**Thursday 2 October 2025**

**Gromit Unleashed 3 Auction Smashes Fundraising Records**

This evening (Thursday 2 October), the much-loved Gromit Unleashed 3 sculptures went under the hammer in a spectacular charity auction at the Gromit Unleashed Pavilion, Cribbs Mall, Bristol.

Presiding over the bidding was esteemed auctioneer, Helena Newman, chairman of Sotheby’s Europe, who brought world-class expertise to what proved to be a landmark fundraising event.

In total, Gromit Unleashed 3 has raised *£2,000,000* for The Grand Appeal, supporting Bristol Children’s Hospital and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at St Michael’s Hospital.

Over 50 unique sculptures, including all the stars of this summer’s trail plus the Gromit Unleashed Miniature Collection, were sold to eager bidders. From five-foot-tall Gromits to Wallace-adorned benches, dazzling Norbots, mischievous Feathers McGraws and even a framed painting of ‘Feathers with the Pearl Earring.’ Every piece offered bidders the chance to own a piece of Bristol’s cultural history while supporting sick children and babies.

Among the highlights, Darth McGraw, Bobby Dazzler, and the framed picture of Bird with a Diamond Earring attracted fierce competition. In order, selling for £70,000, £65,000, and £60,000. Bidders joined from across the UK and around the world, underlining the global appeal of the collection.

Stars from the Gromit Unleashed 3 cast included Yellow Submarine, in collaboration with Paul McCartney; Gromit Woody, in collaboration with Pixar; Netflix’s Wednesday; Love, Actually in partnership with Richard Curtis; Darth McGraw in collaboration with Lucasfilm; Poppy in collaboration with DreamWorks; Starcatcher by Oliver Jeffers; El Plumas by Jorge R. Guitiérrez; and Big Friendly Wallace inspired by Roald Dahl’s Big Friendly Giant.

To complete the line-up, an authenticated print of Banksy’s *Toxic Mary*, gifted to the charity by a long-term benefactor, proved another auction favourite, raising £19,000.

Funds raised from Gromit Unleashed 3 will support The Grand Appeal’s ongoing work at Bristol Children’s Hospital and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at St Michael’s Hospital, including the building of the UK’s first dedicated Patient Hotel, arts, music and play programmes, pioneering equipment, life-saving research, and accommodation for families in need during their darkest days.

Nicola Masters, director of The Grand Appeal, said: “What an incredible night! To see these much-loved characters go under the hammer and raise such an astonishing amount is truly humbling. We are so grateful to every bidder, sponsor, artist and supporter who made this possible. These funds will make a life-changing difference for sick children and babies cared for at Bristol Children’s Hospital and St Michael’s Hospital.”

Helena Newman, chairman of Sotheby’s Europe, added: “It was an honour to host such an extraordinary auction, bringing together the creative genius of some of the most iconic names in art, film, music and literature, in partnership with Aardman. Every sculpture was a work of love and imagination, created with the purpose of helping The Grand Appeal in its vital mission.”

This year, The Grand Appeal and Aardman celebrate a 30-year partnership of Wallace & Gromit spearheading the charity’s fundraising. The partnership was first conceived in 1995 to help raise money to build the Bristol Children’s Hospital on Upper Maudlin Street, Bristol. Since then, The Grand Appeal has generated £90 million for Bristol Children’s Hospital Charity and 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, visit [www.gromitunleashed.org.uk](http://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 Helena Newman**

Helena Newman is Chairman of Sotheby’s Europe and Chairman of Impressionist & Modern Art Worldwide. She has over 35 years of experience in the industry, joining Sotheby’s in 1988. She is a lead authority and specialist in the field and has been at the forefront of the global development of the Impressionist & Modern Art market over the last three decades, building extensive, trusted relationships with a wide range of international collectors and institutions. She is also a Senior Auctioneer and the only woman in the industry ever to have auctioned not just one but two masterpieces above $100 million. As a classically trained violinist with an innate sense of the performing skills necessary to command a room, Helena is at the vanguard of women in the art world who are blazing the trail in their industry.

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

**Trail Partner:**

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**Schools Programme Sponsor:**

John James Bristol Foundation

**Sculpture Sponsors:**

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**About The Grand Appeal**

Wallace & Gromit’s Grand Appeal, Bristol Children’s Hospital Charity, is celebrating its 30 year 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.

The schools taking part in the Gromit Unleashed 3 Schools Programme, who have sponsored nearly 100 sculptures, are as follows:

Oasis Academy Bank Leaze / Woodlands Primary School and Nursery / Olveston CEVC PrimarySchool / Redmaids’ High School / Winterstoke Hundred Academy / The Park Education / St Paul’s Catholic Primary / Berkeley Primary School / Crockerne C of E Primary School / The Tynings School / St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary School / Bradley Stoke Community School    / Barton Hill Academy / Oasis Academy Long Cross  / Four Acres Academy / Willow Park CE Primary School  / Easton C of E Academy / E-ACT The Kingfisher School / Fair Furlong Primary  / Henbury Court Primary / Bannerman Road Community Academy / Wallscourt Farm Academy / Whitchurch Primary School  / Haywood Village Academy  / Bromley Heath Junior School  / St Michael's C of E Primary School / Flax Bourton C of E Primary School / Blackhorse Primary School / St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School / Almondsbury C E Primary School / St Mary Redcliffe C of E Primary School / Shirehampton Primary School / Christ Church C of E VC Junior School / Saltford C of E Primary School / Mangotsfield School / Emersons Green Primary School / New Siblands School / Avonmouth C of E Primary School / Cathedral School / St Joseph's Catholic Primary School / Parklands Educate Together / Sir Bernard Lovell School / Stoke Bishop C of E Primary School  / Castlefell School / Hanham Primary Federation / Cirencester Primary School / Kington St Michael C of E Primary School / Cathedral Primary School / Oasis Academy Brislington / Wadebridge School / Horfield C of E Primary School / Northleaze C of E Primary School / Leighton Park School / Westbury Little Foxes Forest School / Bristol Conservatoire of Theatre Arts / Little Stoke Primary School / Nova Primary School / Henleaze Junior School / Cherry Garden Primary School  / Bromley Heath Infant School  / Somerdale Educate Together Primary School  / City of Bristol College / Sheldon School / Barley Close Community Primary School / Evercreech C of E Primary School / Arbour Vale School / Mulberry Park Educate Together / Redfield Educate Together Primary Academy / Victoria Park Primary School  / Bailey's Court Primary School / Winscombe Primary School / St Mark’s Primary School / Wellsway School / Bristol Free School & Sixth Form  / Mangotsfield C of E Primary School / Silver Bridge School / Ashley Down Primary School / Cleve House School  / St Bernadette Catholic Primary School  / Samuel White’s Infant School  / St Ursula's E-Act Academy

**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.