

Sarah Webster
Marketing and Communications Coordinator
sarah.webster@thebowesmuseum.org.uk
thebowesmuseum.org.uk
Barnard Castle
DL12 8NP
01833 690606



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Behind the scenes: Explore collections care in The Bowes Museum's new gallery.

The Bowes Museum is thrilled to introduce a newly refurbished gallery where visitors can get a behind the scenes look at how it stores and cares for its collection from Saturday 26 October 2024. From unusual furniture to rare architectural fragments, many items in the display were previously in storage. Visitors will also be able to see objects being prepared for future displays and exhibitions, providing a new lens into museum processes.

In this unique space, visitors can occasionally watch curators and volunteers working on items and learn about the tools and techniques used, as well as the wider challenges of preserving objects. *Objects on the Move* provides a fresh, interactive look into how the Museum takes care of its growing collection for future generations to appreciate and learn from.

“There’s a real desire to offer new, inspiring experiences for communities that encourage learning, curiosity and conversation.” Says Jane Whittaker, Collections Manager at The Bowes Museum, “We’re incredibly lucky to work with such an outstanding collection and this new project means we can offer a behind-the-scenes glimpse for visitors into work that usually happens away from the public eye.”

The project also marks the return of beloved larger objects, such as the much-adored Dolls Houses, which will be on public display for the first time in several years.

Talks and live demonstrations on conservation and best practice for collections care and handling will be held in this space as part of the Museum’s events programming, providing a unique experience for visitors.

Objects on the Move follows in the footsteps of the *Curiosity Project* that was funded by DCMS Wolfson and The Friends of The Bowes Museum. It saw four new gallery spaces and collection stores open in April 2024 and was co-produced with over 100 local community members. As part of the Museum’s mission to improve access to its Designated collection, there are around 58,000 objects housed at the Museum, of which approximately 10% are now on public display since the opening of these new spaces.

As a charity, The Bowes Museum relies heavily on support from admission, membership and donations to contribute financially towards the preservation of objects in its care, some of which date back to the 14th century, so they can continue to be displayed for years to come. It’s hoped that this project will allow visitors to see firsthand how vital their support is, and where a proportion of this money goes.

Visitors to The Bowes Museum can see objects being moved, conserved and cared for in the second-floor gallery space from Saturday 26 October 2024.

Notes to editors and picture desks:

Download images of one of The Bowes Museum's Young Volunteers cleaning an object for the display [here](#). Please credit ©The Bowes Museum, County Durham. Claire Collinson Photography.

To arrange a visit to the new gallery or for photographs of the space, please contact Sarah Webster: sarah.webster@thebowesmuseum.org.uk.

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.