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Media Release 16 May 2024

Café Bowes at The Bowes Museum scoops the top prize and the Silver Swan Conservation Project is shortlisted at the prestigious national Museums + Heritage Awards.

Staff at The Bowes Museum in Barnard Castle are celebrating after Café Bowes was named Café of the Year and the intricate restoration project of the Silver Swan was shortlisted at last night's prestigious national Museums + Heritage Awards in London.

Café Bowes is delighted to have won the top spot in an award that was put to the public vote. The table service café, renowned for its locally sourced, seasonal menu and friendly staff was up against tough competition from the American Museum & Gardens in Bath and the Thackray Museum of Medicine in Leeds.

Bring Back the Magic of the Silver Swan was shortlisted in the Restoration or Conservation Project of the Year category, missing out to The Churches Conservation Trust in a field of other highly regarded contenders, including: University of St Andrews, Libraries and Museum; UK Parliament; Historic England and the National Trust.

Hannah Fox, Executive Director of The Bowes Museum, said:

"We are really thrilled that the outstanding work carried out by the dedicated and hard-working team in Café Bowes has been recognised by their fantastic and loyal customers. Thank you to everyone who voted for them.

"We are also so pleased at the wider recognition that the intricate Silver Swan conservation project has received from our industry peers, for it to be shortlisted alongside a vast array of other worthy competitors and well done to the team at The Churches Conservation Trust for winning the category.

"For the Museum to be recognised at these awards is testament to the fact that County Durham really is a great plant to eat, visit and enjoy."

This was the 22nd annual Museum + Heritage Awards which celebrate the very best in the world of museums, galleries, cultural and heritage visitor attractions.

Picture credit Hayley Bray

People left to right:

Museums + Heritage Awards Host Ella Al-Shamahi, The Bowes Museum's Enterprise Manager David Nicholls, Executive Director Hannah Fox, Chair of Trustees Peter Mothersill, Cafe Supervisor Lisa Waller, Collections Manager Jane Whittaker, Director of Programmes and Collections Vicky Sturrs.

The Bowes Museum is a charity managing a Grade 1 listed accredited museum and Grade 2 listed parkland in Barnard Castle. Founded by Joséphine & John Bowes 150+ years ago, this purpose- built Museum brings together an extraordinary, Designated collection of European fine and decorative art as a cultural resource for the people of Northern England, where today we celebrate artists, designers and makers.

The Bowes Museum receives funding from Durham County Council and, as a National Portfolio Organisation, receives support from Arts Council England. Arts Council England is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people's lives.

www.artscouncil.org.uk

The Bowes Museum is a member of the Discover Durham partnership of attractions, whose commitment is to promote Durham as an exciting and vibrant group travel destination and to provide the travel trade with a professional and knowledgeable service. discoverdurham.co.uk

Admission to The Bowes Museum is £13.50 for local members (residents of County Durham and Darlington), £15.50 for members (residents elsewhere), £18.00 for a day ticket, £19.80 for a day ticket including gift aid. Under 18s, full time students and carers are free.

As a registered charity (number 1079639) we need to generate more than half of our income each year to care for our historic collection, buildings and parkland. Your donations are vital to our work. Visit <https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/support/> for more information.

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