

MEDIA RELEASE

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CELEBRATE THE FESTIVE SEASON AT THE BOWES MUSEUM

There's excitement in the air as The Bowes Museum announces its winter programme of activities, including the return of the popular Winter Market.

The galleries and grounds of the French styled Museum in Barnard Castle are once again set to come alive with the sights, sounds and smells of the season as the highly anticipated annual Winter Market returns from Friday, 13 December until Sunday, 15 December 2024.

Not only does the market offer a unique shopping experience with a wide variety of local and handmade gifts, it also includes free access to the Museum's stunning galleries and exhibitions, ensuring that visitors can immerse themselves in what the attraction has to offer.

This highlight in the North East's regional calendar features dozens of local and regional artisan traders and small businesses who sell a wide variety of unique products ranging from delicious food and scrumptious drinks to intricate, beautifully crafted homewares and fine jewellery. There will be lots to see and do for people of all ages, including joining artist led workshops, themed tours, Christmas activities and live entertainment, including carollers and musicians.

The stalls are set both outside on the Museum's formal parterre garden and also through the magnificent 2nd floor Picture Galleries and inside the Jubilee Room.

Specialist outdoor matting, free pre-bookable accessible parking and a lift inside the Museum make the market accessible to everyone.

This year there is a discounted entry price of £6.50 per adult for tickets bought before 6 December, with the price rising to £7.50 thereafter. Admission for under 18s, carers and full-time students is free. Free parking is also available on a first come, first served basis, with alternative car parking in town just a short walk away.

David Nicholls, The Bowes Museum's Enterprise Manager, said:

"We're looking forward to hosting the Winter Market again this year. It's a special event full of Christmas spirit and has a truly wonderful atmosphere. It's also a great way to see the Museum decorated for the

season and to pick up some unique locally handmade gifts and delicious food and drinks.

“We also have a few remaining spaces available for traders who’d like to come and sell their goods at this ever-popular event.”

As well as the Winter Market, the Museum is delighted to present a wide range of events that have been inspired by the season.

These include:

- Themed bookable artist makers sessions from 22nd November onwards, where people can create their own lino printed Christmas cards, festive decorations, winter swans and snowflakes
- A Museum Festive Late, with free admission on Friday, 6 December where visitors can enjoy wandering around the 1st floor galleries, see the highly acclaimed *Kith and Kinship: Norman Cornish and L.S. Lowry* and *Framing Fashion: Art and Inspiration from a Private Collection of Vivienne Westwood* exhibitions. Visitors can treat themselves or someone they know to some goodies from the Museum shop and make a night of it, enjoying a bite to eat and a warm mulled cider from the award-winning menu in Cafe Bowes.
- Café Bowes will be offering Festive Afternoon Teas throughout December and mulled seasonal drinks.
- There will also be a delicious locally sourced traditional seasonal menu including turkey, salmon and mince pies. Groups of 10 or more are advised to pre-order. Booking can be made by contact Café Bowes on 01833 690606.

As the Winter Market is a special event, members will need to buy a ticket for admission.

If traders are interested in taking a stall at this year’s event, they can contact the Museum’s events team at winter@thebowesmuseum.org.uk

There’s more information about the Museum’s winter activities on the website: thebowesmuseum.org.uk/winter-at-the-bowes-museum/

Notes to editors and picture desks:

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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 £16.00 for local members (residents of County Durham and Darlington), £18.00 for members (residents elsewhere), £19.00 for a day ticket, £20.90 for a day ticket including gift aid. Under 18s, full time students and carers are free.

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