

## £5million centre will tackle world's greatest challenges

The new Aurora Innovation Centre at British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge was officially opened on Friday (July 21) by universities and science minister Jo Johnson.

The centre will support cross-discipline research to tackle environmental challenges and increase the real-world benefit of polar research.

It has been funded by £5million provided by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) from the UK science budget, along with a £300,000 contribution from Cambridge University.

The centre offers a collaboration space, exhibition area and state-of-the-art conference and meeting facilities.

Mr Johnson said: "This new innovation centre will bring together great minds from a variety of disciplines to lead the international effort to tackle environmental change and demonstrate the value of research collaboration in solving some of the greatest challenges of our time."

The minister also confirmed a funding contribution of £18million towards the cost of modernising the BAS's Rothera Research Station on the Antarctic Peninsula.



Science minister Jo Johnson with Andrew Fleming at the British Antarctic Survey

Picture: Keith Heppell

## Living wage adopted by ethnic forum

The racial equality charity, Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF), has received Living Wage accreditation.

It becomes the latest employer in Cambridge to demonstrate its commitment to fair pay.

The award, from the Living Wage Foundation, confirms the charity has pledged to pay all its staff at least £8.45 per hour.

CECF provides racial equality services to promote an understanding between people from different ethnic groups, and to help all groups play an active part in Cambridge life.

Richard Johnson, executive councillor for communities, said: "I congratulate the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum for being awarded Living Wage."

"They have now joined 51 other local employers in Cambridge who share a clear commitment to tackling economic inequality through the principle of fair pay."

The Living Wage is essential for people on the lowest incomes who struggle with the cost of living in Cambridge. The city council was awarded Living Wage accreditation in 2014.

# Hospice Help at Home Appeal set to reach £20,000

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The East Anglian Children's Hospices' Help at Home Appeal – supported by the *Cambridge Independent* – has almost reached the £20,000 mark with donations coming from across the county.

Recruitment specialists Lucy Tufts and Chris Chapman, from Polkadotfrog near Bar Hill, added £920 by throwing themselves out of a plane at 13,000ft (3,962m) at Chatteris Airfield.

They hurtled through the air at speeds in excess of 120mph (193kph) before their parachutes opened, and then enjoyed some spectacular views.

Chris, who is operations manager at the firm, said: "It was a great experience and something I will always remember."

"It felt even better knowing that we were able to have fun while at the same time raising money for such a worthy cause."

Members of the public and businesses wishing to lend their support to the appeal can do so at <http://ow.ly/fMJH30a994P> or by texting EHAH00 and the amount they wish to donate to 70070.

Each has also benefited from Natalie Tuerna's skydive at the North London

Skydiving Centre near Wimblington.

A member of staff at the March branch of Ridgeons, which is currently supporting Each as its charity of the year, 33-year-old Natalie jumped from the same height as Lucy and Chris, raising £1,350.

The Milton Gala Day held earlier this month also raised money for the campaign, with several thousand pounds expected to be donated to the cause, which will push the total to around £20,000.



Lucy Tufts and Chris Chapman, from Polkadotfrog near Bar Hill, raising money for Each

The Cambridge Independent launched an appeal earlier this year to raise the £87,000 needed to launch the Help at Home service in Cambridgeshire – a scheme for families who have a child with a life-limiting illness and need help with some everyday chores.

■ Can you help boost the total? Why not set yourself a challenge and get your family, friends and colleagues to sponsor you? And remember to let us know what you are doing. Email [gemma.gardner@iliffmedia.co.uk](mailto:gemma.gardner@iliffmedia.co.uk).



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