

Media release
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GET INTO THE FESTIVE SPIRIT AT THE BOWES MUSEUM THIS WINTER.

The Bowes Museum in Barnard Castle welcomes the arrival of winter this year with a fantastic programme of activities, special events and displays, inspired by the season.

Festive Highlights:

Come along to the free **Late Night Shopping Event** on 6th December, 5:30pm – 8:30pm to see the museum decked out for Christmas after dark. Explore the 1st floor galleries to see the highly acclaimed exhibitions, browse the Museum's shop for Christmas decorations and gifts or enjoy the festive menu in Café Bowes. Book your free ticket here <https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/festive-late-night-shopping>.

The ever-popular **Winter Market** is returning Friday, 13th – Sunday 15th December open from 10am to 4pm, a firm favourite in the regional calendar. There'll be over 100 stalls selling handpicked goods from artisan makers across the region.

Enjoy the delightful atmosphere with live performances from 2 Local Blokes, No Added Sugar and Happy in Harmony to name a few, as well as children's fun fair attractions. Admission includes free access to the beautifully decorated museum, exhibitions, Artist Maker Workshops and Christmas activities.

Whether you're looking for a thoughtful gift for that special someone, stocking fillers, treats for a Christmas spread or a festive tipple, there's something on offer for everyone.

Tickets are available at a reduced price until 6th December. Begin planning your day and purchase your ticket online <https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/winter-market/>.

Daily activities:

December's **Conversation Wall** display opens 7th December and will be centred around 'Cold Moon Day', honouring the last full moon before the December solstice on 15th December. The paintings selected from the collection show atmospheric landscape scenes from as early as 17th century, where the artists have captured a full moon.

Book to enjoy a bite to eat in **Café Bowes**, the award-winning 'Café of the Year'. Whether you'd like to treat a loved one to afternoon tea (served 2pm – 4pm £20.00pp) or would prefer a seasonal, locally sourced festive lunch menu featuring tempting turkey, scrumptious salmon, and wild mushroom and chestnut arancini, there's plenty of options to tempt your tastebuds. Festive Menus served between 1st – 24th December, view them on the website: <https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/visit/cafe-bowes/>.

Creative Workshops:

Artist Maker Workshops held every Saturday, 1pm until 3pm are suited for families with children aged 5+. These winter inspired drop-in sessions offer the perfect opportunity to have a go at something new.

Create Christmas decorations for your tree with Jane Young on Saturday, 7th and 21st December, and clay-based objects on 28th December with Charlie Brookes, inspired by the collection and surrounding landscape.

Additional sessions will be held during Winter Market weekend, 10am – 4pm on Friday, 13th and Saturday, 15th December that are included in the ticket cost. From print making inspired by the Silver Swan to making winter garlands and a winter wonderland, these workshops with a seasonal twist are bound to get you in the festive spirit.

The adult **Lino Cut Card Making Workshop** on 21st December inspired by winter scenes within the Picture Galleries, has already sold out due to popular demand.

Exclusive Exhibitions:

There are two exclusive exhibitions for art, history and fashion lovers that you won't see elsewhere, included with entry.

Kith and Kinship: Norman Cornish and L. S. Lowry is open until 19th January 2025 in the exhibition gallery. The show 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.

Framing Fashion: Art and Inspiration From a Private Collection of Vivienne Westwood is open until 2nd March 2025 in the Fashion & Textiles Gallery, presenting a new selection of ensembles by the late designer from the private collection of Peter Smithson. The display examines the inspiration she took from paintings, sitters in portraits and the materials and techniques used by artists. Outfits, accessories and ephemera from the period will be shown alongside paintings and historic fashion from the museum's collection.

The Barnard Castle museum is a stones throw from the border with North Yorkshire, set just off the the A66/A1, making it the perfect destination for a fun day out with friends and family to get into the Christmas spirit and make magical memories. The Bowes Museum is open daily 10am – 5pm except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Please note the earlier closing time of 3pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

-ENDS-

Note to editors and picture desks:

Download a selection of high-resolution images of [Winter at The Bowes Museum](#)

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.



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