny day!



The L.E Electrical Light Bulb special shape was bought by Ballooningmedia in 2014. It was built by Cameron Balloons in 2000 and is registered G-LAMP. 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 very 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.

Also at some point in the coming year their new balloon will be unveiled for GetaHotel.co.uk.



BATH 2016

From the 4 balloons Ballooningmedia have chosen to bring their light bulb special shape! It will hopefully be flying if the weather is suitable, not just tethering.

G-LAMP will probably be appearing at the 2016 Bristol International Balloon Fiesta in August alongside the Satzenbrau Bottle!



Ride Balloons



Although the ride balloons will be in Royal Victoria Park, they're not taking part in the Bath Balloon Fiesta. These flights are taking place because the passengers have paid for a flight, but most of the Bath balloonists here this weekend are private pilots. The majority of the ride balloons below are much larger than the usual Z-105s (there are many different types, not just Z) - Virgin Balloon Flights' envelope is an A-400! Anana, EDF Energy and The Mall are smaller balloons, similar to the ones here for the fiesta. We thought we would include a page about them! G-CBNI and Visit Bristol are allowed to fly from the park all year round, as well as a small number of others that aren't shown here.

Bailey Balloons' fleet that fly from Royal Victoria Park can be seen to the right. G-CDIH and Red Letter Days are flown most often from Bath, but



Bailey Balloons G-CDIH Z-295



EDF Energy G-CEDF N-105



Anana G-TOPB Z-140



Red Letter Days
G-PRZI
A-375

there's a good chance Anana will be there. On a flyable slot, depending on how many passengers want to fly, one or two of their balloons will take to the skies.

Sometimes the ride teams (not just Bailey Balloons) divert to the maize field opposite the globe pub if the wind direction takes them towards SAs (Sensitive Areas, places where balloons cannot land). Another reason for them moving launch sites is if there's not much wind. This could lead to someone being stuck above Bath, so moving 2 miles away to the maize field gives them more options.

G-CEDF Photo: Matt Siera





Want to fly in a hot air balloon?

If you would like to experience flying, we recommend that you contact Elite Air or Bailey Balloons.

Bailey Balloons

"We offer an experience that you will always treasure."

Telephone: 01275 375 300

Website: baileyballoons.co.uk/



Elite Air

"We fly normal size balloons for an authentic ballooning experience. Prices from £99 per person."

Telephone: 07858 060321

Website: <http://eliteair.co/>



Like Ballooning Picture's Facebook Page and check out their website for ballooning photos from all over the UK



facebook.com
/ballooningpicturesuk



ballooningpictures.weebly.com

Social Media

If you want to ask us any questions over the weekend of the 2016 Bath Balloon Fiesta, it's very simple. We, MJ Ballooning, have a Facebook page and are on Twitter. You can message the page or tweet us in the day and we'll get back to you as soon as possible (we will be busy most of the time as we're crewing). On these 2 platforms we will be posting plenty of info, including what balloons are at the launch site, what direction they 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 MEET AFTER THIS IS EMAILED TO EVERYONE WILL BE AVAILABLE ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK. THIS MAY INCLUDE ANOTHER BALLOON THAT'S ATTENDING ETC.



MJ Ballooning



On Twitter we will be tweeting live from the launch sites, informing you of detailed information as the event runs from Friday to Monday. You will see what balloons have turned up, and prior to that, you'll be kept up to date with the weather conditions.



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 when the balloons are taking off and be sure to comment on our posts!



If you're only on Instagram you'll be able to see our best photos from each launch. These will be posted a few hours after the ascent. Hopefully the weather will stay on our side so we and you can get the best possible snaps!

COMING SOON...



BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA



MJ Ballooning

EMAIL GUIDE

INCLUDING: Balloons attending, special shapes with a look back at some old favourites, plus everything else you need to know, and more!



11-14 AUGUST 2016