

For immediate release
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Join the Great Walrus Tea Party 2021

Join in the Great Walrus Tea Party 2021 and help celebrate the Horniman's 120th birthday. Throw a tea party on Tuesday 29 June, or anytime that month, to raise much-needed funds and mark the Horniman's special day.

Back for a second year, the Great Walrus Tea Party invites people to gather their family, friends and colleagues for a virtual or in-person (socially distanced) tea party, in support of the Horniman Museum and Gardens in Forest Hill – a much loved local attraction and home to the infamous stuffed walrus.

Sarah Cook, Head of Fundraising at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: 'Whether you're a brilliant baker, a keen cake decorator or simply an enthusiastic eater, register today to join in the Great Walrus Tea Party fun. 2021 is our 120th anniversary and this year, more than ever, the walrus needs your help.'

The Museum is currently closed due to pandemic restrictions and, while it hopes to reopen in May, the Horniman anticipates a shortfall over this financial year of over £1million in self-generated income, compared to pre-pandemic levels.

Jo Brand, comedian, actor and writer, and a Horniman Ambassador, says: 'If you love the walrus and the Horniman Museum and Gardens as much as I do, why not join in by hosting a Great Walrus Tea Party? Bake your walrus-themed cakes and invite your friends along to have fun and raise some money. Every penny will help the Horniman inspire future generations of London's families and schoolchildren to love and protect nature.'

Great Walrus Tea Party participants receive a free online fundraising pack of information, walrus-themed recipes and activities, and plenty of tips to host their tea party. Sign up for your pack at horniman.ac.uk/walrusteaparty or email teaparty@horniman.ac.uk.

Ends

Horniman Press Office - press@horniman.ac.uk

Pictured: Jo Brand and the Great Walrus Tea Party, credit Emily Lovell for the Horniman Museum and Gardens. Additional imagery available on request.

Notes to Editors:

- **Coronavirus restrictions and impact** – following the latest government guidance, the Museum and Butterfly House are currently closed. The Horniman Gardens remain open, including the Café kiosks, toilets and Sunday market, and the Horniman is asking the public to adhere to social distancing and the latest safety advice guidance.
- The Museum was closed from 18 March 2020 to 30 July, from 5 November to 3 December, and closed again on 4 January 2021. The Gardens have remained open throughout the pandemic.
- **Every month the Horniman is closed costs around £150,000 in lost income** from ticket sales, memberships, the shop and café. In recent years, the Horniman has increasingly relied on this vital income to help care for the Gardens, animals and Aquarium residents, to run events and to look after the collections. The Horniman anticipates a shortfall over this financial year (2021-22) of over £1million in self-generated income, compared to pre-pandemic levels. The support of returning visitors, our supporters and their generous donations, are more needed than ever. [horniman.ac.uk/support-us/](https://www.horniman.ac.uk/support-us/)
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium. A new World Gallery of anthropology opened in June 2018 and a new arts space, The Studio, opened in October 2018. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. [horniman.ac.uk](https://www.horniman.ac.uk)
- The Horniman Museum and Gardens is core-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio Organisations.
- On 29 July 2019 the **Horniman Museum and Gardens declared an ecological and climate emergency**, pledging to place carbon reduction and environmental issues at the heart of its work. The declaration – and the subsequent **Climate and Ecological Manifesto**, published in January 2020 – is a consolidation of existing work and a commitment to renewed ambitions to reduce the Horniman's environmental and pollution footprint, increase biodiversity, and inspire others to do so. Find out more about the Horniman's manifesto commitments and progress so far at [horniman.ac.uk/climate](https://www.horniman.ac.uk/climate).