

For immediate release

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Horniman celebrates London in Bloom double win

The Horniman Gardens has won two London in Bloom awards, announced yesterday (Wednesday 6 October) a Gold in the Heritage Parks and Gardens category and a Gold and Category Winner in the new Environment Challenge Award, which recognises efforts being made to respond to the challenges of climate change and global warming.

The Gold award is given to Gardens deemed outstanding (scoring 170 points or more out of a maximum 200), meaning they demonstrate best practise and consistency across all judging criteria.

The Heritage Parks and Gardens award was given following a judging visit in June to the Horniman Gardens' 16.5 acres of green space in Forest Hill, south London. First opened to the public in 1895, the Gardens are a mix of horticultural display gardens and parkland, with notable historic features including English Heritage-listed terraces, a 1930s Arts and Crafts-style Sunken Garden, numerous mature trees – some pre-dating the Horniman – and London's oldest Nature Trail along the route of a former railway line.

The Environment Challenge Award was desk-judged by a panel of London in Bloom experts, and the Horniman's entry highlighted its efforts to reduce water usage, waste and pollution, and promote biodiversity – from reusing waste water from the Museum's Aquarium and recycling coffee cups to creating planting schemes and mini-meadows to support pollinating insects. These are all part of the Horniman Museum and Gardens' ongoing commitment, laid out in its [Climate and Ecology Manifesto](#).

Errol Fernandes, Head of Horticulture at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: 'Taking care of historic Gardens, using modern techniques with a focus on mitigating against climate and ecological crisis, and creating a beautiful and peaceful haven for our visitors can sometimes feel like a juggling act. We know how much our visitors value what we do but it's especially gratifying to be recognised by our peers in the gardening community as well, so we're delighted to receive these London in Bloom Gold Awards.'

More

The Horniman Gardens are free to visit and open daily except Christmas Day. For seasonal opening times visit horniman.ac.uk.

Ends

Images: A selection of images is [available to download](#).

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Notes to Editors:

- **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
- **Coronavirus impact: Every month the Horniman was closed cost 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** 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.