

Physics Fun at the science centre

Every Friday during the summer holidays, Cheltenham Science Group are welcoming visitors from local STEM organisations to the science centre. This week, it was the turn of the Institute of Physics (IOP).

On Friday 4th August, families flocked to the science centre in Coronation Square to have a go at some special activities brought along by local physicists. While Miranda Addey (Regional Officer for the South West branch of the IOP) played with sound, Paul Treble (a STEM Ambassador from Bishop's Cleeve) showed children how different sorts of gear can be used in various ways before letting them have a go at building simple machines from LEGO.



Miranda Addey and Paul Treble engaging girls with physics at Cheltenham Science Group Science Centre

In addition, families were able to play with the interactive exhibits that are permanently on display in the science centre. The latest addition allows children to investigate ratios by building gear chains. This is the fourth exhibit to have been funded by the Comino Foundation. The next exhibit, coming soon, will be a magnetic marble run.



Visitors play with the new interactive gears exhibit at Cheltenham Science Group Science Centre

The centre will be open everyday from Tuesday to Saturday from 10am until 4pm until 2nd September. There are also five more special events* before the end of the summer holidays, including on **Tuesday 22nd August** when palaeobiologist and artist AJ Hacker from **Schoolasaurus** will be at the science centre. Visitors will be able to handle authentic and replica fossils from the Cotswolds and around the world. For a small additional charge, they can decorate a plaster replica of a fossil to take home.

These special events are included in normal admission: £2 per person (over 4) or £7.50 for a family (up to 5 people) or free with an annual family pass (£20 for 12 months' unlimited entry for a family of 5). Rachel Miles, a mother of 7 year old twins, said, "We have an annual family pass because it is a great activity to do in the afternoon. I always think, "We'll just pop in for an hour," but the girls get so engrossed that we end up staying for longer."

-ENDS-

Contact information

www.cheltenhamsciencgroup.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/Cheltenhamsciencgroup/>

<https://twitter.com/cheltscigrp>

or contact Kirsty or Dave Watson 01684 298 525 (mobile) 07725 003 443

Visitor Information

Address: 68 Edinburgh Place, Cheltenham, GL51 7SE

Opening times:

school holidays: Tuesday - Saturday 10-4

term time: Saturday 10-4, Tuesday & Friday 2-5

Admission:

FREE for children aged 0-4

£2 per person over 4

£7.50 for a family (up to 5 people)

£20 annual family pass

* Friday Fun Sessions

- **Friday 11th August** - We will be exploring rocks and fossils with volunteers from the **Gloucestershire Geology Trust**.
- **Friday 18th August** - Ahead of the total solar eclipse in the USA on Monday 21st August, we will be joined at the science centre by volunteers from the **Cotswold Astronomical Society** for fun activities.
- **Friday 25th August** - We are looking forward to welcoming volunteers from the **Jet Age Museum** back to the science centre. Come and engineer paper aeroplanes that can carry loads and fly straight!
- **Friday 1st September** - Take part in Mission: Starlight by completing some hands-on experiments about how to keep safe from ultraviolet radiation with Dr Jenny Eyley from the **Royal Society of Chemistry** and the University of Reading.