

For immediate release

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**HORNIMAN**  
MUSEUM  
& GARDENS



## **Hundreds of Paper Poppies pop up at the Horniman Museum and Gardens for Chelsea Fringe**

Hundreds of colourful Paper Poppies made by local schoolchildren will be 'planted' in the Horniman's Gardens in a special collaboration for this year's Chelsea Fringe festival.

The red, orange, white and yellow poppies, hand made by children from Horniman Primary School in Forest Hill, south London, will be on display in the Horniman's Gardens on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 May 2018, providing an additional burst of colour to its 16 acres of beautiful open space.

The Paper Poppies installation is the latest project by Forest Hill floral designer Yolanda Chiaramello, who worked with pupils to create the vibrant display as part of this year's Chelsea Fringe festival – the volunteer-run celebration of plants, gardens and landscapes.

Wesley Shaw, Head of Horticulture at the Horniman, says: 'It's a pleasure to work with our neighbouring school to host this lovely display of poppies and to share it with our visitors and the local community. I hope this special Chelsea Fringe addition to our Gardens will inspire a future generation of gardeners.'

Yolanda Chiaramello says: 'I see the many benefits of gardens and gardening and the positive effect they have, especially when working with young children. I chose wild poppies because they come in many different varieties, are wild, self-seed and grow where they please – they're like a child's mind, free of inhibition, creative, wild. I love the idea that each child makes their own flower, which then becomes part of a larger installation to be enjoyed by the public, something each child can be proud of. This is our fourth year taking part in Chelsea Fringe and we are absolutely delighted to have the opportunity to display the poppies within the Horniman Gardens, it feels very special.'

The poppies will be on display in the Horniman's Wedding Garden, situated next to the Conservatory, on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 May. Entry to the Horniman's Gardens and to see the Paper Poppies display is free.

**Ends**

Picture Shows: Paper Poppies by Yolanda Chiamello

**Notes to Editors:**

- The seventh Chelsea Fringe will start on Saturday 19 May 2018 and run for nine days until 27 May at a host of different venues and settings. Building on the success of the previous Chelsea Fringe festivals, it will feature a mixture of public spectacles, horticultural happenings and community celebrations. The Chelsea Fringe is all about harnessing and spreading some of the excitement and energy that fizzles around gardens and gardening. Entirely independent of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show (though acting with its support) its events encompass everything from grassroots community garden projects to avant-garde art installations. The Chelsea Fringe is a community interest company (CIC) and was founded by Festival Director Tim Richardson. All progress to date has been achieved by a team of dedicated volunteers donating their time and money. Find out more at [www.chelseafringe.com](http://www.chelseafringe.com).
- Yolanda Chiamello is a floral designer based in Forest Hill, south London. More information about her work can be found at [www.chiamellofloraldesign.com](http://www.chiamellofloraldesign.com).
- The Horniman Museum and Gardens' Director of Collections Care and Estates, Kirsten Walker, is a Governor of Horniman Primary School.
- **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, with a new World Gallery of anthropology opening on 29 June 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](http://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.
- **Opening times and admission.** The Horniman Museum is open daily 10.00am-5.30pm, except 24 - 26 December, when it is closed. The Gardens open at 7.15am Monday to Saturday and 8.00am on Sunday and Bank Holidays, and close at sunset. Entry to the Museum and Gardens is free but charges apply for the Aquarium, Butterfly House and some special exhibitions and events. Horniman Members go free – [horniman.ac.uk/members](http://horniman.ac.uk/members).
- **Access.** The Museum and the Gardens are both wheelchair and pushchair friendly with accessible toilets. Limited on-site parking is available for Blue Badge holders.
- **Travel.** The Horniman is situated at 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ on the South Circular Road (A205). It can be reached easily by train to Forest Hill station (London Overground/Southern, travel time approx. 15-20 minutes from east/central London or East Croydon) and by local buses (176, 185, 197, 356, P4).