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**Interactive Gromitronic unleashed in Bristol**

Tens of thousands of people are this summer visiting [Renishaw’s](http://www.renishaw.com) Gromitronic, one of the ground-breaking interactive sculptures featured in the first interactive trail of its kind, Gromit Unleashed 2. Organised by The Grand Appeal, the 67-sculpture trail is raising money for Bristol Children’s Hospital and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at St Michael’s Hospital, Bristol. Renishaw’s interactive Gromit can be found at M Shed in Bristol until Sunday September 2nd, 2018.

Gromitronic is one of three interactive ‘Trailblazer’ sculptures on the trail, the first of their kind in the world. A team of young engineers from Gloucestershire-based engineering company, Renishaw, including apprentices and graduates, designed and built Gromitronic with the help of Dave Collingwood, Principal Engineer, using a range of engineering skills and technologies, including software engineering, mechanical engineering, electronics and metal additive manufacturing (3D printing).

Visitors to the trail have the opportunity to interact with Gromitronic by touching his plasma ball nose, pressing buttons on his back and controlling the light sequence across the sculpture. Some features, such as his moving tail and collar were additively manufactured from titanium and aluminium powder using Renishaw’s machines. Visitors that look closely may also spot some additively manufactured Bristol landmarks, such as the Clifton Suspension Bridge and Bristol Cathedral, in the studs in Gromitronic’s collar.

“The Grand Appeal is a fantastic local cause, benefitting young people across the South West and South Wales region and in Renishaw’s catchment area,” explained Sarah Cannon, the Project Manager of the Renishaw team. “Our young team has created Gromitronic to work like a circuit board, so every button operates something different.”

“Gromitronic celebrates the history of electronics as well as innovation and invention in Bristol,” added Cannon. “The sculpture is fully interactive so that it will excite visitors, but we also want to start conversations about the engineering skills required to build our character.”

Renishaw is one of three Trailblazers playing a role in making the trail a success. Gromitronic joins Gromjet, built by Rolls-Royce and A Grand Gromplication, built by engineers at the University of Bristol, as the only interactive figures of the 67 on show. Throughout the two months of the trail Renishaw employees are in attendance at M Shed to discuss the engineering technologies used in the creation of Gromitronic and careers within the engineering sector.

Gromit Unleashed 2 is the third sculpture trail organised by the Bristol Children’s Hospital charity The Grand Appeal, featuring the iconic Aardman characters, to raise money for Bristol Children’s Hospital. Since 1995, The Grand Appeal has raised over £50 million to save lives and support children and their families from across the South West, South Wales and beyond.

You can find Gromitronic at M Shed from Monday July 2nd to Sunday September 2nd, 2018. He is joined by other sculptures of Gromit, Wallace and Feathers McGraw across the city and the surrounding area, all decorated by high-profile artists, designers, innovators and local talent.

For more information about the charity’s work in the South West and beyond, visit [www.grandappeal.org.uk](http://www.grandappeal.org.uk). To find out more about Renishaw visit [www.renishaw.com](http://www.renishaw.com).

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Notes to editors

UK-based Renishaw is a world leading engineering technologies company, supplying products used for applications as diverse as jet engine and wind turbine manufacture, through to dentistry and brain surgery. It has over 4,500 employees located in the 35 countries where it has wholly owned subsidiary operations.

For the year ended June 2018 Renishaw recorded sales of £611.5 million of which 95% was due to exports. The company’s largest markets are China, the USA, Germany and Japan.

Throughout its history Renishaw has made a significant commitment to research and development, with historically between 13 and 18% of annual sales invested in R&D and engineering. The majority of this R&D and manufacturing of the company’s products is carried out in the UK.

The Company’s success has been recognised with numerous international awards, including eighteen Queen’s Awards recognising achievements in technology, export and innovation.

Further information at [www.renishaw.com](http://www.renishaw.com)

About Gromit Unleashed 2

Led by Bristol Children’s Hospital Charity, The Grand Appeal, Gromit Unleashed 2 will see Nick Park's Academy Award®-winning character Gromit return to Bristol in 2018 for his second starring role in the award-winning charity's sculpture trails. But this time he's not alone; the loveable pooch will be joined by his pal Wallace and arch nemesis Feathers McGraw!

Gromit Unleashed 2, is bringing together the best and brightest of Bristol’s diverse creative and tech industries. With the help of its pioneering ‘Trailblazers’ Creditcall, Renishaw, Rolls-Royce and the University of Bristol, Gromit Unleashed 2 will showcase both Bristol’s rich engineering heritage and the city’s reputation as an internationally renowned creative and technological hub.

The Grand Appeal supports Bristol Children’s Hospital by funding pioneering, life-saving equipment and research, including ventilators, a cardiac hybrid theatre and an inter-operative MRI scanner, so that patients have access to the best possible healthcare and life-saving equipment. We provide free accommodation to families of critically ill patients from the Neonatal and Paediatric Intensive Care Units in our Cots for Tots House and Paul’s House, as well as providing free family accommodation and family support service for parents and siblings. We ensure the hospital is a vibrant and child friendly place to help distract young patients through our music therapy, art and play programmes and much more.

Bristol Children’s Hospital covers the largest geographic area of any children’s hospital in England, treating more than 100,000 children each year, and serves as the paediatric intensive care centre for the whole South West region. The hospital is an international, national and regional specialist centre of excellence for a range of services including neurosurgery, burns, epilepsy, cardiac, leukemia and bone marrow transplants. For more information, visit [www.grandappeal.org.uk](http://www.grandappeal.org.uk).