

River & Rowing Museum – celebrating our 21st year!

Our background

The River & Rowing Museum is one of the U.K.'s leading independent museums, and a registered educational charity, opened by Her Majesty the Queen in 1998. Situated 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, a permanent display of the work of Modern British artist John Piper, and a Community Gallery. In addition, the Museum hosts a lively programme of temporary and visiting exhibitions, changing displays and events. The museum has great café with a terrace overlooking Mill Meadows, and a shop specialising in Henley gifts, children's books and games, fashion and craft.

The Museum's new Director, Dr Sarah Posey, took up post in June 2018 and is working with staff, volunteers, local partners and supporters to develop exciting plans for the Museum's future.

A taste of who we are

We hold the national collection of rowing and more than 20,000 objects across all our collections.

We welcome over **114,000 visitors** per year.

20,000 children, adults and families take part in our inspiring learning programme annually and we've been twice shortlisted for Family Friendly Museum of the Year.

Our **schools programme** is award-winning, and we're proud to work closely with others who are innovators and excellent in their fields, such as The Langley Academy Trust, Slough (the UK's first and only Museum learning schools) and local charity the Rivertime Boat Trust.

We work with **national partners** like Tate, the V&A and the British Library, and collaborate with Penguin Random House and Seven Stories (the National Centre for Children's Books), to present three **temporary exhibitions** each year, featuring artists and designers such as David Hockney, Barbara Hepworth and William Morris, as well as family-friendly shows such as Peter Rabbit™.

We collaborate with **local partners** in Henley, and the universities of Reading and Oxford Brookes, to cross-market the Museum, deliver projects together and share skills.

Our **volunteer team** is growing, working across the Museum and in particular invigilating our temporary exhibitions to enable us to take loans from nationally-significant lenders.

Since the **Community Gallery** launched in 2017 we have worked with 15 local groups and schools to put on their displays.

Most of all we have an enviable **location on the River Thames**.

Our light and airy café and event spaces host weddings, wakes, anniversaries, conferences and meetings.

We've run successfully for **twenty years** with no significant public funding, but rely on admissions, commercial income, fundraising and our supporters to keep our work going.

Don't take our word for it! Here's what our recent visitors have said.

Delightful place to visit



There's something for everyone (all ages) here. There's a celebration of the rowing heroes of Henley and surrounds, some hands-on fun for older children, some interesting history of Henley, showing how it grew over the years - and a delightful area for younger children and their families, telling the story of *The Wind in the Willows*. It's all quite lo-tech, but I like that. And there's a restaurant and shop too. What's not to like?

"My visit was amazing! We looked at the features of the river Thames and learnt how it works."
Year 5 pupil

"I came here thinking it was going to be quite dull, and now we're going to come back with our kids!" First-time visitor

"Absolutely wonderful. One of my favourite artists in one of our favourite places." Instagram comment on the William Morris exhibition.

Make a visit with our Special Offer

Visitors enjoy what we have to offer. 73% of our audience are repeat visits and half of our visitors have visited in the last 12 months. They rate us very highly (86% would recommend us to others) and tell their friends about us (43% of visitors hear about us from word of mouth). So if you've never made a visit, or haven't been in a long time, give us a try: QUOTE Annual Town meeting at the entrance to receive 50% off our admission ticket for a day-taster before 30 June 2019.

What's on now and coming up

Our stunning new **William Morris** exhibition opened in February, and runs until 14 July, exploring the influence of the river on the work of William Morris. The exhibition features original designs, textiles and personal items – including loans from the V&A, the British Library and Kelmscott Manor.

In the summer, we are excited to be opening a new exhibition '**Bears!**' from Seven Stories, The National Centre for Children's Books - inspired by the greatest picture book bears in children's literature. The exhibition will be a wonderful mix of original illustrations, and interactive fun for children to enjoy.

We are looking forward to changes in the **International Rowing Gallery** with a very exciting addition to be announced later in the year!

The Museum will be rounding off the year with festive celebrations including taking part in Henley's Living Advent Calendar, and the Christmas Festival.

Please visit rrm.co.uk for a list of all our upcoming events, including our Easter celebrations, Animal Antics, a family fun day on 17 April, and a number of adult events linked to the William Morris exhibition.

Mill Meadows, Henley on Thames, RG9 1BF / Open daily 10am-5pm
rrm.co.uk / museum@rrm.co.uk