

For immediate release

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Horniman announces 125th anniversary events and asks for visitors' memories and historic photos

The Horniman Museum and Gardens has announced a series of events to celebrate its 125th anniversary, starting with a free birthday party on 27 June which will offer visitors a fun-filled day of more than 40 activities across the south London venue.

The party will include giant crafts, music stages and roaming performances, multiple tours and trails, birthday-hat-making and opportunities for visitors to share their memories of the Horniman and their hopes for its next 125 years.

Further highlights of the Forest Hill attraction's 125th year include a season of live music concerts on the Horniman's historic Bandstand, a special birthday-edition Sunday market, the return of firm favourite Music, Jerk 'n Tings, a schools event, and more.

Ahead of the festivities, the Horniman is seeking memories and photos of the Forest Hill attraction from visitors past and present – from long-ago school visits and family outings to favourite objects, memorable exhibitions and events.

Michael Salter-Church, Chair of Trustees of the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: 'We're excited to share our plans to mark this milestone anniversary year. Thanks to generous support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and all our supporters, we will be opening new and revitalised spaces in our stunning Gardens and the Museum during the next 12 months. These have been delivered as part of our transformational Nature + Love project which continues our focus on the natural world we all share. I'm even more excited to think about the next 125 years of the Horniman and what future generations of visitors might see and do here.'

More

Gordon Seabright, Chief Executive of the Horniman Museum and Gardens says: 'The Horniman has welcomed generations of visitors since it opened on 29 June 1901, and we know what a special place it has in people's hearts. We're looking forward to as many people as possible joining the celebrations for our 125th anniversary, and we'd especially like to hear people's favourite moments and memories at the Horniman, as we look to the next 125 years.'

The 125th Birthday Party activities include:

- three stages hosting local and young musicians, DJs and musical storytelling for under-5s
- roaming musical and dance performances
- storytelling tent
- giant weaving, tree shadow colouring and giant cyanotype printing
- crafts - birthday-hat making and hedgehog highway sign making
- Horniman history display, memory map and 'Horniman Future' station
- children's games and challenges at the Smallympics
- tours and trails, including bird spotting and the Animals Everywhere AR trail
- bubbles and bouncy castles
- food stalls and bars.

To secure free tickets to the Horniman's 125th Birthday Party, visit:

horniman.ac.uk/event/125th-birthday-party/

For information on the Horniman's 125th anniversary programming visit:

horniman.ac.uk/125

To share memories and photos, email web@horniman.ac.uk – a selection of visitors' messages and pictures will be shared on the Horniman website and social media channels.

Ends

Horniman Press Office - Tel: 020 8291 8166 - press@horniman.ac.uk

Images:

- Visitors at the official opening of the Horniman on 29 June 1901, credit Horniman Museum and Gardens.
- Visitors at the Horniman Museum and Gardens present day, credit Horniman Museum and Gardens.

Notes to Editors:

- Help the Horniman to inspire a greater understanding and appreciation of the world we all share by donating to our [125th Anniversary Appeal](#).
- **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 a World Gallery of anthropology, music, an acclaimed aquarium, The Studio – a flexible arts and exhibition space, and a natural history gallery (closed until early 2027 for redevelopment as part of [Nature + Love](#)). 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

- The Horniman's **Nature + Love** project has been made possible by the support of a number of funders, including The National Lottery Heritage Fund, thanks to money raised by National Lottery players. Kusuma Nature Play and the improved accessibility to the Nature Trail have been made possible by Kusuma Trust. The overall project has also been funded by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport's Public Bodies Infrastructure Fund (PBIF), the Wolfson Foundation, Oak Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, and The Foyle Foundation. The Natural History Gallery closed for redevelopment from Monday 4 March 2024 as part of our [Nature + Love](#) project. The gallery will reopen in early 2027.
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** was [Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022](#), the world's largest museum prize.
- The **Horniman Museum and Gardens** relies on income from ticket sales, memberships, the shop and the Cafe to help care for the Gardens, animals and Aquarium residents, to run events and to look after the collections. The support of our visitors and donors is hugely appreciated. horniman.ac.uk/support-us
- The **Horniman Museum and Gardens** is core-funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725.
- 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.