**FINAL**

**Get ready… for the Hot Dog Dash**

Supporters from across the city are invited to take part in the Hot Dog Dash, an epic fundraising challenge as part of Gromit Unleashed 3.

The Hot Dog Dash is the newest fundraising campaign from The Grand Appeal, the Bristol Children’s Hospital Charity, allowing trail fans to see 53 iconic sculptures, with a fundraising twist.

The Hot Dog Dash offers participants the unique opportunity to complete any distance of their choice and involves exploring Bristol’s beloved public art trail, all in support of The Grand Appeal.

Walk, run or step to the beat of your drum; participants can cover as little or as much distance as they desire. A casual 5k, that’s fine. 10k, sounds great. Or just try and see as many sculptures as you can in a day or weekend.

For their efforts, after raising £50, participants will receive a bespoke Gromit Unleashed 3 running top – inspired by the 1950s roller-skating ‘Hot Dog’ Gromit, designed by Carys Tait, which can be found at TOUT’s Cleeve.

Kate Jones, Community Fundraising Manager, The Grand Appeal, comments: “How you Hot Dog Dash is completely up to you. You can do it alone, with friends or family. You could run, walk, cycle, dance, skate… the possibilities are endless!

“Your only goal is to get moving and grooving during the Gromit Unleashed 3 trail while raising vital funds for sick children.”

The amazing people of the South West have already raised thousands of pounds by taking part in the Hot Dog Dash.

In February, Lucy Radford faced an unimaginable challenge when her 3-year-old son, Connor, was diagnosed with leukaemia. Connor is now on a courageous journey, supported by the love of his family and the dedicated staff at Bristol Children’s Hospital.

Portishead Running Club raised over £6k, undertaking a 24-hour running relay for ‘Little Connor’.

In June 2024, Molly and James’s 7-month-old son Rory, suffered a seizure. The next day it happened again — only this time he stopped breathing and had to be resuscitated in the ambulance.

After a series of seizures, tests, and hospital stays, Rory was diagnosed with epilepsy — and later confirmed to have a rare SCN1A genetic mutation, likely Dravet Syndrome.

Molly, James and Rory's ramble team undertook a mammoth Hot Dog Dash. A 200km walk over five days, visiting all the 53 sculptures, raising over £3,600 in the process.

Those taking part in the Hot Dog Dash will be supporting The Grand Appeal, which has a multi-million-pound portfolio of support in aid of Bristol Children’s Hospital and St Michael’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Signing up is simple. Just [head online](https://www.grandappeal.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/events/hot-dog-dash/) to register, it’s free to take part, and The Grand Appeal can provide you with a wealth of fundraising ideas, inspiration and materials to help you along your way. To find out more and to register for the Hot Dog Dash, visit: <https://www.grandappeal.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/events/hot-dog-dash/>

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**

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**About The Grand Appeal**

Wallace & Gromit’s Grand Appeal, Bristol Children’s Hospital Charity, is celebrating its 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.

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.

**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 Masons / Broadmead BID / Burges Salmon / Cabot Circus / Cheddar Gorge and Caves / CJ Hole / Cribbs / CrossFit / Henleaze / Dick Lovett / Fostering Service Bristol City Council / Gardiner Haskins Interiors / Global Furniture Alliance (GFA) / Hargreaves Lansdown / Howden / IKEA Bristol / LDC / Natracare / Noah's Ark Zoo Farm / Nutricia / Pattersons / Peer Real Estate Limited / Puxton Park / Redcliffe & Temple BID / Renishaw / S&W / St Nick's Market Traders / The Kendleshire / The Rose & Crown Pucklechurch / The Wave / TOUT'S - Passionate About Food / TPAAS Limited / VWV / Wai Yee Hong / West Country Water Park / Willow Brook / WWT Slimbridge / Yeo Valley Organic

**With thanks to:**

Giles Woodward

Jeremy Gumbley

The Banfield, Burgess & Maddock Families

The Hitchings and Milner Family

**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.

With a permanent attraction at Blackpool Pleasure Beach with over 500,000 riders every year, over 1 million fans on Facebook and a total of 102 million views on YouTube, these perennial characters continue to grow audiences across multiple platforms.