

For immediate release

Issued 1 November 2018



## **New water refill fountain helps Horniman visitors cut down on plastics**

The Horniman Museum and Gardens in south London is making it even easier for its visitors to ditch single use plastics, with the installation of a new water bottle refill point close to its main entrance.

The new refill point – which complements free refills on offer in the Horniman Café – is one of more than 20 across London provided by #OneLess and the Mayor of London, as part of the London Drinking Fountain Fund. The hope is that the new fountains will encourage visitors to refill sustainably rather than buy bottled water and help reduce the amount of plastics polluting our waterways.

Dr Emma-Louise Nicholls, chair of the staff-run Sustainability Group which oversees the Horniman's programme of continuous environmental improvement, says: 'We're constantly looking for ways to make a visit to the Horniman 'greener', so we're delighted to have been chosen as one of the sites for the new refill points. We've been making good progress in reducing single-use plastics on site – from swapping to plant-based takeaway packaging in our Café, to introducing a plastic bag charge in our gift shop while we source an alternative. Although we still stock bottled water while we're looking at greener options, this new refill point is an important and positive step, encouraging our visitors to use more refillable water bottles, and help the Horniman protect our environment.'

The London Drinking Fountain Fund has been established by the Mayor of London and #OneLess, a campaign led by the Zoological Society of London, to reduce single-use plastic water bottles in the capital and tackle ocean plastic pollution.

Dr Heather Koldewey, co-Director of the #OneLess campaign and Head of Marine and Freshwater at the Zoological Society of London said: 'This new public fountain will make it easier for Londoners to keep hydrated on the go without using single-use plastic water bottles, which could end up in the River Thames or our ocean. We are delighted to be working with the Horniman Museum and Gardens on this exciting initiative to reduce the plastic blight on the ocean and firmly establish London as a city that no longer uses plastic bottled water.'

**Ends**

Horniman Press Office - Tel: 020 8291 8166 - [press@horniman.ac.uk](mailto:press@horniman.ac.uk)

**Pictured:** Dr Emma-Louise Nicholls, chair of the Horniman's Sustainability Group, getting a refill from the new fountain. Re-usable water bottle by Rex London, available in the Horniman gift shop.

**Notes to Editors:**

- With capital from [the London Drinking Fountain Fund](#), #OneLess and the Mayor of London are installing an initial pilot network of drinking fountains and bottle refill stations across London to make it easier for Londoners to refill on the go and ditch single-use plastic water bottles.
- The **#OneLess** campaign has been leading the charge against ocean plastic pollution since 2016, focusing on the pervasive single-use plastic water bottle. #OneLess is creating a 'refill revolution' in London, transforming the capital into a place where single-use bottled water is a thing of the past and where 'refilling' rules. #OneLess is led by the Zoological Society of London, in partnership with Forum for the Future, The International Programme on the State of the Ocean, and the Thames Estuary Partnership and is working with a series of major London attractions, including London Zoo, major sporting venues, landowners, such as Broadgate Estates, and businesses, to find and implement solutions to enable a refill culture. For more information visit [www.onelessbottle.org](http://www.onelessbottle.org).
- Founded in 1826, **ZSL (Zoological Society of London)** is an international scientific, conservation and educational charity whose mission is to promote and achieve the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats. Our mission is realised through our ground-breaking science, our active conservation projects in more than 50 countries and our two Zoos, ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo. For more information visit [www.zsl.org](http://www.zsl.org).
- **MIW Water Cooler Experts** is one of the largest independent suppliers of water coolers in the UK. Formed in 1989, MIW now supplies over 7,000 schools and businesses nationwide with high quality water coolers and drinking fountains. For more than quarter of a century MIW has been developing and building innovative, high quality water coolers and drinking fountains. MIW also partners many of the UK's leading architects & construction companies in providing drinking fountains for their clients. [www.miw.co.uk](http://www.miw.co.uk)
- The plastic bag charge in the Horniman's gift shop supports [Project Coral](#), an innovative coral reproductive research project led by the Horniman Aquarium with international partners. The Horniman Aquarium has been pioneering research into developing techniques to stimulate coral sexual reproduction, and became the first institution globally to successfully induce predictable broadcast coral spawning as well as the first successful in-vitro fertilisation of captive corals in the UK. Project Coral's breakthrough of controlled captive coral spawning will support coral research facilities all over the world, by opening up opportunities to examine the effects of climate change, aid restoration of the reefs and support sustainable livelihoods.
- **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](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 10am-5.30pm, except 24 - 26 December, when it is closed. The Gardens open at 7.15am Monday to Saturday and 8am 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 and Benefactors 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. [horniman.ac.uk/visit/disability-and-access](http://horniman.ac.uk/visit/disability-and-access).
- **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).