

## Press Release

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### **Welcome Back! River & Rowing Museum will reopen from 6 August**

The River & Rowing Museum will re-open its doors on 6<sup>th</sup> August, Thursday to Monday 10am to 4pm, with a special ticketed offer to see the final run of the acclaimed *Gertrude Hermes* exhibition, outdoor self-led riverbank trails, a shop with a wide range of local produce and a much-missed café.

Sarah Posey, Director of the Museum said: “We are absolutely thrilled to be able to announce the reopening of our museum. We can’t wait to welcome everyone back! During the Museum’s closure in lockdown we’ve had a team working hard behind the scenes to prepare for the safe return of our visitors, staff and volunteers. Every single member of our team is committed to ensuring that your visit to the Museum on its reopening is as stress-free and enjoyable as possible.”

The Museum celebrates this important moment with a wonderful opportunity to catch the stunning art exhibition, *Art of the Wild: Gertrude Hermes and the Natural World*, cut short before lockdown. Special curator-led tours –from 13 August – will also be offered with this ‘last chance to see’. Hermes, an innovative wood engraver and printmaker, had a restless curiosity about the natural world, including the River Thames.

The Museum will be strictly limiting capacity in line with governmental social distancing guidelines, so visitors will enjoy the feeling of a more 'exclusive access'. Tickets must be booked in advance. More information, including how to book will be available during the week of 27 July.

This exhibition has been organised by the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford.



### Safety First

Visitor safety is the Museum's highest priority. The team not only promises a warm welcome but will be adhering to government guidelines to ensure the safety and comfort of visitors, staff and volunteers. Limiting visitor numbers will enable safe social distancing, hand sanitiser will be available and only contactless or card payments will be accepted. Friendly staff will be on hand to support visitors to have a great time and stay safe.



### Café at the Museum

The stunning riverside Café will provide a takeaway service with outside seating space, so you can enjoy a cup of tea, coffee or wine, accompanied by sumptuous cakes, panini, sandwiches and ice creams. Picnic boxes will also be available – perfect for a lazy day by the banks of the river. Visitors need only bring a picnic blanket and a small selection of socially distancing friends.

## Museum Shop

The Shop will have a special focus on local suppliers and producers. You couldn't get more local than honey from Honeys of Henley, luxurious high cocoa content chocolate from chocolatier Gorvett & Stone or freshly roasted, ethically sourced, sustainably cultivated Horsebox Coffee. Chiltern Valley Winery's fruity summer selection includes wild peach, damson vodka and sloe gin. Visitors will also be able to enjoy 15% off accessories, including jewellery, bags and scarves.

Nature guides and craft kits will help keep the small people entertained over the long summer break!

## Take the Museum to the River

The Museum is taking its offer outdoors this August. Families will love the brand new self-led family trails. Designed for families with children under 11, they make the most of the river setting over the school holidays.

- **Wind in the Willows Meadow Trail** is focussed on the Museum's favourite 3D exhibition based on Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*, and includes Ratty's water trees, Mole's eye view of the meadows and Badger's Woods.
- **River History Trail** celebrates Henley's history and takes visitors on a fascinating walk along the towpath finding features, things to discuss and spot, including [Hobbs of Henley](#), who are celebrating their ~~75<sup>th</sup>~~<sup>150<sup>th</sup></sup> Anniversary in Henley this year.

Both trails can be used on smart phones and will be downloadable from the Museum's website ([www.rrm.co.uk](http://www.rrm.co.uk)) from 6 August.

## Staycation Inspiration

Throughout the summer holidays, activities will also be available to download from the Museum's website, featuring different themes each week. From the local environment to Henley stories, experiments to art and craft, the Museum will be suggesting how to make the most of the great outdoors.

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**Notes to Editors:**

**The River & Rowing Museum** is one of the UK'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 Ashmolean, 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 118,500 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/>

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