

**Full steam ahead, Gromit!**

A steam train loaded with sculptures of Wallace, Gromit, Feathers McGraw and Wallace’s latest invention, Norbot made its way into Bristol along the city’s harbour railway this morning.

Driven by Wallace & Gromit creator Nick Park, the train carried a dozen unique character sculptures into the city to mark the start of Gromit Unleashed 3.

The sculpture trail, which officially starts on Monday 30 June, is a joint initiative by The Grand Appeal, the Bristol Children’s Hospital Charity and multi-award winning independent studio, Aardman.

The train was greeted by local school children before one of the sculptures was lifted onto the harbour’s heritage cranes and another sent off to its summer location onboard Bristol’s former fire-boat, the Pyronaut. Over the coming days, all 53 sculptures will be delivered to their trail locations, throughout the city of Bristol and beyond.

Hot on the heels of Aardman’s latest double BAFTA®-winning feature film, Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl, which debuted on the BBC and was released on Netflix UK today, the designs are inspired by the movies and the stories, fables and legends that have inspired them.

The cast of the new trail includes already announced designs in collaboration with and inspired by Roald Dahl, DreamWorks and Netflix, alongside a talented line-up of local artists.

Joining Nick Park’s two exclusive sculpture designs on this morning’s train were designs by, and in collaboration with, Sir Paul McCartney, Pixar, Lucasfilm – creators of Star Wars, Richard Curtis, Jorge R. Gutierrez, Peter Lord, and local artists, with their sculptures standing proud onboard the heritage locomotive.

Nick Park, Aardman director and creator of Wallace & Gromit commented: ”It’s amazing to see such imagination and originality from the artists taking part in our trail this summer.  I’ve had the privilege of watching the work of such talented creators coming together all in support of a great cause - The Grand Appeal.  I look forward to a summer of Gromiteering’ around Bristol and beyond this summer. Join the queue…”

The Gromit Unleashed 3 trail will run from Monday 30 June to Sunday 31 August. The trail will be followed by The Greatest Dog Show on Earth ® exhibition before all the sculptures are auctioned to raise money for The Grand Appeal, the Bristol Children’s Hospital Charity. Visitors to the trail can tick off each sculpture via the official Gromit Unleashed 3 app, available on Apple and Android from Monday 30 June.  A map of all sculptures will also be available from various locations around the city.

Nicola Masters, director, The Grand Appeal added: “It’s a cracking day to unleash our 2025 sculptures today – setting the wheels in motion for a grand day out the whole city can enjoy.

~~“~~Each sculpture has been brought to life through the magic of film, fables, tales and folklore – a dazzling celebration of storytelling, imagination.  A star-studded spectacle that brings glitz, glamour and a touch of movie magic to the trail.

“We are proud to celebrate our extraordinary 30-year partnership with Aardman with Wallace & Gromit proudly spearheading our fundraising efforts, inspiring generations with their trademark charm and creativity.”

Gromit Unleashed 3 is now the fourth sculpture trail by The Grand Appeal and Aardman Animations. It builds on the runaway success of Gromit Unleashed, Shaun in the City, and Gromit Unleashed 2. What started as a one-off sculpture trail 12 years ago has evolved into an iconic and much-loved brand, spanning collectable giftware, a major online and in-store retail outlet at Cribbs, and multiple unmissable trails, exhibitions, events, auctions, and activities worldwide.

This summer, The Grand Appeal and Aardman Animations celebrate a 30-year partnership of Wallace & Gromit spearheading the charity’s fundraising. A partnership first conceived in 1995 to help raise the money to build the Bristol Children’s Hospital on Upper Maudlin Street, Bristol. Since then, £90 million has been raised for The Grand Appeal, the Bristol Children’s Hospital Charity and Cots for Tots, the dedicated charity for the Neonatal Intensive Care Ward at St Michael’s Hospital.

To keep up to date with the latest news from The Grand Appeal and Gromit Unleashed 3, visit [www.gromitunleashed.org.uk](https://www.gromitunleashed.org.uk/) and follow @TheGrandAppeal  across Facebook, Instagram, X, and YouTube and @GromitUnleashed on Facebook and X.

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editors**

**About The Grand Appeal**

Wallace & Gromit’s Grand Appeal, Bristol Children’s Hospital Charity, is celebrating it’s 30year partnership with Aardman Animations who generously allow Wallace & Gromit to spearhead the fundraising.  The Grand Appeal runs a multi-million-pound portfolio of investment for the children’s hospital and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at St Michael’s Hospital.

Bristol Children’s Hospital is a national centre of excellence. It treats over 140,000 patients each year from across the entire South West and South Wales region and is home to some of the most exciting advancements in global paediatric healthcare. Babies, children and young adults with highly complex medical conditions – from rare genetic disorders, neurological conditions and congenital heart disease to traumatic injuries, cancer and kidney disease – are cared for around the clock by leaders in their respective fields. Just like Bristol, the hospital is a hub of innovation, where these experts pave the way for sick children every day through a vast network of research projects with international impact.

St Michael’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit is the only unit in the South West providing the highest level of care to critically ill and premature babies from across the region. The Unit cares for over 800 babies a year, from those born as early as 23 weeks to babies requiring life-saving treatment when they are born full term.

It’s thanks to The Grand Appeal, both hospitals are a pioneer in so many fields today. Through its unique, almost 30 year trailblazing partnership with Bristol Children’s Hospital and Aardman Animations, The Grand Appeal has diversified its funding streams to bring in the most advanced medical equipment, including the UK’s first-ever Cardiac Hybrid Theatre in a paediatric setting, an intraoperative 3T MRi Scanner – one of only three in children’s hospitals across Europe – and a ground-breaking neuro-robot, which helps neurosurgeons perform major operations with pin-point precision.

Independently, The Grand Appeal runs three family accommodation houses and employs specialist support staff who work on the ground in the hospital to ensure every aspect of hospital life is centred on the wellbeing of the young patients and their families. It also works with the hospital to create a child-friendly environment and a programme of arts, music and play therapies to ensure the very best patient experience.

The Grand Appeal’s Patient Hotel is the latest development in the charity’s 30-year partnership with Bristol Children’s Hospital. The innovative development will enable patients to stay with their families and receive outpatient ongoing therapy and rehabilitation once they no longer require around the clock in-patient care in hospital.

It is set to be transformational for young patients and their families across the South West and South Wales, and enhance the expert treatment, therapy and rehabilitation offered in the children’s hospital.

**About Aardman**    
Aardman is an employee-owned company, based in Bristol (UK) and co-founded in 1976 by Peter Lord and David Sproxton. An independent, multi-Academy Award® and BAFTA® award winning studio, it produces feature films, series, advertising and interactive entertainment. Current animated productions include series 7 of Shaun the Sheep and a third series of The Very Small Creatures.

Its productions are global in appeal, novel, entertaining, brilliantly characterised and full of charm reflecting the unique talent, energy and personal commitment of the Aardman team. The studio’s work – which includes the creation of much-loved characters including [Wallace & Gromit](https://www.aardman.com/film-tv-games/wallace-gromit/), [Shaun the Sheep](https://www.aardman.com/film-tv-games/shaun-the-sheep/), [Timmy Time](https://www.aardman.com/film-tv-games/timmy-time/) and [Morph](https://www.aardman.com/film-tv-games/morph/)– is often imitated, and yet the company continues to lead the field producing a rare brand of visually stunning, comedic content for cinema, broadcasters, digital platforms and live experiences around the world. Recent celebrated projects include the double-BAFTA® award-winning Wallace & Gromit film Vengeance Most Fowl which premiered on BBC One on Christmas Day 2024 and was released on Netflix globally on the 3*rd*of January 2025, the BAFTA® nominated feature film Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget, Academy Award® nominated short film [Robin Robin](https://www.aardman.com/film-tv-games/robin-robin/), International Emmy® award winning Shaun the Sheep: The Flight Before Christmas and BAFTA® nominated preschool series [The Very Small Creatures](https://www.aardman.com/film-tv-games/the-very-small-creatures/).

The studio runs the [Aardman Academy](https://academy.aardman.com/), its world-class training facility delivering excellence in film and animation training and mentoring for students around the world. The Aardman Academy offers a variety of courses from intensive one-day workshops to its flagship seven-month In-Studio Stop Motion course. All courses are delivered by industry-leading tutors and mentors with decades of experience. The Aardman Academy is an integral part of the business, representing the studio’s inclusive ethos and commitment to nurturing the animation talent of the future.

In November 2018 it became an Employee-Owned Organisation, to ensure Aardman remains independent and to secure the creative legacy and culture of the company for many decades to come. [www.aardman.com](http://www.aardman.com/)

**About Wallace & Gromit**

Wallace and Gromit, Aardman’s most loved and iconic duo have been delighting family audiences around the world for 35 years. First hitting our screens in Nick Park’s Academy Award®-winning *Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day* *Out*(1989) the pair went on to star in three further half hour specials (*Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers* (1993), *Wallace & Gromit: A Close Shave*(1995) and *Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf or Death* (2009)) and a feature length film *Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit*(2005) and are internationally celebrated winning over 100 awards at festivals - including 3 Academy Awards® and 8 BAFTA® Awards.

A regular highlight of the primetime BBC schedules, especially during the festive season, they have become British national treasures and pop culture icons in their own right. *Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf or Death* still remains the most watched Christmas Day programme since 2008 when it premiered on BBC One.

The duo featured in their first augmented reality story The Big Fix Up, followed by the Emmy®-nominated VR experience, The Grand Getaway. The new feature length title Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl, directed by Nick Park and Merlin Crossingham, premiered on BBC One on Christmas Day 2024 and was released on Netflix globally on the 3rdof January 2025.

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Wednesday will return to Netflix for Season 2 in two parts on August 6th & September 3rd.

**Gromit Unleashed 3 is kindly sponsored by:**

**Trail Partner:**

First Bus

Rolls-Royce plc

**Schools Programme Sponsor:**

John James Bristol Foundation

**Sculpture Sponsors:**

Aardman

AJ Homes Ltd

Albert Goodman

Barcan+Kirby

Beaufort Arms Ltd

Brabazon

Bristol City Centre Business Improvement District (BID)

Bristol City Council Fostering Service

Bristol Masons

Broadmead BID

Burges Salmon

Cabot Circus

Cheddar Gorge and Caves

CJ Hole

Cribbs

CrossFit Henleaze

Dick Lovett

Gardiner Haskins Interiors

Global Furniture Alliance (GFA)

Hargreaves Lansdown

Howden

IKEA Bristol

LDC

Natracare

Noah's Ark Zoo Farm

Nutricia

Pattersons

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Wai Yee Hong

West Country Water Park

Willow Brook

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Yeo Valley Organic

**With thanks to:**

Giles Woodward

Jeremy Gumbley

The Banfield, Burgess & Maddock Families

The Hitchings and Milner Family

**GROMIT UNLEASHED 3 LAUNCH – WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE**

**SCULPTURE DETAILS FOR LAUNCH**

**ON THE TRAIN**

**Toucan Tango**

From Nick Park, the creator of Wallace & Gromit, ‘Toucan Tango’ is a master of disguise. He may look tropical, but don’t be fooled, he has a heart of stone... ‘Toucan Tango’ is sponsored by and will be located at Noah’s Ark Zoo Farm and will be striking a vibrant pose there during the summer.

**Astrognome**

On his way to the stars, ‘Astrognome’ by Nick Park is inspired by “Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out”. He leaves a trail of stardust as he explores new worlds – one galaxy at a time. Don't forget the crackers! ‘Astrognome’ is sponsored by Renishaw and will be a cosmic presence at We The Curious during the trail

**Gromit Woody**

Yee haw, there’s a new sheriff in town! ‘Gromit Woody’ has been designed in collaboration with Pixar Animation Studios. He is a new addition to our “Toy Story” family, following the much-loved ‘Gromit Lightyear’ in 2013. This rootin’ tootin’ pooch is ready to lay down the law. Watch out Gromit... There’s a snake in your boot! ‘Gromit Woody’ is sponsored by LDC and will be reaching for the sky at Cribbs Mall during the trail.

**Darth McGraw**

Luke, I am your Feather! In collaboration with Lucasfilm, we have used the force to transform Feathers McGraw into Lord of the Sith. But it’s no secret that Feathers McGraw has always been drawn to the dark side... ‘Darth McGraw’ is sponsored by Cribbs Mall and will be a legendary presence at Cribbs for the duration of the trail.

**Yellow Submarine**

We’ve all heard of the Fab Four, but now we have a fab four-legged friend! ‘Yellow Submarine’ has been designed in partnership with the legendary Sir Paul McCartney and is based on The Beatles’ smash hit film and song from the 1960s. ‘Yellow Submarine’ is sponsored by The Wave and will be staying above the waterline there for the duration of the trail.

**El Plumas**

Fresh off the plane from Los Angeles, ‘El Plumas’ has been designed and painted by acclaimed director Jorge R. Gutierrez, with inspiration from his award-winning film “The Book of Life”. A true celebration of the Mexican holiday The Day of the Dead, Feathers is ready to doth his sombrero to the friends and family no longer with us. ‘El Plumas’ is sponsored by WWT Slimbridge and will be a symbolic presence there for the duration of the trail.

**Love, Actually**

"If you look for it, I've got a sneaky feeling you'll find that love, actually, is all around.” In partnership with Richard Curtis, the writer and director of the hit film “Love Actually”, Gromit is re-imagined as a pup in love. To us, Gromit, you are perfect! ‘ Love, Actually’ is sponsored by Cabot Circus and will be bringing a touch of romance there for the duration of the trail.

**Rooster Booster**

COCK-A-DOODLE DOO! Watch out, Rocky. This plucky, free-range Wallace, designed by Peter Lord (director of “Chicken Run”) is ready for his next starring role. ‘Rooster Booster’ would make a cracking egg-stra for the next “Chicken Run”!  ‘Rooster Booster’ is sponsored by Hargreaves Lansdown and will be a feathery presence at their HQ on Anchor Road for the duration of the trail.

**The Secret Keeper**

From Frances Hodgson Burnett’s classic tale, Gromit is re-imagined, full of beauty and surprises. Let the robin guide you to the hidden key and the garden’s locked gate where you’ll uncover a world of wonder! ‘The Secret Keeper’ is sponsored by Peer Real Estate Ltd and will be an enchanted presence at St Mary Centre in Thornbury for the duration of the trail.

**Wednesday**

Re-imagined in collaboration with Netflix from the smash-hit series, ‘Wednesday’ is mysterious with a calculated flair. Smart and sinister, ‘Wednesday’ joins the trail, bringing her signature deadpan look to the streets of Bristol. ‘Wednesday’ is sponsored by Burges Salmon and will bring her mischievous presence to Bristol Temple Meads station this summer.

**Oceana**    
Gromit's shimmering, pearlescent coat, with imagery of the sea and a belt made from shells, pays homage to the folklore of mermaids. These magical sea creatures have inspired countless books and films and, now, this captivating sculpture. ‘Oceana’ is kindly sponsored by VWV and will be a sea-loving presence at Narrow Quay on the harbourside for the duration of the trail.

**Phileas Dogg**

Jules Verne’s dashing adventurer is reimagined with a Bristolian twist. Inspired by “Around the World in 80 Days”, ‘Phileas Dogg’ sets out on an epic journey to circle Bristol in 80 ways - turning every obstacle into an adventure. Can you spot all 80 modes of transport? With thanks to our great friend Giles Woodward, ‘Phileas Dogg’ will be a distinguished presence at the M Shed for the duration of the trail.

**Marigold**

Dressed as Bollywood royalty in vibrant reds greens and marigold yellows, this Gromit is ready to steal the show with every wag and pose.There’s a new four-legged star in the city! ‘Marigold’ is sponsored by IKEA Bristol and will be a regal presence there during the trail.

**ON THE PYRONAUT**

**Jolly Roger**     
This fearless and swashbuckling pirate is ready to delight the crowds before his next big adventure, proving that even the smallest pirate can make the biggest splash.Ahoy, me hearties! ‘Jolly Roger’ is sponsored by Natracare and will be a seafaring presence at Underfall Yard during the trail.

**POSSIBLE ADDITION TO TRAIN**

**Starcatcher**     
Inspired by the beautifully illustrated book “How to Catch a Star”and painted by artist and storyteller Oliver Jeffers, this is an endearing children’s story about the magic of friendship. This Norbot truly reaches for the stars! ‘Starcatcher’ is sponsored by Dick Lovett and will be a twinkling presence at Kingswood Park for the duration of the trail.

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Gardiner Haskins Interiors

Global Furniture Alliance (GFA)

Hargreaves Lansdown

Howden

IKEA Bristol

LDC

Natracare

Noah's Ark Zoo Farm

Nutricia

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**ON THE TRAIN**

**Toucan Tango**

From Nick Park, the creator of Wallace & Gromit, ‘Toucan Tango’ is a master of disguise. He may look tropical, but don’t be fooled, he has a heart of stone... ‘Toucan Tango’ is sponsored by and will be located at Noah’s Ark Zoo Farm and will be striking a vibrant pose there during the summer.

**Astrognome**

On his way to the stars, ‘Astrognome’ by Nick Park is inspired by “Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out”. He leaves a trail of stardust as he explores new worlds – one galaxy at a time. Don't forget the crackers! ‘Astrognome’ is sponsored by Renishaw and will be a cosmic presence at We The Curious during the trail

**Gromit Woody**

Yee haw, there’s a new sheriff in town! ‘Gromit Woody’ has been designed in collaboration with Pixar Animation Studios. He is a new addition to our “Toy Story” family, following the much-loved ‘Gromit Lightyear’ in 2013. This rootin’ tootin’ pooch is ready to lay down the law. Watch out Gromit... There’s a snake in your boot! ‘Gromit Woody’ is sponsored by LDC and will be reaching for the sky at Cribbs Mall during the trail.

**Darth McGraw**

Luke, I am your Feather! In collaboration with Lucasfilm, we have used the force to transform Feathers McGraw into Lord of the Sith. But it’s no secret that Feathers McGraw has always been drawn to the dark side... ‘Darth McGraw’ is sponsored by Cribbs Mall and will be a legendary presence at Cribbs for the duration of the trail.

**Yellow Submarine**

We’ve all heard of the Fab Four, but now we have a fab four-legged friend! ‘Yellow Submarine’ has been designed in partnership with the legendary Sir Paul McCartney and is based on The Beatles’ smash hit film and song from the 1960s. ‘Yellow Submarine’ is sponsored by The Wave and will be staying above the waterline there for the duration of the trail.

**El Plumas**

Fresh off the plane from Los Angeles, ‘El Plumas’ has been designed and painted by acclaimed director Jorge R. Gutierrez, with inspiration from his award-winning film “The Book of Life”. A true celebration of the Mexican holiday The Day of the Dead, Feathers is ready to doth his sombrero to the friends and family no longer with us. ‘El Plumas’ is sponsored by WWT Slimbridge and will be a symbolic presence there for the duration of the trail.

**Love, Actually**

"If you look for it, I've got a sneaky feeling you'll find that love, actually, is all around.” In partnership with Richard Curtis, the writer and director of the hit film “Love Actually”, Gromit is re-imagined as a pup in love. To us, Gromit, you are perfect! ‘ Love, Actually’ is sponsored by Cabot Circus and will be bringing a touch of romance there for the duration of the trail.

**Rooster Booster**

COCK-A-DOODLE DOO! Watch out, Rocky. This plucky, free-range Wallace, designed by Peter Lord (director of “Chicken Run”) is ready for his next starring role. ‘Rooster Booster’ would make a cracking egg-stra for the next “Chicken Run”!  ‘Rooster Booster’ is sponsored by Hargreaves Lansdown and will be a feathery presence at their HQ on Anchor Road for the duration of the trail.

**The Secret Keeper**

From Frances Hodgson Burnett’s classic tale, Gromit is re-imagined, full of beauty and surprises. Let the robin guide you to the hidden key and the garden’s locked gate where you’ll uncover a world of wonder! ‘The Secret Keeper’ is sponsored by Peer Real Estate Ltd and will be an enchanted presence at St Mary Centre in Thornbury for the duration of the trail.

**Wednesday**

Re-imagined in collaboration with Netflix from the smash-hit series, ‘Wednesday’ is mysterious with a calculated flair. Smart and sinister, ‘Wednesday’ joins the trail, bringing her signature deadpan look to the streets of Bristol. ‘Wednesday’ is sponsored by Burges Salmon and will bring her mischievous presence to Bristol Temple Meads station this summer.

**Oceana**    
Gromit's shimmering, pearlescent coat, with imagery of the sea and a belt made from shells, pays homage to the folklore of mermaids. These magical sea creatures have inspired countless books and films and, now, this captivating sculpture. ‘Oceana’ is kindly sponsored by VWV and will be a sea-loving presence at Narrow Quay on the harbourside for the duration of the trail.

**Phileas Dogg**

Jules Verne’s dashing adventurer is reimagined with a Bristolian twist. Inspired by “Around the World in 80 Days”, ‘Phileas Dogg’ sets out on an epic journey to circle Bristol in 80 ways - turning every obstacle into an adventure. Can you spot all 80 modes of transport? With thanks to our great friend Giles Woodward, ‘Phileas Dogg’ will be a distinguished presence at the M Shed for the duration of the trail.

**Marigold**

Dressed as Bollywood royalty in vibrant reds greens and marigold yellows, this Gromit is ready to steal the show with every wag and pose.There’s a new four-legged star in the city! ‘Marigold’ is sponsored by IKEA Bristol and will be a regal presence there during the trail.

**ON THE PYRONAUT**

**Jolly Roger**     
This fearless and swashbuckling pirate is ready to delight the crowds before his next big adventure, proving that even the smallest pirate can make the biggest splash.Ahoy, me hearties! ‘Jolly Roger’ is sponsored by Natracare and will be a seafaring presence at Underfall Yard during the trail.

**POSSIBLE ADDITION TO TRAIN**

**Starcatcher**     
Inspired by the beautifully illustrated book “How to Catch a Star”and painted by artist and storyteller Oliver Jeffers, this is an endearing children’s story about the magic of friendship. This Norbot truly reaches for the stars! ‘Starcatcher’ is sponsored by Dick Lovett and will be a twinkling presence at Kingswood Park for the duration of the trail.