

For immediate release

Issued 26 June 2019



## **Horniman's Grasslands Garden wins planting design award**

The Grasslands Garden at the Horniman Museum and Gardens in Forest Hill, south London has won 'Best Planting Design' at the prestigious Horticulture Week Custodian Awards.

The Horniman was one of 15 winners announced at a ceremony at Woburn Abbey yesterday (25 June 2019). The Horticulture Week Custodian Awards celebrate the best of parks, gardens and tree management.

The Grasslands Garden, opened in June 2018, celebrates globally threatened landscapes and highlights the beauty of grasses and their plant communities in a stunning display with year-round appeal. The garden was created in partnership with Olympic Park designer James Hitchmough and plantsman Neil Lucas, as not only a beautiful and sustainable space, but also one which links to the Horniman's World Gallery of anthropology by exploring indigenous people's relationships to grassland landscapes.

Key features of the Grasslands Gardens' success are:

- beauty – naturalistic planting of species with a long flowering period, contrasting with a formal border of grasses
- biodiversity – featuring plants that benefit pollinators
- sustainability – planting directly into deep gravel reduces the need for watering to almost nil
- multi-sensory appeal – planting is complemented with museum-style interpretation, a sound post and carved benches giving spaces for reflection.

Wesley Shaw, Head of Horticulture at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: 'The Grasslands Garden has been a fantastic project for us – working with such a renowned designer as James, creating the garden from scratch, and seeing it flourish through the seasons has been a great experience. The Grasslands Garden is very popular with our visitors and has even hosted the live weather report for ITV's Good Morning Britain. We're delighted that it has now been recognised by the horticultural community, with this award.'

Horticulture Week editor Kate Lowe said: 'A huge thank you to everyone who entered the 2019 Horticulture Week Custodian Awards and many congratulations to our winners, high commendations and finalists. The quality of our entries was outstanding this year and proves that our parks and gardens are simply brimming with talent and achievement.'

**More**

The Grasslands Garden is free to visit – the Horniman Gardens are open daily from 7.15am (8am on Sundays) until dusk.

### Ends

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#### Notes to Editors:

- The Horticulture Week Custodian Awards celebrate the best of parks, gardens and tree management, giving gardens and green space managers working to ensure the best possible future for all kinds of green spaces, the chance to showcase their achievements, reward team effort and highlight to stakeholders the vital role they play. [custodianawards.com](http://custodianawards.com)
- **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).