

PRESS RELEASE

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**An Evening Celebration of Music and After-Hours Culture at The Bowes
Museum this Summer**



Image caption: Visitors create their own artwork in the Brush & Bubbles session guided by artist Betty Brown along with a grazing board and drinks during Bowes Lates at The Bowes Museum.

Photographer: Claire Collinson.

The Bowes Museum opens its doors from 6–9:30pm on Saturday 20 June 2026 for an evening of culture, music and sound as Bowes Lates returns for its second event of the year. The museum will be open late for an evening inspired by **music and sound**, with live spoken word performances and immersive listening experiences, alongside

after-hours access to the galleries, creative activities and a summer menu from Café Bowes.

Visitors can tailor their evening from the programme of free events **included with general admission**, or book onto **ticketed activities** for a more hands-on experience.

Ticketed activities

Brush & Bubbles is a creative painting session and dining experience in the *Picture Gallery*, led by artist **Betty Brown**. Participants will explore a selection of striking portraits, featuring flamboyant hats, dramatic hairstyles and extraordinary headpieces, Betty will offer practical advice on colour, composition and technique, helping painters of all abilities create a painting of their own, while enjoying a grazing board and a glass of fizz.

Visitors inspired by Vivienne Westwood's activism t-shirts can design a **DIY Designer T-shirt** in a drop-in workshop session led by designer **Kelly Ewing**. Through her 20-year fashion career, Kelly has built an independent label, shown at London Fashion Week and now combines craftsmanship with expressive design through creative workshops.

Included with general admission

A one-of-a-kind experience awaits at the **Silent Disco**, where visitors can dance through the museum's late-night atmosphere. Throughout the night, local poet and performer, **Lizzie Lovejoy** will perform **spoken word pieces**, before culminating with a curated piece themed around the event. Anyone feeling creative can drop-in to an **Artist Workshop** session led by artist and creative encourager, **Jane Young**, to create a beautiful souvenir to take home at the end of the evening.

There will be **two performances** from the **Silver Swan**, with a raffle will give a visitor the chance to start the iconic 18th-century automaton. The museum's **vaults** will also be open, offering a rare opportunity to explore this part of the building, or join a **Spotlight Tour** to hear stories behind the museum's collection.

A dedicated **fizz bar** in the *Ceramics Gallery* and a well-stocked bar in the *Picture Gallery* will keep the evening celebrations flowing.

Wine and dine al fresco at the award-winning **Café Bowes**, which will serve a light evening menu featuring stone-baked focaccia pizzas and summer salad bowls. Tables can be reserved by calling **+44 (0)1833 690 606** or emailing events@thebowesmuseum.org.uk.

Booking information

Full ticket information and the evening programme are available at:

<https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/bowes-lates/>

Tickets available via [Eventbrite](#).

General admission is £15 (free for members) and includes general access to the museum and free programme of events (talks, tours, Artist Workshop, Silver Swan performances and the silent disco).

DIY Designer T-Shirts are £25 (£10 for members) and include general access to the museum, free programme of events (talks, tours, Artist Workshop, Silver Swan performances and the silent disco), plus a t-shirt to personalise at the designer-led workshop.

Brush & Bubbles tickets are £50 (£35 for members) and include general access to the museum, free programme of events (talks, tours, Artist Workshop, Silver Swan performances and the silent disco), plus a grazing board, a glass of fizz, painting materials and expert guidance from **Betty Brown** in the sip and paint session.

To reserve a table at Café Bowes, please call **+44 (0)1833 690 606** or email

events@thebowesmuseum.org.uk.

The evening is aimed at adults aged **18 and over**. Children are welcome when accompanied by an adult.

Please note that a small booking fee will be added when booking through Eventbrite.

- ENDS -

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Notes to Editors:

IMAGES from the last Bowes Lates event 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](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 £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.