

PRESS RELEASE

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The Bowes Museum Blooms with Creativity, Colour and Family Fun This Spring



This spring holiday, The Bowes Museum is bursting into life with vibrant exhibitions, hands-on activities and inspiring experiences for visitors of all ages. From 28 March to 19

April, families can explore the museum's world-class galleries, enjoy creative workshops, and make the most of 22 acres of beautiful parkland—perfect for a culture-filled day out. Children, full-time students and carers enjoy free entry.

A major highlight of the season is **Vivienne Westwood: Rebel – Storyteller – Visionary**, the museum's most ambitious Westwood exhibition to date. Celebrating one of fashion's most provocative and imaginative designers, the exhibition brings together bold designs, rebellious spirit and iconic artistry. Outside, discover **Meg Fletcher: Character Studies – 3 Acts**, a striking trio of flags flying on the terrace that reimagine Joséphine Bowes through the lens of Westwood's groundbreaking style.

Family Adventures and Creative Play

Young visitors can step into a world of imagination at **Nature Spotters**, gathering around an indoor campsite to explore the wildlife that thrives in the museum's surrounding parkland. The hands-on **Artist Makers Workshops** are the perfect opportunity for budding artists to craft their own creations inspired by the museum's collection.

Throughout the holidays, drop in and design personalised **Birthday Cards for Joséphine Bowes**, celebrating the museum founder's 201st birthday. The ever-popular **Bug Club** returns, inviting children to investigate how insects interact with museum objects and what happens when bugs take over different materials.

Arty STEAM encourages older children to tackle mind-bending challenges that blend science, technology, engineering, art and maths. Those inspired by Westwood's rebellious spirit are free to express themselves in **Art as Protest**, a creative workshop exploring fashion as a tool for activism.

Step into Westwood: A Family Adventure Through Fashion Rebellion allows families to undertake an interactive journey that brings the designer's storytelling and trailblazing style to life.

Creative Experiences for Adults

Adults are invited to explore their own creativity in **Sew-cial at The Bowes**, a relaxed sewing series inspired by Vivienne Westwood's iconic approach to fashion. Book lovers can join the conversation at **Bowes Book Club**, with the 12 April session featuring *Midnight Blue* by Simone Van Der Vlugt.

Daily Highlights

The Bowes Museum offers a daily programme of visitor favourites, including the **11am Spotlight Tour**, offering a friendly introduction to an exhibition, collection highlight or piece of museum history. The enchanting **Silver Swan Performance** takes place at 11:45am and 2pm every day during the school holidays, accompanied by expert insights from the museum team.

Eat, Shop and Explore

Café Bowes is open daily until 4:30pm, serving drinks, sweet treats and leisurely lunches. Before heading home, visitors can browse the museum shop for unique souvenirs, including bestselling Silver Swan toys and books celebrating iconic artists and designers such as Vivienne Westwood.

Find out more at www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk/whats-on. Events are included within admission cost unless otherwise stated where an additional cost is charged for some special events.

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PRESS IMAGES can be found [here](#).

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Notes to Editors:

www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk

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](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)

The Bowes Museum needs to generate more than half of its income each year to care for the historic collection, buildings and parkland.

Visit [thebowesmuseum.org.uk/support/](https://www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk/support/) for more information.