

For immediate release

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Horniman Museum to reopen from Thursday 30 July

The Horniman will reopen its doors to the public from Thursday 30 July, for the first time since mid-March.

Visitors (including Members) will need to pre-book for a free, timed entry slot, via the website horniman.ac.uk. As well as the popular galleries of natural history, world cultures and musical instruments, the Permian Monsters exhibition will also reopen on 30 July, with ticket prices from £5, and an extended run until 3 January 2021. However, some attractions will remain closed initially, including the Aquarium and Butterfly House, and some interactive exhibits have been removed or covered up.

Social distancing and other safety measures will be in place throughout the Museum, including hand sanitisation stations, an enhanced cleaning regime, updated signage and a one-way visitor route.

During the Museum's 134-day closure, the Horniman's Gardens have remained open, giving local residents much-needed green space for their daily exercise during the Coronavirus lockdown. The Horniman has gradually reopened additional facilities including toilets and Café Kiosks in the Gardens, and the Sunday Market. The main Café will reopen at the same time as the Museum with specific safety measures in place.

Nick Merriman, Chief Executive of the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: 'We've heard from many of our visitors how much they've missed the Museum. We are immensely grateful for their support during closure and look forward to welcoming them back. Our priority as we return is to increase the diversity of our visitors, address our colonial history and accelerate work on the climate and ecological emergency.'

Pre-booked tickets will be available on the website from Monday 20 July.

Ends

Notes to Editors:

- **Coronavirus closure and impact** - Following advice from Public Health England regarding the coronavirus, the **Museum closed** to the public on Wednesday 18 March and will reopen on Thursday 30 July. The Horniman's **Gardens remain open** (from 7.15am (Monday to Saturday) or 8am (Sunday and Bank Holidays) until dusk. The **Café Kiosks** are now open for snacks and drinks. The Horniman is asking the public to adhere to [social distancing guidance](#) in the Gardens.
- **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, fish and animals, to run events and to look after the collections. The support of the public, and their generous donations, are more needed than ever.
- **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
- 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 is both 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 specific commitments as part of the declaration at horniman.ac.uk.