

March 11 2003 - The two-year-old son of writer Dea Birkett is thrown out of the Royal Academy's Aztec exhibition for shouting 'Monster!' at a statue of Eagle Man.

March 15 - Dea Birkett reports her family's expulsion in her column in the Guardian.

Two days later - Hundreds of families write in to say they're fed up with being made to feel unwelcome in Britain's museums and galleries.

July 12 - The Guardian Kids in Museums Campaign is launched. A 20-point Kids in Museums Manifesto is compiled from visitor comments.

September 6 - The Guardian Family Friendly Museum Award is introduced with a logo designed by Quentin Blake. It's the first museum award to be judged by families and children.

Killhope North of England Lead Mining Museum



February 6 2004 - Killhope North of England Lead Mining Museum wins the first Guardian Family Friendly Museum Award.

June 1 2005 - Shortlist for second Guardian Family Friendly Museum Award announced after record number of entrants.

July 5 - Pitt Rivers Museum and Oxford Museum of Natural History are picked as joint winners of the second Guardian Family Friendly Museum Award by the Kids in Museums' children's panel.



Oxford Museum of Natural History

April 1 2006 - Third Guardian Family Friendly Museum Award announced.

June 24 - Five museums are shortlisted, from Swansea to Somerset.

July 28 - Falmouth Art Gallery wins the third Guardian Family Friendly Museum Award.

September - Kids in Museums becomes an independent charitable organisation managed by a board of trustees, working together with the Guardian on the Guardian Family Friendly Museum Award.

May 2007 Second Kids in Museums Manifesto launched.

May 17 Kids in Museums/National Museums Liverpool **The Great Museum Debate – What are museums for?** at Merseyside Maritime Museum

July 2007 Kids in Museums website goes live, where visitors can share their experiences of a museum and gallery visit



Falmouth Art Gallery

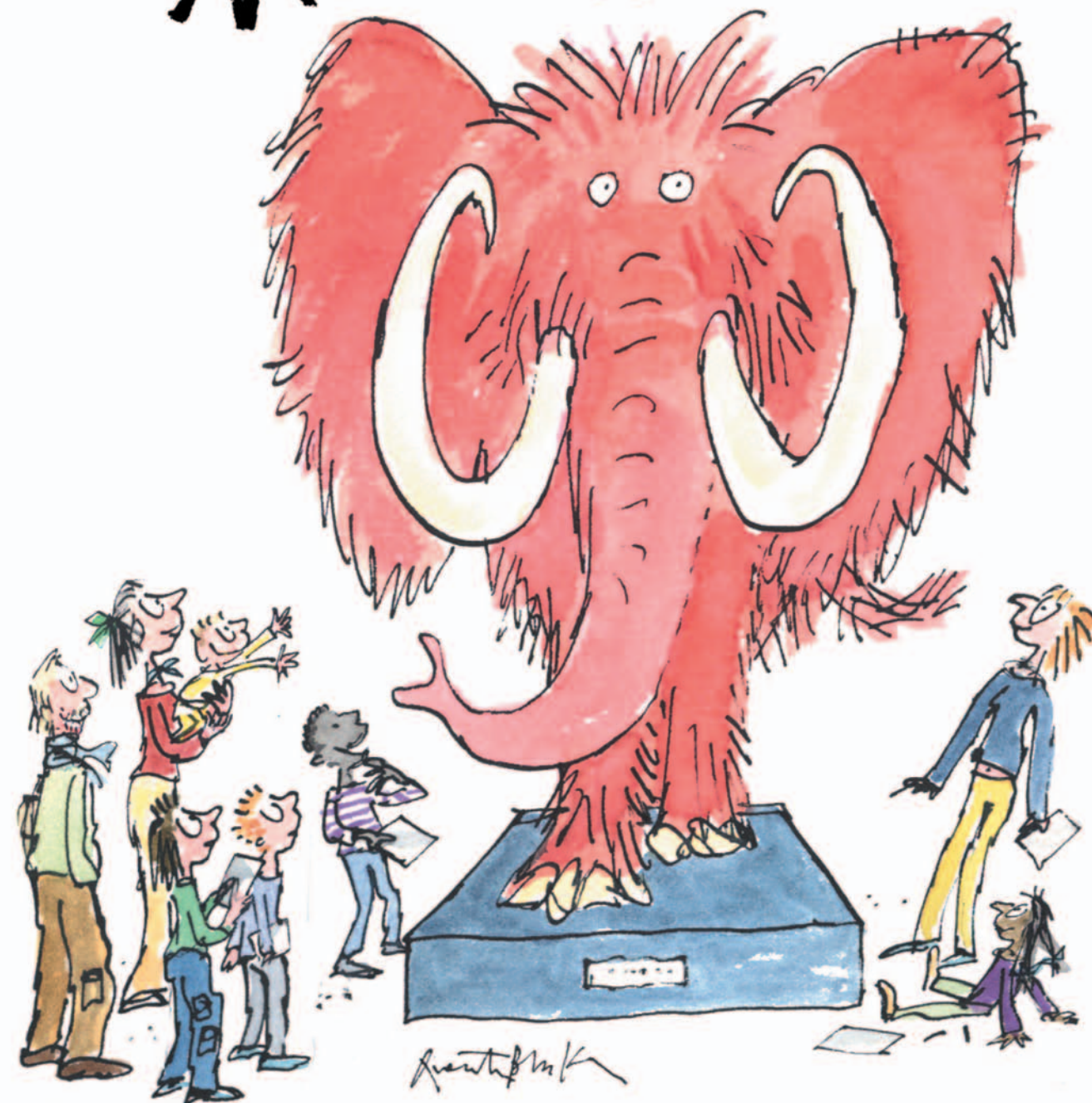
Watch out for details of the next Guardian Family Friendly Museum Award, to be announced on our website and in the newspaper.

For more information about Kids in Museums and to get involved, go to our website www.kidsinmuseums.org.uk.
Everybody is welcome.

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Kids in Museums



We support Kids in Museums
encouraging a family friendly day out.

The manifesto

Encouraging a family friendly day out



1 Be welcoming

- from the car park attendant to the curator. Emphasise that the museum is family-friendly in publicity and leaflets.

2 Be interactive and hands on

- where kids can touch objects, and learn to know what they are allowed to handle, and what they aren't.

3 Be pushchair accessible

- with lifts where there are steps, automatic doors, and a place to store a pushchair.

4 Give a hand to parents to help their children enjoy the museum.

5 Consult with children

- not just adults and parents - about what they want.

6 Be height aware

- making sure that objects and art are displayed low enough for a child to see, and that signage is at a child's height. Footstools should be provided to help.



7 Have lots of different things to do

- art carts, picture trails, interactive experiences, storytelling, dressing up - so parents don't have to do all the work.

8 Produce guides aimed at children,

but also ones that children and adults can use together.

9 Provide proper, good-value food, high chairs,

and unlimited tap water.

10 Provide dedicated baby changing and breast-feeding facilities,

and good toilets where you can take a pushchair.

11 Teach respect

- encourage children to respect the objects and other visitors.

12 Sell items in the shops that are not too expensive

and not just junk, but things that children will want to treasure.

13 Have free entry where possible,

or have family tickets and children's discounts. Children may only want to spend a short time in a museum, so paying a lot to get in puts many parents off. Issue special tickets to families with young children which allow re-entry, so they can go outside for a break or even come back the next day.

14 Provide some open space

- inside and outside - where children can run about and let off steam.

15 Provide some quiet space,

where children can reflect.

16 Make it clear to child-free visitors that the museum is family friendly.

Have special times when children are less likely to be there.

17 Have dedicated family friendly days,

when extra activities are laid on for kids, and those who want to avoid the crowds can choose not to attend.

18 Provide a creche for young children at major museums.

19 Attract all ages, from toddlers to teenagers,

without offering separate facilities for each. It should be enjoyable for the whole family - parents and children.

20 Don't make presumptions about what children do and don't like.

Some kids can appreciate fine art as well as finger painting.

