

Cheltenham Science Group has opened its science centre to paying customers!

Over 100 people have visited the science centre in Coronation Square during its first 3 days.

Dave and Kirsty Watson founded Cheltenham Science Group as a community interest company in June 2015. Their first event was in the early years discovery zone at Cheltenham Science Festival that month and since then the organisation has engaged the public at 28 events, run 22 school days, facilitated 9 science evenings for uniformed groups and held three pop-up science centres.

CSG has transformed an empty retail unit in a deprived neighbourhood of Cheltenham into a small, permanent science centre. At present there are 12 exhibits and a maker space. Some of these exhibits have been rescued from a barn in Somerset where they had been “resting” since forming part of FabLab in Poole Park in the early 1990s. Nick Moffat said, “I put my heart and soul into designing and building these exhibits and they might have been sent for scrap or put on the bonfire, which would have been a shame.”

Thanks to funding from the Comino Foundation, CSG have commissioned further exhibits including a magnetic wall with a marble run and gears, a vertical wind tunnel, a Jacob’s ladder, a light table and a bucket speaker. It is hoped that these will be unveiled within the next couple of months ready for a “grand opening” once the front of the shop has been finished and a disabled toilet has been installed.

We have had a very positive reaction from the local community during our first week. Rachel Miles reviewed the centre on Facebook and said, “We spent nearly 2 hours in the new venue today and I had to drag my girls away! Loads of fun experiments in a friendly environment - it’s a great way of encouraging the scientists of the future. We can’t wait until our next visit!”. Daisy Green also awarded five stars and said, “Fantastic, we both learned lots and mini science dude had to be pretty heavily persuaded to leave! Looking forward to regular visits with our family pass!” The annual family pass costs £20 and entitles you and four people to free entry to the centre for 12 calendar months.

We look forward to welcoming you to the centre soon!

-ENDS-

Contact information

www.cheltenhamsciencigroup.co.uk

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

<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



Olivia Watson (6) plays with Lenz's Law exhibit



Cheltenham Science Centre - the Bernoulli blower and can roll exhibits are from FabLab and have been restored by Dave Watson