

## Media Release

---

2 April 2021



*SEND students on a boat trip and Museum visit as part of our collaboration with Rivertime Boat Trust.*

*© River & Rowing Museum.*

### **River & Rowing Museum awarded vital support from Government's Culture Recovery Fund after dramatic impact of Covid-19**

- River & Rowing Museum to receive lifeline of £152,071 from second round of the Government's Culture Recovery Fund
- Museum among 2,700 recipients to benefit from the latest round of awards from the £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund
- This award will help the River & Rowing Museum to reopen on 20 May in line with government guidance, and to adapt to the post-Covid environment whilst continuing important fundraising to secure the Museum's future

Oxfordshire's River & Rowing Museum in Henley on Thames, whose income has seen a devastating 60% drop compared to previous years owing to the COVID crisis and impact of lockdown, has been awarded a lifeline of support from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund.

The £152,071 grant, from the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund will go towards helping the Museum to recover and reopen.

More than £300 million has been awarded to thousands of cultural organisations across the country including the River & Rowing Museum in the latest round of support from the Culture Recovery Fund, the Culture Secretary announced today.

In line with government guidance, the River & Rowing Museum plans to welcome visitors back to its galleries, Café and Shop on Thursday 20 May (tickets on sale from 27 April).

As far as using this important grant is concerned, the **Museum's new Head of Public Engagement Jon O'Donoghue said:**

*"We want our Museum and its collections to continue to be at the heart of our communities – both as a Museum for a physical visit and as a fantastic resource online. This will include growing our work with volunteers, adapting the Museum's offer for Covid-secure outdoor delivery, expanding our partnership with the Rivertime Boat Trust who support SEND education, and reaching more and more schools through online learning."*

As the Museum reopens, art lovers and fans of John Piper will delight in an exciting new display in the Museum's nationally significant John Piper Gallery. Visitors will also be able to catch the Museum's much-loved exhibition, cut short by lockdown, *Elmer and Friends: The Colourful World of David McKee* - now extended until 21 June 2021.

Other plans for Spring-Summer 2021 at the River & Rowing Museum include launching a fabulously refreshed Wind in the Willows Gallery, and the display of a significant medieval pendant, part of a major local treasure discovery in 2019.



River & Rowing Museum, Henley-on-Thames © River & Rowing Museum

**Culture Secretary, Oliver Dowden, said:**

*"Our record breaking Culture Recovery Fund has already helped thousands of culture and heritage organisations across the country survive the biggest crisis they've ever faced.*

*Now we're staying by their side as they prepare to welcome the public back through their doors - helping our cultural gems plan for reopening and thrive in the better times ahead."*

**David Worthington, River & Rowing Museum's Chair of Trustees said:**

*"We are absolutely thrilled to have been awarded this vital support from the Culture Recovery Fund. As a charity with no ongoing public funding, the Covid crisis has had a very damaging effect on our Museum's income.*

*This very welcome grant will help our small team make the significant adaptations needed to take the organisation into the new post-Covid environment. In the meantime, we continue our fundraising drive to help us to sustain our important work in sharing the art and stories of the river, to help cover our operational costs and to offset these substantial losses."*

**Sir Nicholas Serota, Chair, Arts Council England, said:**

*"Investing in a thriving cultural sector at the heart of communities is a vital part of helping the whole country to recover from the pandemic. These grants will help to re-open theatres, concert halls, and museums and will give artists and companies the opportunity to begin making new work.*

*We are grateful to the Government for this support and for recognising the paramount importance of culture to our sense of belonging and identity as individuals and as a society."*

-----

**Ends**

For additional press information, interviews or photography please contact:

Charlotte Kewell, Head of Marketing & Communications  
Kerri Cicirello, Marketing Assistant

charlotte.kewell@rrm.co.uk  
kerri.cicirello@rrm.co.uk

**Notes to Editors:**

**Arts Council England** is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in [Let's Create](#) that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

[www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million **Emergency Response Package**, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies administering the Government's **Culture Recovery Fund**. Find out more at [www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19).

At the Budget, the Chancellor announced the £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund would be boosted with a further £300 million investment. Details of this third round of funding will be announced soon.

**The River & Rowing Museum** inspires escape and exploration, telling the many stories of the River Thames and celebrating the wildlife that calls it home. Beyond its beautiful riverside location in Henley on Thames and award-winning building, the Museum's doors open onto art, history, conservation and the international sport of rowing.

The galleries include interactive displays and stories and objects of international significance, including the family-friendly 'Wind in the Willows' gallery and a dedicated gallery to the work of Modern British artist John Piper. In addition, the Museum hosts a lively programme of temporary and visiting exhibitions from partners such as the National Portrait Gallery, the Ashmolean, Seven Stories, the V&A and the Hayward Gallery in London.

Working closely with organisations in its local area, the Museum's Community Gallery showcases a wide variety of local projects. Twice shortlisted for Family Friendly Museum of the Year, the Museum is a registered educational charity, and welcomes children and adults taking part in its engaging and inspiring learning and events programme. The Museum's Chocolate Café terrace overlooks Mill Meadows, and its shop celebrates local suppliers, specialising in children's books and games, fashion and craft. [www.rrm.co.uk](http://www.rrm.co.uk)

As a charity receiving no ongoing public funding, the Museum relies on its visitors and supporters. Please help support the Museum's future by [becoming a Friend](#) or [making a donation](#).

Email: [museum@rrm.co.uk](mailto:museum@rrm.co.uk)  
Twitter: [@river\\_rowing](#)  
Facebook/Instagram: [@riverandrowingmuseum](#)

Opening Hours: The Museum is currently closed but will reopen in line with government guidance on 20 May 2021. The Museum will be open Thursday to Monday, 10am to 4pm.