

## Press Release

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### **Henley's Museum wins prestigious education award**

The River & Rowing Museum, Henley on Thames, has been recognised for the high quality of their Education Service, in an awards ceremony held at the Tower of London.

The Sandford Award is an independently judged, quality assured assessment of education programmes at heritage sites, museums, archives and collections across the UK. Since the Award began 40 years ago, sites that have been recognised include London Transport Museum, Blenheim Palace and the V&A Museum of Childhood. The awards focus on formal, curriculum-linked education opportunities offered to schools by heritage sites.

**Sarah Posey, Director, River & Rowing Museum:** "I'm delighted that the Museum has been awarded the Sandford Award for its education programme, particularly the work with schools. The criteria for judging include all aspects of the programme, from booking procedures to delivery to evaluation so I would like to thank all the wonderful Learning team for all they do to ensure the quality of experience for the Museum's education visitors. "

When visiting the Museum, the Sandford Award judge noted: "...the wonderful environment for schools to study a range of topics linked to the river Thames, rowing, the environment and artist John Piper." In addition, the Museum's range of support materials to assist teachers in planning and

following up visits was highlighted and “...interesting and imaginative resources and activities available to support hands-on family and informal learning.”

**Helen Cook, Head of Learning, River & Rowing Museum:** “We are thrilled to have received this award in recognition of the quality of the Learning Programme. The Sandford Award process helps us to review what we offer to all visitors, and ensure that we are meeting to their needs.”

Visited by over 200 schools every year, the Museum’s Learning Team runs more than 20 different courses for school groups from Early Years Foundation through to a new PE GCSE course in association with Leander Club. The Museum also offers an informal learning programme of lectures, workshops and events.

More information can be found at [rrm.co.uk](http://rrm.co.uk)

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For additional press information, interviews or photography please contact:

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#### Notes to Editors:

**The River & Rowing Museum** is one of the U.K’s leading independent museums. Situated in picturesque Henley on Thames, and housed in an award-winning building on the banks of the river, the museum explores the River Thames, the international sport of rowing and the town of Henley. The galleries include interactive displays as well as internationally-significant collections, including the family-friendly ‘Wind in the Willows’ gallery and a permanent display of the work of artist John Piper. In addition, the Museum hosts a lively programme of temporary and visiting exhibitions, working with partners such as the National Portrait Gallery, the V&A and the Hayward Gallery in London. Working closely with organisations in our area, the Museum has recently opened a Community Gallery which 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 over 114,000 visitors per year, including 20,000 children and adults who taking part in our fun and inspiring learning and events programme. The museum has delightful café with a terrace overlooking Mill Meadows, and a shop specialising in children’s books and games, fashion and craft.

Website: <http://rrm.co.uk/>  
Email: [museum@rrm.co.uk](mailto:museum@rrm.co.uk)  
Opening Hours: Daily 10am-5pm

For more information on The Sandford Award, please visit: [sandfordaward.org](http://sandfordaward.org)

The Sandford Award is managed by the Heritage Education Trust in partnership with Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln which has its own record of excellence offering a Masters Degree in Heritage Education. The Trust is the only body in existence able to provide independent quality assurance to historic properties and collections which run education programmes. Together, these two institutions subsidise the cost of entry to the Sandford Awards five-fold in order to cover the cost of the assessment, the reporting process and the presentation ceremony.

