

River & Rowing  
Museum  
Henley on Thames

Spring  
2019



© Victoria and Albert Museum, London.  
Wandle furnishing fabric, by William Morris.  
England, late 19th Century

THE ORIGINAL  
**MORRIS & CO**  
FOUNDED BY WILLIAM MORRIS IN 1861



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

## The Café at the River & Rowing Museum

Delicious home-made cakes, fresh smoothies, and light lunches.

[henley@leafi.co.uk](mailto:henley@leafi.co.uk)  
01491 415602

## Celebrate at the River & Rowing Museum

A unique party venue, with stunning contemporary light filled spaces.

[events@rrm.co.uk](mailto:events@rrm.co.uk)  
01491 415631



## Welcome to our Spring What's On!



Welcome to a new season of exhibitions, displays and events at the River & Rowing Museum. Our major exhibition is 'An Earthly Paradise: William Morris & The Thames', an intriguing exploration of the designer and writer's relationship with the river. It features very special loans from the V&A, British Library, William Morris Gallery and others, as well as pieces from our own collection.

Highlights are the beautiful designs named after tributaries of the Thames, taking inspiration from flowers and plants. Although created over 100 years ago, many of these vivid designs are still in production today. During the exhibition, our shop will become a go-to destination for the many homewares and gifts which feature Morris' work. Alongside the exhibition is a full programme of fabulous events for adults, children and families.

And why not let the river inspire you too? Situated in an idyllic location by the Thames, the Museum is the perfect starting point for a walk along the river bank, or a short river cruise with Hobbs of Henley. We hope you enjoy the programme as the world of the river infuses the Museum.

### Opening times

The Museum, café and shop are open daily

**10am – 5pm**

### Admission prices

#### Annual Pass

Adult – £12.50  
Concessions – £11.50  
Child 4 & over – £9.95  
Family groups – 10% discount

**Pay once and enjoy free re-entry for a year!**

Free admission for carers

Free Parking

The Museum will be closed for staff training on Mon 7 January 2019

River & Rowing Museum, Mill Meadows,  
Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire, RG9 1BF

Dr Sarah Posey, Director



With thanks to our principal sponsor Invesco



01491 415600  
[rrm.co.uk](http://rrm.co.uk)

# An Earthly Paradise: William Morris & The Thames

1 February – 14 July 2019

This new exhibition illustrates the rich and little-known story of William Morris' deep connections to the Thames. We bring together a unique selection of works, with loans from the V&A, the William Morris Gallery, British Library, and many more. Highlights include Morris' Thames series of textiles alongside his original hand-drawn designs, a signed copy of 'News from Nowhere', and his personal fishing tackle and spectacles. Materials from the Morris & Co. workshop illustrate the production process, while socialist pamphlets that Morris penned and published demonstrate his deep commitment to socialism in later life.

The influence of the Thames and its tributaries flowed through William Morris' life and work. The river provided the setting for his leisure time spent angling and boating, inspiration for his designs and writing, and the ideal water conditions for the manufacture of his textiles. One notable Thames boat trip from his London home via Henley to his rural retreat in Oxfordshire was so moving that it inspired his socialist utopia novel, 'News from Nowhere'.

Explore the Thames through Morris' eyes: a beautiful retreat from urban excess and the capitalism he despised, a valuable resource continuing the river's working heritage, and a rich source of creative inspiration. Step from the exhibition straight out onto the riverbank and find your own earthly paradise.

## Exhibition Extras

### Curator's Tour

Tues 26 Feb &  
Thurs 20 June  
11am  
£6

### An Earthly Paradise: Creative Writing Workshop

Sat 16 March  
2 – 4pm  
£21

### William Morris: A Life in 10 Objects

Weds 20 March  
11.30am – 12.30pm  
£6

### An Earthly Paradise: Adult Art Workshop

Fri 12 April  
10.30am – 3.30pm  
£45

See pages 8 & 9 for full details

© The William Morris Society. Design for Windrush printed cotton, William Morris, 1882



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



A group picnic in Henley on Thames, c. 1890



### The Henley College: Student Art Show

26 January – 7 February

This spring, we welcome back another group of talented young artists currently studying at The Henley College. This exciting debut exhibition will showcase their works made in a variety of media.

### An Earthly Paradise: The Ripple Effect

16 February – 21 July

Explore how people experienced the River Thames in William Morris' day and discover rarely seen items from the Museum's River Collection.

For thousands of years the Thames was a working waterway. In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century this changed forever when it became a pleasure ground for activities such as boating, angling, and picnicking. Discover more about recreation on the river and how it provided inspiration for many artists and writers. New works will also be on display, created by community groups in response to the designs, themes and writings in our concurrent William Morris exhibition.

**"The Thames is the water playground of the country; it is the delight, solace, and consolation of countless thousands; it is the one hundred and fifty miles of joy, health and innocent aquatic luxury."**

The Lock to Lock Times' 13 October 1888

John Piper working on the 'Landscape of Two Seasons' mural for the SS Oriana, c. late 1950s Photo credit: River &amp; Rowing Museum



## John Piper: A Very British Artist

**New for Spring 2019!** This season, the gallery will showcase pieces from Piper's 'Eye & Camera' series.

We will be shining a spotlight on Piper's best-known series of figure works, 'Eye & Camera'. In the 1960s and 70s photography was looked down on by many in the art establishment. Piper went against the grain and developed this remarkable series of experimental works featuring a semi-naked woman, his wife Myfanwy, which were a combination of his own photography, drawing and collage that formed the basis for screen-prints.

New artworks on display include an original design drawing for Piper's 'Glyders' textile, a gouache of Lulworth Castle in Dorset and his Nursery Frieze autolithographs celebrating our British coastline, alongside stunning ceramic pieces.

Art Happens\_  
with Art Fund

  
wetpaint  
GALLERY

© Oxford Mail



### Oxfordshire and the Spanish Civil War 1936 – 1939

Tues 28 Jan  
11.30am – 12.30pm

This fascinating talk tells the story of how the people of Oxfordshire responded to the Spanish Civil War. Many went to Spain to fight or as medics, whilst thousands more joined in fundraising campaigns at home. Others welcomed and housed hundreds of Basque refugees who had fled to Britain to escape the fighting. These events accompanied profound political changes, in Oxford in particular.

**Lecture ticket £6**

### The World's Oldest Boat Race

Sat 23 Feb  
10.30am – 12.00pm followed by film showing

Discover the hidden history of the world's oldest boat race – The Doggett's Coat and Badge Race. Journey back to a time when rowing was the domain of the wherry men who raced for high-stake wagers, drawing crowds of thousands. Hear about Thomas Doggett and the river apprentices who competed to win his prestigious red coat and badge, and still do so today. The event includes the showing of a new film from the Thames Festival Trust following the 2018 race competitors.

**Event ticket £10**

### An Earthly Paradise: William Morris and the Thames Curator's Tour

Tues 26 Feb & Thurs 20 Jun  
11am

An exciting opportunity to have an expert tour of the William Morris exhibition, with our Exhibition Curator guiding you around the works on display and exploring Morris' deep and varied connection with the Thames.

**Tour ticket £6**

Design for Trellis wallpaper by William Morris and Philip Webb. Copyright: William Morris Gallery, London Borough of Waltham Forest.



### William Morris: A Life in 10 Objects

Wed 20 March  
11.30am – 12.30pm

Roisin Ingleby, Curator at the William Morris Gallery, will give an overview of one of the most prolific and influential figures in British design history.

**Lecture ticket £6**

### Breaking silences in the archive

Sat 9 Mar  
11.30am – 12.30pm

This talk will consider the power of the archive, reflecting on recording women's words in oral history, marking International Women's Day.

**Lecture ticket £6**

### An Earthly Paradise: Creative Writing Workshop

Sat 16 March  
2 – 4pm

An opportunity to try your hand and explore ideas in fiction, memoir, narrative non-fiction or poetry, drawing on William Morris' alternative vision so inspired by the river and the English landscape. This informal writing workshop of supportive exercises and discovery is led by award-winning writer Jane Draycott – just bring your pen and your love of words!

**Workshop ticket £21**

### An Earthly Paradise: Adult Art Workshop

Fri 12 Apr  
10.30am – 3.30pm

Create a design and block print onto fabric in the style of William Morris. Turn this into a quilted panel using hand-stitching or a sewing machine and learn a simple 'boutis' technique to embellish your design. All materials provided.

**Workshop ticket £45**

Booking Essential – call **01491 415600**

## Museum Galleries



The Museum has four permanent galleries, showcasing all that is best about Rivers, Rowing, Henley and British artist John Piper.

Packed with historic boats, Olympic medals and beautiful boats, the **International Rowing Gallery** tells the story of rowing from Ancient Greeks to modern Olympians and trans-Atlantic expeditions. This year we are proud to be telling the incredible story of the technological innovations that led to the broadcasting of the most famous rowing event in the world: The Oxford & Cambridge Boat Race.

In the **Henley Gallery**, you'll discover many remarkable stories, an Iron Age hoard of gold coins and the beautiful steam launch Eva.

The **River Gallery** takes visitors on a journey through thousands of years of life along the majestic Thames.

Our hands on family zone – **Discover** – enables children to have fun creating their own mini Henley, with a puppet theatre, construction zone, dressing up and story corner.

## Wind in the Willows



© Estate of E H Shepard 2017

Join Ratty, Toad, Mole and Badger as they picnic by the river, whilst the wicked weasels ransack Toad Hall in this beautiful 3D exhibition that brings the children's classic story vividly to life.

Make a cup of tea in Toad's caravan, journey through the Wild Wood, hear Badger snoring and see Toad's daring prison escape!

Since publication in 1908, Kenneth Grahame's tale – originally written as a bedtime story for his son – has enchanted generations of children and earned its place in the hearts and imaginations of millions.

**"There is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."**

**Kenneth Grahame**



# Shop!

Our shop will feature a range of carefully selected products featuring some of William Morris' best loved patterns, including homewares, textiles, stationery, books and gifts.

All income supports the work of the Museum's charitable Foundation

You can also shop online at [rrm.co.uk/shop](http://rrm.co.uk/shop)

## Family Events

# Fire and Ice

Thurs 21 Feb  
10.30am – 4pm

Make a mini volcano and investigate all things meteorological as we explore extremes of temperature. Discover the Icelandic myths that inspired William Morris and design a troll to feature in your own story. Craft a sundial and a weather vane and help Mr Toad to do a weather forecast – will it be rain or shine?

**Free with admission**

## Nice Mice!

Tues 19 Feb  
10.30am – 12.30pm

Where do mice live? Find out and make your own little mice from junk materials plus some habitats to hide them in. You can visit the mice in the Wind in the Willows and learn mice language!

4 – 7 yrs  
£8.50



## Children's Workshops

Booking Essential – call **01491 415600**



## Brilliant Bird Feeders

Wed 20 Feb  
10.30am – 12.30pm

Brrr, it's cold out there! Find out how local wildlife adapts to survive the winter and use your construction skills to make a bird feeder from a recycled plastic bottle and wooden spoons.

7 – 11 yrs  
£8.50

## Lively Letters

Fri 22 Feb  
10.30am – 12.30pm

Be inspired by William Morris' beautiful lettering to create a banner celebrating you, with the first letter of your name and a few of your favourite things!

4 – 7 yrs  
£8.50



# Animal Antics!

Wed 17 Apr  
10.30am – 4pm

Meet the amazing animals from Mill Cottage Farm Experience including goats, rabbits and chicks and get crafty on an animal theme in the Museum.

**Free with admission**



## Sleepy Sheepy

Tues 9 April  
10.30am – 12.30pm

As lambs appear in the fields, make a fabric sheep-shaped nightwear case featuring a William Morris print (no sewing involved). Now you can count sheep when you go to bed!

4 – 7 yrs  
£8.50

## Crafty Cushions

Thurs 11 April  
10.30am – 12.30pm

Make a felt cushion inspired by William Morris' love of the natural world.

7 – 11 yrs  
£8.50



# River of Wonder!

Thurs 30 May  
10.30am – 4pm

Take a creative imaginary journey down the River Thames and explore the natural world and stories that inspired William Morris. Make your own fishing game and add wildlife designs to our collaborative giant wallpaper. Discover the legends of King Arthur and make a mini character to tell your own tale. Guess the mystery objects from Victorian times and draw a bookmark with illuminated letters. Where will the river take you?

**Free with admission**

## Ribbons and Rainbows

Tues 28 May  
10.30am – 12.30pm

Make simple kaleidoscopes with mirror card and create a colourful rainbow fish mobile, with inspiration from the summer rainbow in our Siberechts painting.

4 – 7 yrs  
£8.50



## Bags of Pattern

Weds 29 May  
10.30am – 12.30pm

Use your imagination and fabric ink to block print a cotton bag with your own unique design inspired by the work of William Morris.

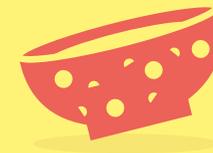
12 – 16 yrs  
£8.50

## Prehistoric Pots

Fri 31 May  
10.30am – 12.30pm

Make a clay pot decorated with your own story, inspired by ancient animals and patterns.

7 – 11 yrs  
£8.50



Coming soon...

# Summer 2019

Our family friendly summer exhibition, Bears!



Otto the Book Bear  
© Katie Cleminson

An exhibition from  
**seven stories**  
The National Centre for Children's Books



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**



With thanks to our principal sponsor Invesco



**rrm.co.uk 01491 415600**

Mill Meadows, Henley on Thames, RG9 1BF  
River & Rowing Museum Foundation Registered Charity 1001051