

Media release
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**Heritage Open Days at The Bowes Museum:
Free Entry on 13 and 14 September with Over 30 Architecture Inspired
Activities for all Ages**



Heritage Open Day © The Bowes Museum, County Durham. Photography by Claire Collinson.

Enjoy a fantastic free day out with family and friends at The Bowes Museum as we celebrate England's largest festival of history and culture, Heritage Open Days. With over 30 architecture-themed activities inspired by the building and its collections, including artist maker sessions, talks, tours, object handling and more, there is something for everyone on 13 and 14 September.

This year's theme is Architecture, making The Bowes Museum's French-inspired building nestling in the heart of Teesdale, County Durham, the perfect place to celebrate it. There is an opportunity to purchase membership of the museum in person at a special Heritage Open Day price and offers on the day to come back and visit the café or this year's Winter Market.

Across the weekend, there are many opportunities for creativity and play for all ages. Everyone is welcome to join artist Claire A. Baker in adding stitches to a collaborative artwork or to design a flag for the chance to win a Silver Swan lapel badge. For children there are four artist maker sessions, from reimagining the museum piece by piece to creating a collaborative clay city. Whilst for adults, there are lino printing and architecture illustration sessions taking place. Together families can make their mark on giant cat and dog squishees from

the *Pippa Hale: Pet Project* exhibition or paint their own bisque pottery figurines inspired by the collection.

Visitors can also uncover the world of curation and collections, through gaining rare access to the ceramics, furniture and textile stores or joining the conservation team to see how precious objects are cared for. A series of hands-on history sessions offers the chance to handle Mesolithic spearheads to 20th-century ceramics, while the architecture in fashion talk explores the ingenious structures that once sculpted and supported the body.

Exploring more, visitors can delve into a range of spotlight talks from parkland highlights to the adventures of Clara the Rhino. Students from Northumbria University's fashion course are showcasing garments that weave historical research into modern storytelling. Meanwhile, the Bowls Club are hosting their end-of-season match, and architecture enthusiasts can gain unique insights into design and practice with NORR Architecture firm.

Heritage Open Days also offer the chance to see exhibitions, *Pippa Hale: Pet Project* and *Joséphine: A Woman of Taste and Fashion* and discover striking installations by Turner Prize-nominated artist Nathan Coley and a special flag commission by Claire A Baker, one of Tees Valley's 2024 Artists of the Year. There are also four performances of the museum's iconic Silver Swan and chances to see the intricate 15th century Altar Piece being opened.

Visitors can enjoy food and drink in the museum's award-winning café and pick up a memento or a gift from the museum shop too.

Jane Whitehead, Interim Director of Programmes and Collections, comments: "Heritage Open Days are always a highlight for us, and this year's theme of architecture has inspired a wonderfully varied programme. It's a fantastic opportunity to welcome new visitors to the museum and offer new perspectives for regular visitors. From behind-the-scenes access to our vaults to creative workshops and insightful talks, our staff and volunteers are excited to share their passion for the collection, building and grounds. With free entry all weekend, it's the perfect time to visit."

More information about Heritage Open Day and a full breakdown of what's happening on 13 and 14 September can be found on the museum's website: thebowesmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/heritage-open-days/

-ENDS-

Note to editors:

Pictures of what visitors can expect to see and experience at the museum's Heritage Open Days can be found [here](#).

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

Amelia Stallworthy amelia.stallworthy@thebowesmuseum.org.uk +44(0)1833 690 606 ext. 246.

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, County Durham. 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](https://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](https://www.discoverdurham.co.uk)

Admission to The Bowes Museum is £17.70 for local members (residents of County Durham and Darlington), £20.00 for members (residents elsewhere), £19.50 for a day ticket, £21.45 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.

About Heritage Open Days

Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture. Running for ten days every September, the festival offers free access to heritage events and activities across England. Heritage Open Days is brought to you by the National Trust, supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery, and delivered locally by a large range of organisations (including civic societies, heritage organisations and local councils, community champions and thousands of enthusiastic volunteers)

Visit heritageopendays.org.uk/ for more information.



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