

For immediate release

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Horniman seeks eco-conscious kids

Do you know a young wildlife hero or waste warrior? Does your family have a sustainable food champion? Is your child an Environment Champion?

The Horniman Museum and Gardens in Forest Hill is looking for children and families to join its new Environment Champions Club, a free virtual club for people determined to do something about the climate and ecological emergency.

The Environment Champions Club is open to everyone but aimed at children between six and 10, and their families, and will provide answers to their questions about the climate and ecology, inspiration for positive actions against climate breakdown, resources and learning activities – with badges to earn along the way.

Members will take part in activities at home, at the Horniman or in the local community – from gardening that supports bees, to cooking a meat-free meal. The club's Facebook group will be the activity hub, where families can also share ideas and progress with the other club members.

Carole Destre, Climate and Ecological Action Coordinator at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: 'Our planet is an amazing place but we know that animals and plants are disappearing fast, due to pollution, rising temperatures, habitat loss and illegal hunting. Scientists say it's not too late, if we act now, to protect the home we love. Each one of us can make small positive changes and together we will make a big difference. Join in and be a Horniman Environment Champion.'

Join the free Environment Champions Club at
horniman.ac.uk/environmentchampionsclub.

More

The creation of the Environment Champions Club is one of the Horniman's key pledges in its Climate and Ecology Manifesto, announced in 2020, in which it promised 'to inspire and support visitors to make their own changes'. To read more about the manifesto and the Horniman's other actions to date, visit horniman.ac.uk/climate.

Ends

Pictured: Example action chart for the Horniman Environment Champions Club – credit Horniman Museum and Gardens

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Notes to Editors:

- **Coronavirus restrictions and impact** – following the latest government guidance, the Museum and Butterfly House are currently closed. The Horniman Gardens remain open, including the Café kiosks, toilets and Sunday market, and the Horniman is asking the public to adhere to social distancing and the latest safety advice guidance.
- The Museum was closed from 18 March 2020 to 30 July and from 5 November to 3 December, and closed again on 4 January 2021. The Gardens have remained open throughout the pandemic.
- **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, animals and Aquarium residents, to run events and to look after the collections. The support of returning visitors, our supporters and their generous donations, are more needed than ever. horniman.ac.uk/support-us/
- **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 – 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.