

Summer Holiday Fun at The Bowes Museum

Friday 19 July – Tuesday 3 September 2024

School's out! This Summer, there will be a buzz in the air at The Bowes Museum in Barnard Castle. From Friday 19 July until Tuesday 3 September, visitors can immerse themselves in a fantastic programme of free activities included with entry, inspired by the Museum, parkland and its wonderful collection.

Daily activities for all ages:

Visitors of all ages can make their own artworks, objects and treasures in a self-guided activity every day in the newly refurbished **Create Space**. If they'd prefer to head outside, the **Explorer Bags** can be collected from Reception and include a guide and magnifying glasses to help identify the birds, plants and insects that call the parkland their home.

The insightful 11.00 **Spotlight Tours** continue daily, giving an informal and informative introduction to an exhibition, collection, object or the building for up to 30 minutes.

Special activities:

Teens (aged 13+) can experience what it's like to work at the Museum between 1.00 and 3.00 in this brand-new session called **Young Curators** every Tuesday from 23 July, where they can take a crash course in curating. They will choose objects from the collection, learn to clean and care for them, and work with curators and artists to create an exhibition for The HIVE. Booking for this activity is necessary and can be made via the Museum's website www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/.

Stay and Play – Picnic in the Park will take place every Thursday between 10.00 and 12.00 in the wildflower meadow behind the Museum, there'll be picnic blankets and play equipment to encourage the Museum's youngest visitors to get outside and play. Visitors can bring their own picnic or grab a snack from the award-winning Café Bowes. Families with young children can also explore the beautiful 22 acres of parkland and sing, draw and make on a **Bug Hunt** between 11.00 and 12.00, where the Museum's friendly team will lead an active walk around the parkland (or the Museum if the weather's too soggy!)

Eco-friendly Bug Hotels provide a safe place for insects to call home. All ages can get hands on and feel connected to the outdoors in the new wildflower meadow behind the Museum every Friday, 10.30 – 12.30 as they learn how to build a bug hotel and understand the importance of protecting nature for generations to come.

Creative Workshops:

Saturday sees the return of the ever-popular **Young Creatives** sessions, that will be held every other week 10.30 - 12.30 in the Create Space from 27th July until 24th August. Young budding artists aged 12+ can try out a variety of new techniques and experiment with materials with guidance from the Museum's team of regional artists, makers and designers.

The **Artist Maker Drop-in Workshops** held every Wednesday and Saturday, 1.00 until 3.00 are perfect for families with children aged 5+. The Museum's textile, ceramic and portrait collections, the building's interior and exterior and the parkland have inspired these summer sessions and offer the perfect opportunity to have a go at something new.

Alia Cruz, The Bowes Museum's Learning Manager, commented:

“We can't wait for visitors of all ages to enjoy the vibrant activities and workshops we have planned this summer. A fantastic host of talented artists and creators have put the collection and parkland at the core of this year's programme, introducing exciting new experiences for families to enjoy.”

Exhibitions:

There are also two special exhibitions, *Stories in Stitch* (18th May – 29th September 2024) in the Fashion & Textiles Gallery that presents an eclectic collection of rarely seen samplers and embroidered pictures dating from the 17th to the 20th centuries. This one-of-a-kind display shows different representative styles of stitching side by side for the first time and explores the development and popularity of domestic embroidery in Britain, a must-see display for lovers of textiles and history.

In the exhibition gallery, *Kith and Kinship: Norman Cornish and L. S. Lowry* (20th July 2024 – 19th January 2025), presents over 50 paintings, drawings and sketchbooks by the two artists who recorded life in their respective communities and recognisable scenes from across the region. More than half of the artwork on display are from collections in public galleries and private collections throughout the UK, with 35 rarely or previously unseen publicly before.

Silver Swan:

Due to popular demand, the infamous Silver Swan automaton will perform twice daily at 11.30 and 2.30 throughout the school holidays.

Enjoy a fun-packed day out this Summer at The Bowes Museum, with a variety of daily activities, outstanding exhibitions and daily Spotlight Tours. Plus, visit the Museum's award-winning 'Café of the Year'. There are always new experiences to enjoy with family or friends.