

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Geffrye Museum receives Sandford Award for Heritage Education**

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded The Sandford Award for Heritage Education in recognition of our learning programmes and facilities.

Sonia Solicari, Director, says: “The Geffrye led the way with museum education in the 1930s and learning remains at the core of everything we do today. Our transformational redevelopment project *Unlocking the Geffrye* will allow us to expand our provision even further with inspiring new spaces for learning and discovery. We are therefore delighted to receive this award which recognises our continued dedication to providing high quality, innovative learning opportunities and resources for all.

Janice Welch, Head of Learning and Engagement, says: ‘I am thrilled that our passion for learning and ongoing commitment to delivering first-rate learning experiences for all ages has been rewarded by the Sandford Team at this transformational time for the Geffrye’.

The lead Sandford Award Judge commented, “The Geffrye Museum is going through an exciting time, with a redevelopment that has learning placed firmly at its heart. Whether you visit with your class now or after the reopening, or take part in an outreach session with fascinating objects brought into your school for children to handle and discuss, you can be sure of a stimulating session that will deepen your children’s learning and inspire them in enjoyable and engaging ways”.

#### **Learning at the Geffrye Museum**

The Geffrye Museum welcomes over 8,000 school children every year to our taught sessions. Popular primary topics include Tudors, Victorians, 20th Century, Geography, Science, Art and storytelling. For secondary students we offer schemes of work to support History, Art and Design, Design and Technology and English. We also offer a highly successful programme for children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND). All sessions include the opportunity to handle original artefacts within the context of one of our period living rooms or gardens.

Learning and education will continue to play a central role as the Geffrye embarks on its redevelopment. A new gallery and learning spaces will enable us to broaden our learning offer and create a range of imaginative, multi-sensory and interactive learning and engagement programmes for participants of all ages and abilities from diverse backgrounds.

From January 2018, when the museum closes its doors to the public, we will be developing a vibrant outreach programme and taking the ‘Geffrye’ out to our local community in preparation for the new sessions when we reopen in late 2019.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

- 1) The Sandford Awards, run annually, are an independently judged, quality assured assessment of education programmes at heritage sites, museums, galleries archives and collections across the UK. The Awards were established in 1978 by Lord Sandford to encourage those responsible for running historic houses and guide their educational endeavours by monitoring standards. They were originally administered by The Council for Environmental Education. To develop the awards more fully, the Heritage Education Trust was established in 1983 and now runs the scheme in partnership with Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln.
- 2) This is the second time the Geffrye has received the award, previously acquiring it in 2012.
- 3) The Geffrye explores the home from 1600 to the present day. Evocative displays of urban, middle-class living rooms and gardens illustrate homes and home life through the centuries, reflecting changes in society, behaviour, style and taste. The museum is set in beautiful 18<sup>th</sup> century almshouse buildings surrounded by gardens in Hoxton, East London. [www.geffrye-museum.org.uk](http://www.geffrye-museum.org.uk)
- 4) The museum will be closing its doors to the public on Sunday 7 January 2018 for a transformational, £18m re-development: <https://www.geffrye-museum.org.uk/aboutus/unlocking-the-geffrye/>. Throughout closure, a full programme of special events, markets, activities, pop-ups and installations will take place in the front gardens. The Geffrye is scheduled to re-open in late 2019/early 2020.

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