



50 giving stories shared as part of The Marketors' Trust's 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2026

No 47: Science on the high street, for people like us



Exeter Science Centre in action: hands-on science with communities across the South West.

Think of the last science centre you visited. Chances are it was somewhere you had to set out to reach, a building you chose to go into, on a day you had already decided that science was for you. Exeter Science Centre wants to reach the people who never make that decision, the ones who have been told, in a hundred small ways, that science is “not for people like us”. So it is doing something simple and rather bold: putting science on the high street, right in the flow of ordinary daily life.

Since 2021 the charity has used science to drive social change, breaking down the barriers that keep marginalised communities away from STEMM: the sciences, technology, engineering, maths and medicine. Through hands-on outreach, co-created programmes and citizen science, it has already engaged more than 17,000 people across the South West. In 2026 it will open its first permanent home, turning an empty unit on Barnstaple High Street into a community science hub. The charity, a registered CIO, has recently taken a new working name: The Planetary Lab.

Launching a new space is a challenge of its own, and this is where The Marketors' Trust came in. Exeter Science Centre received one of the Trust's two top Charity Grants of 2025, £10,000, to fund its Science on the High Street campaign: the marketing that will open the doors, tell people what is inside, and reach audiences who have never thought of a science centre as a place for them.

The charity was, in its own words, thrilled:

"We are thrilled to receive one of two £10,000 grants from The Marketors' Trust to support our campaign in launching our upcoming science centre in Barnstaple. This funding will help us get the message out about our work to new audiences, and make a huge success of the launch of our very first space."

It is a fitting use of the Trust's gift. A brilliant new science centre helps no one if the people it is built for never walk through the door. What £10,000 of marketing buys here is not a poster or a logo for its own sake. It is the invitation: the moment a passer-by on Barnstaple High Street looks in and thinks, perhaps for the first time, that this might be for them.



Website: planetarylab.org

How to give

Every gift, at whatever level, helps secure the Trust's grants, awards and care for the next fifty years.

To give, go to: <https://www.marketors.org/the-marketors-trust/support-ways-to-give>

The Marketors' Trust, Registered charity no. 272339