

Media release
04.03.2025

The Bowes Museum Welcomes National Lottery Players to Enjoy a Culture Fix for Free



The Bowes Museum welcomes National Lottery players for free on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 March to say thank you for their crucial support. Any adult with a National Lottery ticket, Instant Win Game, or scratchcard (physical or digital) can enjoy free entry for up to 2 adults and children under 18 years, carers and students (with a valid student card) go free. If players join as a Bowes Museum Member, they will receive a bonus gift of a one-time use free entry voucher for friend or family member to use in 2025.

The Bowes Museum has been fortunate to receive funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which has enabled exciting and transformative projects, including for the restoration of the Silver Swan. Thanks to this work, National Lottery players can see the Silver Swan in all its glory and watch its daily performance at 2pm.

Aside from the Silver Swan, National Lottery players can explore the museum's eclectic collection of European art, design, textiles, silver and ceramics across its 22 galleries. Including the museum's newest and must-see exhibitions, *From Joséphine Bowes: Trendsetters and Trailblazers* and *Joséphine: A Woman of Taste and Fashion*. *From Joséphine Bowes* offers a glimpse into how Joséphine's remarkable understanding of artistic trends and cross-genre approach to collecting might have shaped the collection today. Whilst *A Woman of Taste and Fashion* allows discovery of the timeless elegance, craftsmanship and innovation of Joséphine Bowes' textile collection

On both days National Lottery players can take advantage of museum spotlight tours to learn more about the collection, including artworks by Van Dyck, Goya and Canaletto. For younger visitors, there's an opportunity to get creative in the museum's Create Spaces. Exclusively on 22 March players can join ceramicist Lucy Waters, who is exhibiting in *From Joséphine Bowes*, for a talk surrounding her creative practice, booking required.

Jane Whittaker, Collections Manager, said: "The funding we have received from the National Lottery Heritage Fund is crucial to developing the future of the museum. It enables us to plan

exhibition programming, conserve precious museum objects and ensure art is accessible to all. The Fund has previously contributed to the 300 hours of essential restoration of the Museum's much beloved, Silver Swan. We are truly grateful for this support from the National Lottery and Lottery players."

National Lottery players can also enjoy lunch in the museum's award-winning café and pick up a memento or a gift from the museum shop too.

More information National Lottery Open Week can be found here:

<https://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/open-week>

-ENDS-

Note to editors:

A photograph of museum staff with crossed fingers referencing the National Lottery logo in front of the Silver Swan is [here](#).

For film and photography requests and more information, please contact our Marketing & Communications Coordinators:

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About 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. 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 thebowesmuseum.org.uk/support/ for more information.



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