

Media release

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Unforgettable Festive Moments at The Bowes Museum



Winter Market 2024 © The Bowes Museum, County Durham. Photography by Claire Collinson.

Activities for all during December, including the Winter Market - under 18s and carers go free, and an early bird £7.50 adult ticket (£8.00 from 8 December) means you can visit the museum's galleries and exhibitions and enjoy the Winter Market.

Soak up the festive atmosphere at The Bowes Museum and enjoy a perfect day out, surrounded by masterpieces, nature and seasonal charm. Our ever-popular [Winter Market](#) makes a welcome return, offering unique gifts and local produce, while artist-led workshops inspire creativity and a winter trail invites discovery across the museum grounds. There's something for every visitor to celebrate the magic of the season.

Winter Market

From Friday 12 to Sunday 14 December, discover a seasonal wonderland with over 100 artists, designers, makers and food stalls. Browse unique gifts including jewellery, ceramics, textiles, original art, candles and skincare, alongside delicious street food, sweet treats and warming drinks. Market stalls stretch from the museum grounds into the galleries, offering a wonderful opportunity to explore the museum at a discounted price (Members need to purchase a ticket for this special event).

Festive Artist-Led Workshops

Adults can try their hand at creating homemade printed gifts in our [lino printing workshop](#) on Monday, 1 December. In this guided session with artist Anna McIntyre, you'll learn the techniques to carve and print your own small design onto materials such as fabric and card.

For children aged 8+, [Artist Maker sessions](#) take place every Saturday in December, with extra sessions during the Winter Market weekend. Young artists can create unique artworks, from snowy scenes to tree decorations, while experimenting with a variety of materials and techniques, all guided by professional artists.

Most Saturdays throughout December, join Mud & More for [Pet Pottery Painting](#) sessions, where you can paint your own cat or dog inspired by our pet ceramics collection.

[Stay and Play](#) every Thursday allows the museum's youngest visitors to explore and play in the Conversation Gallery, investigate materials and be creative in this self-led, free-play session.

Exhibitions

[Pippa Hale: Pet Project](#) is a vibrant and interactive exhibition for all ages that continues to evolve, with more pet 'squishees' painted, there's a sea of colour to be played in. For children aged 0-year-olds and their grownups, bring your favourite stuffed toy animal for [Pet Explorers](#), a relaxed play session on Wednesday 31 December.

In the Fashion and Textiles gallery are exhibitions [Joséphine: A Woman of Taste and Fashion](#) and [Dressed for Departure: Fashion in the Age of Rail](#), which explore Joséphine Bowes' textile collection and the impact of the railway on fashion, respectively.

Both outside and inside the museum, visitors can experience [Nathan Coley's](#) *You Create What You Will* and *Tate Modern on Fire*. As the nights grow darker, the illuminated text sculpture creates a striking glow in the museum's parkland.

Also, on display outside are Martin Smith's [Kinetic Arboretum](#) and Claire A. Baker's [In Progress and Process](#), captivating works that can be enjoyed while wandering through the museum grounds with a warming takeaway drink from Café Bowes.

Festive Menu at Café Bowes

Enjoy seasonal flavours with a festive lunch or fabulous afternoon tea in Café Bowes, there are plenty of options to treat a loved one. Visit our menu on our website [here](#) for full details, including vegan and vegetarian options and how to book a table.

Please note the earlier closing time of 3:30 pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Visit the [Winter at The Bowes Museum](#) page to learn more. Please note that a booking is required for some activities.

-ENDS-

Note to editors:

Download a selection of high-resolution images of activities and events on during December [here](#).

For film and photography requests and more information, please contact Marketing & Communications Coordinator and/or Head of Marketing, Engagement and Audiences:

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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 £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.



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