

PRESS RELEASE

18 May 2026

**The Bowes Museum Celebrates National Volunteers' Week
with Volunteer Open Day for New Recruits**



Volunteers at The Bowes Museum support with hands-on activities and special events.

From Monday 1 June to Sunday 7 June 2026, The Bowes Museum is celebrating Volunteers' Week, an annual campaign which recognises the contributions of volunteers across the UK. As part of the celebrations, the museum will host a **Volunteering Open Day on Tuesday 2 June 2026** inviting anyone interested in volunteering to discover the wide range of opportunities available and meet the people who help bring the museum to life.

The museum currently works with 130 volunteers who support staff by welcoming visitors, caring for the collection and supporting major events such as Winter Market and exhibition previews. Over the past year, volunteers contributed more than 5,500 hours, creating memorable visitor experiences in the galleries and helping to develop ideas alongside staff.

Volunteering Open Day on Tuesday 2 June highlights creative and practical roles for new volunteers

The Open Day at The Bowes Museum includes short talks, tours of the museum and a taster session within one of the museum's 14 volunteer teams. Two free sessions are available at **10am–12pm or 1–3pm** and attendees only need to book onto one. Sessions will be led by Co-production Volunteer Manager Nina Kingham, with opportunities to chat to current volunteers about their experiences and what volunteering at The Bowes Museum is really like.

No previous experience is needed, just curiosity, enthusiasm and a willingness to get involved. Volunteers can choose from a wide range of roles, from gardening in the parkland and supporting creative workshops, to storytelling in the galleries, helping at events or assisting with exciting new exhibitions

Volunteers are encouraged to build confidence by trying something different and developing new skills through their time at The Bowes Museum. Opportunities range from one-off and seasonal roles to longer term volunteering, with flexibility to fit around study or work.

Volunteering Open Day is free for anyone to attend. To book a space please email volunteers@thebowesmuseum.org.uk or complete a form: [Volunteers Open Day at The Bowes Museum](#).

Nina Kingham, Co-production Volunteer Manager, said:

“Volunteers' Week gives us the opportunity to shine a spotlight on the incredible contribution our volunteers make to The Bowes Museum. From caring for the parkland to inspiring visitors with our story, volunteers have a huge impact on everything we do. They bring valuable skills and enthusiasm, helping us ensure we can continue welcoming visitors for many years to come. We're always keen to welcome new volunteers and help people discover how volunteering can fit into their lives, whatever their background or experience.”

To find out more information on the Volunteering Open Day, please visit:

www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/volunteering-open-day

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Notes to Editors:

PRESS IMAGES can be found [here](#)

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

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 £25 for local members (residents of County Durham and Darlington), £28 for members (residents elsewhere), £20 for a day ticket, £22 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.