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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate publication

The Bowes Museum Welcomes National Lottery Players to Free Open Day



The Bowes Museum welcomes National Lottery players for free on Friday, 13 and Saturday, 14 March 2026 as a 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 two adults and children under 18 years. Carers and students with a valid student card can also receive free admission.

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

In addition to the Silver Swan, visitors can explore the museum's collection of European art, design, textiles, silver and ceramics across its galleries. Outdoors, there are 22 acres of landscaped parkland to enjoy, including Martin Smith's *Kinetic Arboretum* installation in the wildflower meadow behind the museum.

Visitors will also be able to view new displays like *Remaking Memories Together*, co-produced by this year's Young Curators in collaboration with artist Dr Zara Worth, researchers Professor Emma Wood (Leeds Beckett University) and Dr Vicki Pugh (York St John University) and Eleanor Thirlway, Co-Production Curator at The Bowes Museum.

On both days, National Lottery players can take advantage of museum spotlight tours to learn more about key objects from the collection, including artworks by Van Dyck, Goya and Canaletto. For younger visitors, the Creative Spaces offer opportunities to get hands-on and spark their imagination.

National Lottery players can also enjoy lunch in museum's award-winning café and browse the shop for gifts and souvenirs.

More information on National Lottery Open Week can be found here:

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

-ENDS-

Note to editors:

A photograph of The Bowes Museum in Spring can be found [here](#).

For film and photography requests and more information, please contact:

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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.