

Press Release

Children show influence of the mighty Thames in St Paul's tapestry display

Thursday, 28th June 2012

130 square metres of tapestry created by 60,000 children, reflecting how the River Thames has shaped the communities through which it flows, is to go on display at St Paul's Cathedral, London.

The [Thames Heritage Tapestry](#) will be on display in the cathedral's south transept from July 3 until September 27.

More than 200 primary and special educational needs schools from the source of the river in Gloucestershire to the estuary in Essex and Kent have been involved in creating the tapestry, each creating a one square metre piece of textural embroidery.

The artwork has been made possible by the Millennium Tapestry Company, a not-for-profit organisation, in partnership with the Thames Heritage Trust. The project has been awarded the Inspire Mark by LOCOG, meaning it is officially recognised as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad Celebrations.

Funding of the tapestry has been made possible through grants from the City Bridge Trust, Heritage Lottery Fund, Ernest Cook Trust and Hemraj Goyal Foundation, as well as several other trusts and organisations.

Lizzie Owen, Chief Executive of The Millennium Tapestry Company: "The Thames Heritage Tapestry project is a totally joyful celebration of everything that makes the river so iconic. It is purely educational and wholly inclusive, providing everyone involved with a basis for acquiring new skills that will lead on to a lifelong learning adventure."

Paul Coleman, Chairman of the Thames Heritage Trust: "The finished tapestry is a multifaceted portrait of the Thames, from its source to the sea, through the eyes of the children of all abilities who live along its banks."

Head of Heritage Lottery Fund South East England Stuart McLeod: "This imaginative project has mobilised thousands of children and their families to tell the ever-flowing tale that links thousands of communities both physically and throughout history."

Clare Thomas, Chief Grants Officer of the City Bridge Trust: "The Trust is delighted to be supporting the Thames Heritage Tapestry project. We have seen the work produced by young people in previous schemes run by the Millennium Tapestry Company, which are quite inspirational, and fully expect the same this time round. The finished work offers a unique and engaging view of the Thames from children's perspectives."

The tapestry will be available to view for all visitors to the cathedral.

[Cathedral visitors information](#)

[Schools & Families visitor information](#)

For information about the media call, please email ed@stpaulscathedral.org.uk or call 020 7246 8321.

For all information and enquiries about the Thames Heritage Tapestry, contact thamestapestry@btinternet.com or call 01869 233165

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St Paul's Cathedral

St Paul's is the cathedral church of the diocese of London, which it has served for over 1,400 years. The current building has become a potent symbol of the life of a nation and is one of the world's most beautiful buildings. Designed by Sir Christopher Wren in the late seventeenth century, its stones have absorbed the hopes, fears, sorrows and joys of generations and stand as an enduring symbol of our communion with those gone before and those still to come. Each year nearly two million people flock to the cathedral for services, concerts, debates, educational events, performing arts and sightseeing. All are most welcome.

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