

BARNSLEY MUSEUMS ANNUAL REVIEW 2015–16

BARNSLEY MUSEUMS

“
BRILLIANT AND
INSPIRING. GREAT
TO SHOW MY
DAUGHTER THAT
PEOPLE FROM
YORKSHIRE—JUST
LIKE HER, HAVE
ACHIEVED SO MUCH
AND THAT SHE
CAN TOO.

.....
Welcome

Over the last twelve months our service has continued to grow, welcoming over 1.2M visitors from the region and much further afield. I am particularly proud of the team being nominated for Team of the Year at the Local Government Chronicle Awards – a credit to their commitment, hard work and innovation which has consistently driven up the cultural offer in the Borough, providing excellent experiences for both residents and visitors.

The Service has continued to deliver on Barnsley Council's priorities – playing an important role in developing a thriving and vibrant local economy, enabling people to achieve their potential and helping to build strong and resilient communities.

As well as improving our visitor attractions, developing new and exciting exhibitions and events, commissioning new works of public art and running the busiest archive service in South Yorkshire, the team continues to innovate. Our learning service for schools, adults and families is busier and better than ever, and now trades its services. A new culture of enterprise has been embedded to secure the future sustainability of the offer, and Barnsley Museums continues to play an important role in supporting and creating jobs, as well as securing inward investment. In addition, thanks to support of Arts Council England a new fundraising charity, the Barnsley Museums and Heritage Trust, has been established to support continued innovation and growth – celebrating our heritage well into the future.

Together we look forward to what that future has to offer for the people of Barnsley and beyond.

Councillor Roy Miller,
Cabinet Member for PLACE



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£820,160

total external funding secured





19 new primary school sessions for delivery across all sites



156 ARTS AWARDS for primary school children



One new living wall – the first in Barnsley

OVER

9,000

local children through our classroom doors





Volunteers gave 6489 hours of their time across our venues



One new charitable trust established

£10,000

legacy left to the Cooper Gallery

449

items displayed in temporary exhibitions

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38,000

visitors attended Downton comes to Cannon Hall exhibition in just eight weeks



23,017 Social media followers



25,000 Visitors to the archives

£272,826

Value of press and social media coverage

1,214,317

Total number of visitors to the museums



2492 archival documents consulted



1900 visitor surveys analysed



New public art works commissioned

3

Modern Apprenticeships supported

128

Jobs created

59

Businesses supported

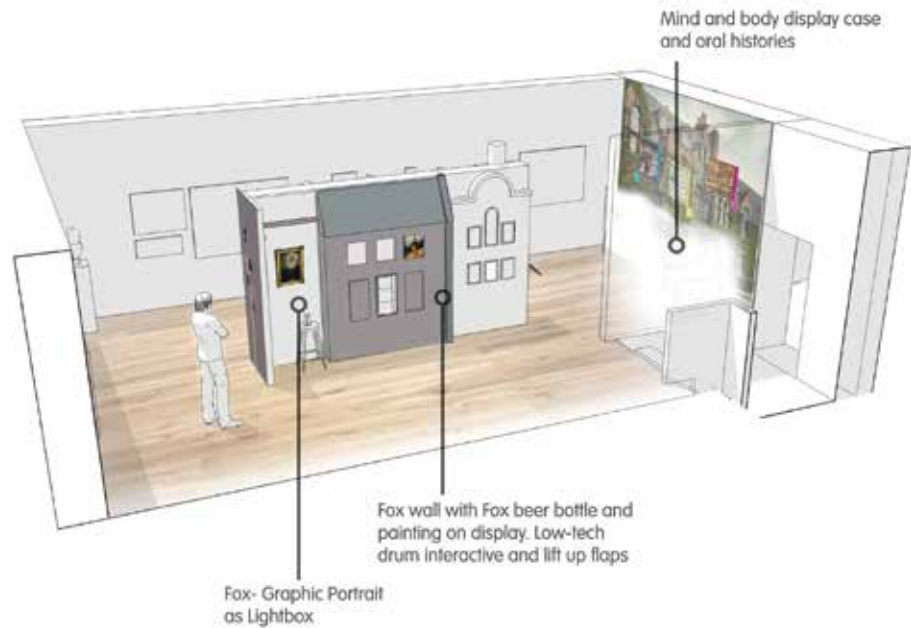
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Cooper Gallery

It's been a big year for the Cooper Gallery as we have transformed the physical space and our offer in partnership with the Cooper Gallery Trustees. HLF investment of £638,000 has meant that we've been busy doubling our exhibition space. More stunning paintings and ceramics will be displayed when the gallery re-opens in June with film, sound and many new interactive activities for visitors to engage with.



- A stunning extension to the existing gallery building will create 200sq metres of redesigned exhibition spaces.
- The beautiful new garden, supported by a legacy from a member of the public, includes Barnsley's first living wall.
- New watercolour storage and a research area have enhanced how we care for the collection.
- A fundraising campaign, Cooper 100, has resulted in a number of generous individuals and local businesses adopting paintings to pay for their conservation.
- We've consulted with local people to ask what they'd like to see and do at the Cooper, and we're now planning sketch book clubs, under fives fun and new exhibitions based on these conversations. Our programming will respond to public demand whilst also providing new and exciting things to see and do, "It's good coming here because you show me things I didn't know I liked."
- The consultation extended to regional art curators who we brought together in Barnsley to review the developing plans. This workshop reaffirmed our role in exploring the interpretation of our unique collections both for the town and for visitors from further afield.
- Successful exhibitions such as 'From Mr Benn to Miffy' and 'Yorkshire Made Me' helped build new audiences.



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More space means more displays for visitors to explore.

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BROUGHT THE KIDS HERE FROM DUNDEE, SCOTLAND. WE HAD LOADS OF FUN. DAD WAS UPSET HE COULDN'T FIT INTO MR BENN'S CLOTHES!



Cannon Hall

Cannon Hall is approaching its 'Diamond Jubilee' in 2017, its 60th year open to the public and it remains one of Yorkshire's favourite days out. The Hall has seen some of the most significant changes in its history over recent months. The next few years will witness many more, as a major project of conservation, restoration and transformation of its lakes, park, pleasure grounds and walled gardens begins.

- Our 17th century cellars once bustled with servants but parts have now taken on a very different use. Sympathetic transformation has turned them into facilities to support our award-winning education and schools programme, supported by the Arts Council. Our education provision goes from strength-to-strength and is a favourite of schools from across Barnsley and our region.
- The bedrooms of the West Wing have been transformed too. Beautiful new galleries sharing the works of William and Evelyn De Morgan are now open as a result of a long-term partnership with the De Morgan Foundation. New displays showcase the achievements of leading figures in the arts and crafts movement, the special links to Cannon Hall and the artistic achievements of the Spencer-Stanhopes.
- In December, the Hall was packed with our supporters for a consultation and celebration event organised by Cannon Hall Friends, the culmination of a hugely successful year for the Friends, with their commitment, dedication and enthusiasm shining through.
- Final plans are coming together for the 'Restoring the Glory'; 'Sharing the Secrets' project, which has secured earmarked funding of £2.8m from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The plans will transform the estate, in a way that is firmly driven by the needs of its heritage and with future sustainability in mind.
- Last summer, one of Cannon Hall's most successful ever exhibitions attracted over 38,000 visitors from all across the UK, as our period rooms hosted some of the most popular and recognisable costumes from the award-winning *Downton Abbey* television series.



Elsecar

Another action-packed year for Elsecar has witnessed the introduction of a new interpretation scheme, the creation of a new-look visitor centre, new shops at The Earl's Workshops, successful new events at The Ironworks, a Royal visit and remarkable new historical discoveries. Without doubt, the village is proving itself to be of international significance. Exciting new plans are coming together for the future too.

- In May, Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, came to the village to unveil its conserved 1795 Newcomen Beam Engine – the oldest steam engine in the world still in place, and described as one of the most important pieces of industrial heritage in the world. It had been painstakingly conserved by skilled engineers and volunteers with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic England.
- The Prince inspected the new interpretation which has been installed too, created thanks to the hard work of volunteers and our student researchers. 20 lecterns and large panels across the village, five films in the visitor centre and family interactives work together to share over three centuries of the village's stories and achievements.
- Hundreds of visitors have enjoyed guided tours of the New Colliery and its engine. Visitors have arrived from New Zealand, the USA, Germany, Holland, Spain, Poland and France, with news of the engine's importance growing across the UK and beyond.
- Over at The Ironworks, our vast events space, new additions to an already busy calendar made it a year to remember – visitors from across the UK flocked to ever popular events organised by our partners and local families enjoyed special events in the school holidays.
- Plans are fast coming together for what the future holds, with a dedicated team of consultants and experts working closely with our partners from across the village and the UK, discovering exciting opportunities to make sure the village reaches its potential as a visitor destination over the coming years.

“Been coming here years, first with the kids, now with the grand kids. I've seen this place grow and develop... It's a lovely place to come and waste a couple of hours and the best bit, it costs nowt to get in.”



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Worsbrough Mill

Milling flour since 1625, using traditional millstones and its mighty waterwheel, Worsbrough Mill is a stunning place to visit. With a rich history and beautiful views, and much to see and do, the past year has been exciting and successful. Site improvements, on-going flour production and increased visitor numbers have been accompanied by the thriving success of the Millers’ Tearoom.

- The only working watermill in South Yorkshire, grinding flour from organic British wheat.
- The commercialisation of our flour business has continued and we have attracted new trade customers including a number of artisan bakeries.
- We have spent time planning for the future sustainability of the Mill. We have undertaken as feasibility study and plans with architects to develop an artisan bakery, visitor centre and improve venue hire/educational facilities on site, which we hope to implement when funding has been identified.
- The re-established annual Country Fair took place over the weekend of the 4th and 5th July attracting over 2,500 visitors to the site throughout a weekend of glorious weather.
- Support from the local Ward Alliance has enabled us to design a new footbridge across the River Dove, washed away by floods in 2007. Section 106 funding has enabled the bridge to be built.
- In January we formally opened a new raised boardwalk in the country park. The work was funded by Barnsley Council’s Section 106 programme and the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership. It has made a massive difference to this stretch of path that was in danger of being lost to erosion. Not only is this section much easier to use but it provides an ideal stopping off point to take in the surroundings. We were pleased to be joined by Councillors Carr, Clarke and Pourali of the Worsbrough ward to mark the opening, and have received lots of positive feedback about the improvements.
- A new conservation management plan was commissioned with the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership to create an updated strategy for the management of Worsbrough Mill & Country Park with a focus on improvement and future sustainability.

It looks at priorities for the future including:
 - Protect the built and natural environment of this special place
 - Improve wildlife habitats and protect what makes the local nature reserve special
 - Find ways to improve access and interpretation
 - Increase the number of volunteers involved in the management and maintenance of the park
 - Look at potential new facilities on site and business opportunities
 - Raise the profile of the site and attract new visitors

“It’s great to see this fabulous event back on the calendar, long may it continue!”



Experience Barnsley

The year has witnessed a series of exciting exhibitions, including fine art brought to Barnsley from across Europe in the 19th century. Local people told the story of the Barnsley Co-operative Society too, by sharing stories, objects and photographs. Next door in the Learning Lab, our family activity programme has gone from strength to strength, making special memories for visitors from across the Borough. The museum's ever-popular galleries have been added to, displays changed and treasures put on show as local people continue to share Barnsley's proud story.

● The fine art of the 'Meet the Harveys' exhibition opened in February. For the first time, a select group of oil paintings from the Harvey Collection at Cannon Hall Museum was brought to Experience Barnsley to present the story of the art and industry of a great Barnsley family. Linen manufacturers and philanthropists, the Harveys gave much to the town and Borough, including donations to Beckett's hospital and the founding of the Harvey Institute and Public Library, as well as the gift to the nation of 54 outstanding works of art.

● We have continued to be overwhelmed and delighted by the gems that keep coming forward for the Museum and Archive collections from public donations.

● We celebrated the Barnsley British Co-operative Society, thanks to £43,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, for 'Service Please!' At the heart of the project was a special community exhibition, highlighting the special stories, memories and experiences about the local village and community life based around the Co-op.

“Fantastic! Amazing! Fun! Enjoyable! Supercalifragelistic! Great! Superb! Extremely good! Outstanding! Fandabidosy!”

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“Barnsley needs more of this – somewhere for Barnsley families to go.”



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MY FAMILY AND I VISITED EXPERIENCE BARNSLEY. WE HAD A LOVELY SUNDAY MORNING IN THE MUSEUM TALKING ABOUT CHILDHOOD MEMORIES. WE REALLY ENJOYED OUR VISIT.

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Learning

We have delivered high quality learning experiences to a record breaking 9000+ children this year, who visited with both their teachers and families.

- We were awarded £108,000 from the Department for Education to deliver our Museums and Schools programme for a fourth year, for which we've been partnered with the Wallace Collection and Yorkshire Sculpture Park, helping us to deliver unique opportunities to local children.
- **Under fives:** Over 200 young children sang, crawled and got messy in our Busy Bee sessions for under fives at Experience Barnsley Museum.
- **Family learning:** We continue to provide free, high quality activities throughout school holidays, giving children and their families special opportunities to be together. We support children and young people so that they can make connections with other people, support their emotional well-being and develop a sense of community in Barnsley.
- We completed our four year £432,000 Museums and Schools programme on budget and exceeding our targets.
- We won the prestigious Sandford Award for outstanding learning provision at Experience Barnsley Museum.
- We began to operate as a self-sustaining business unit, where our priority is to help all children maximise their capabilities and fulfil their potential.



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We launched our new brochure and now offer 19 sessions across our sites.

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“Learning is part of what we do every day, all year round, “It’s not learning out of a book or learning because you’ve been told something. You can learn for yourself and work things out.”



“
THE KIDS LOVED IT. MAKING CARS AND WATERFALLS. CUTTING AND STICKING. GOOD FUN. PLENTY TO DO. CREATIVE. GETS THEIR IMAGINATIONS GOING. ALL THE KIDS AND PARENTS HAVE GOT TOGETHER AND MADE THINGS AS A TEAM.

“A chance for me and Martha to spend some quality time together.”

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“I have learned about using my imagination to make things.”

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Collections

New **research** has been carried out into the fine art collection at the Cooper Gallery as part of the extension and refurbishment project. The fascinating stories of the people who collected art and who, over the last hundred years, have given their collections to the gallery have been unearthed. The research has explored the motivations and tastes of each collector, and their reasons for wanting to share their artworks with the people of Barnsley.

Conservation

- The art collections themselves have also been the focus of research, as paintings and drawings were selected for the first displays in the new spaces at the Gallery. Diaz de la Pena, John Ruskin, Vanessa Bell, Henry Moore, Prunella Clough, Eugene Isabey and John Atkinson Grimshaw are all world famous artists represented in the collections of the Cooper Gallery.
- The Adopt Art scheme continued with several paintings from the Cooper Gallery undergoing treatment thanks to the generosity of individual and corporate donors. All of these works will be on display in the new galleries. Donations to the general conservation fund have also enabled the conservation of several works.
- At Experience Barnsley we have conserved two wonderful objects and placed them on display. The Moot Hall clock and a Barnsley British Co-operative Society building sign now both hang in the Museum galleries and are very special and significant to the Borough's heritage. The first has been in long term care at Cannon Hall Museum, and the second was rescued by a member of the public from a skip.

- A beautiful portrait by William Hogarth which is part of the Cannon Hall Museum collections has also been conserved to enable its display in the 'Meet the Harveys' exhibition at Experience Barnsley.



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'In the Forest of Fontainebleau' by Narcisse Virgile Diaz de la Pena (1808-1876), oil on panel, Courtesy of the Trustees of the Cooper Gallery.



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'Atcham Church near Shrewsbury' by Peter de Wint (1784-1849), watercolour and pencil on paper, Courtesy of the Trustees of the Cooper Gallery.



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Portrait of a Lady by William Hogarth (1697-1764), oil on canvas, Cannon Hall Museum collection.

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Public Art

We launched the new Public Art Strategy to inform the future programme of public art in the public realm with local MPs Dan Jarvis, Michael Dugher and Angela Smith together with the CEO of Arts Council England, Darren Henley.

Two new outdoor public artworks were installed, Loom and Tin't Tin Tin, whilst match funds from Section 106 and Ward Alliances enabled us to win Arts Council funding to activate the Public Art Strategy.



TV and Film

Meanwhile, we became a film partner with Creative England to promote Barnsley as a destination for location filming to develop the potential for screen tourism.

There has been 13 days of filming activity in the Borough so far. This includes the Shanty Town set for the major ITV drama 'Jericho', Paddy Considine's new film 'The Journeyman', BBC's 'Songs of Praise', 'Jo Brand's Hell of a Walk' and 'Harry and Paul's 3 counties on 3 legs' from Look North – both for Sport Relief.

Coming soon:

- Further works on the new Cooper Gallery Garden, including public artwork.
- Art in the public realm in Grimethorpe to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the release of the film 'Brassed Off'.
- 'Best of Barnsley' will celebrate those individuals who have excelled in their chosen fields beyond Barnsley through temporary artworks in the Town Centre.
- A new piece of temporary public art is to be commissioned as part of the Somme Commemorations. It will include elements created by local schoolchildren and will be in the Town Hall Gardens from July to November 2016.

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Tin't Tin Tin

A colourful artwork of patterns and shapes derived from the decorative tins created by the Barnsley Canister Company. The bird imagery was developed by artists from 154 Collective through a series of drawings made during public engagement workshops with a variety of people who live, work and study in and around the Old Mill Lane area.



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Loom

Celebrates the town's history of linen making and the hand loom weavers who were based in the area. Artist Tim Ward worked on the design with pupils from Doncaster Road Primary School, Barnsley College, residents from the Union Street TARA, Barnsley archives and local historian Gerald Allott.

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Archives

Barnsley Archives and Local Studies is housed in the Discovery Centre at Experience Barnsley, where we hold original and unique documents relating to the history of the Borough, stretching back over 850 years. We're here for local people to find out more about their family, their town and its communities.



55 archive collections were fully catalogued and made available



Over 150 court registers were conserved by volunteers



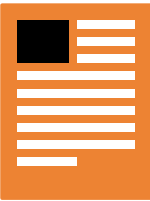
The Archives Twitter feed doubled its number of followers to over 1000



399 people signed up as new users



70 new donations were made



2492 archival documents have been consulted*

25,000

Visits to the archives

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BARNSELY HAS ONE OF THE MOST MODERN, BUSIEST, AND BEST ARCHIVE CENTRES IN THE COUNTRY. WONDERFUL TO SEE INVESTMENT IN OUR HERITAGE.

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“Very therapeutic, I enjoyed going back in time. The staff were helpful in every respect. Put a bit of life back into me and brought back memories long forgotten.”



- We became a Place of Deposit, approved by the National Archives to hold and make available public records, which include the archives of local courts and hospitals.
- We staged a workshop to highlight our newspaper holdings, delivered our popular history day, and continued our monthly family history surgeries.
- We took part in the national Explore Your Archive campaign in November, with six separate events attracting 400 visitors.
- We hosted a National Archives conference in November for record keepers working within the National Health Service.
- We developed Hands on History sessions to coincide with the 70th Anniversary of VE Day in May and the Heritage Lottery Funded Co-op project in August.
- We introduced a print on demand service.
- We prepared introductory sessions for local history groups from Darfield, Kexbrough and Gawber.
- The Friends of Archives purchased for us at auction an illuminated 19th century scroll which belonged to celebrated Barnsley engineer Joseph Locke.
- The Barnsley British Co-operative Society Archive Collection was made available for the first time via a Heritage Lottery Funded project.
- New archive collections donated include the papers of two WW1 soldiers; Lundwood, Wombwell and Athersley school records; records of the Royal Society of St. George; records of the former Wharnccliffe Silkstone Club at Tankersley; and an extensive collection of South Yorkshire public house photographs.
- We ran two bespoke conservation workshops for volunteers.
- We worked with Horizon Community College and the Barnsley Youth Council on a project to mark the 800th Anniversary of Magna Carta, which was Heritage Lottery Funded. The project included workshops, visits and performances.
- We launched the large Barnsley College of Art archive for the first time, following a project to sort, conserve and catalogue it.

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Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership

The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership (DVLP), funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, works across Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster, engaging with local communities to preserve, protect and enhance the environmental and cultural heritage of the Dearne Valley. Our year in numbers:



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- Our Community Officer Roseanna Burton was named Community Champion by the OPAL Community Champions scheme.
- We launched a new website and monthly newsletter at www.discoverdearne.org.uk
- We developed creative projects with the Maurice Dobson Museum including a new ten minute film and commissioning a one man play based upon the life of Maurice Dobson himself which was performed within the museum.
- We relocated and restored the Glassby Arch, returning a key piece of heritage to the people of Mexborough.



“Talking of newsletters, the DiscoverDearne one is worth subscribing to; it details a quiet cultural renaissance happening in the Dearne.”

Ian McMillan

“WHAT AN EXCELLENT PRESENTATION ON THE OAKS COLLIERY DISASTER OF 1866. THE WAY THE PRESENTATION WAS GIVEN GAVE A CHILL DOWN MY SPINE, WITH THE FULL HORROR, WITH MAPS OF WHERE THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED.

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Events

The Arts and Events Team provide creative and logistical expertise in the delivery of the cultural programme and major bespoke events across the borough, whilst supporting the independent event and arts sector through advice and guidance to fulfil their ambitions.

Tour De Yorkshire
Visitor Spend: £430,000
Attendees: 20,000

Hosting a key section of the inaugural Tour de Yorkshire, over 20,000 spectators lined the streets to watch Bradley Wiggins and other elite riders negotiate the undulating hills and cobbles of the Borough.

British Cycling National Town Centre Circuit Racing Championships
Visitor Spend: £130,000
Attendees: 6,000

Broadcast live on Eurosport to an audience of 1.5 million over 3 hours, across 36 nations.



Barnsley by the Sea
Visitor Spend: £270,000
Attendees: 12,500

Bringing the charm of the sea side to Barnsley Town Centre.

This bespoke installation coupled with an extensive programme of activities including traditional seaside entertainment was so successful in capturing the public imagination that the installation was extended for an additional two weeks across the full six week summer holiday period.

Elsecar Lights Switch On
Visitor Spend: £10,000
Attendees: 2,500

A hugely successful night for Elsecar Heritage Centre as a packed programme of live entertainment, kinetic installations, craft stalls, children's rides and a stunning fireworks display kicked off the Christmas shopping period in extraordinary style.

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A FABULOUS PLACE FOR CHILDREN TO BE CREATIVE AND HAPPY. WE NEED MORE PLACES LIKE THIS IN BARNLSLEY



Central Offices Demolition Launch

The Arts and Events team supported colleagues within Town Centre Services to choreograph, facilitate and manage the demolition event for the Central Offices Building as part of the town centre redevelopment programme.

The event was hugely successful in terms of visitor numbers and gained wide news coverage across all regional media outlets, including BBC and ITV new programmes. Over 1000 spectators witnessed the historic start to the Remaking Barnsley project.

Homemade Christmas Activities

Commissioned to promote affordable craft activities from produce available from market traders and town centre retailers, 'Barnsley Homemade Christmas' converted a vacant retail unit into a pop up creative hub of festive activity and included an activity guide to allow residents to create at home. Over 120 residents visited the hub during its short operating period creating something special for Christmas.

The activities were also taken in a workshop format to Worsbrough Primary School and each child (250) participated to create their own decoration and received a copy of the Barnsley Homemade Christmas Guide. Around 950 copies of the Homemade Christmas Guide were distributed to the public to during the Christmas period.

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Our people – staff and volunteers

Our team have continued to develop and respond to the changing cultural landscape, particularly embracing new ways of working and the need to address the commercial challenges we face. We are building on peer learning and improving communication and are continuing to support work placements and apprenticeships to help develop our young people move forward. We were delighted to be nominated for the Local Government Chronicle Team of the Year award, an endorsement of our hard work, commitment, pride and innovation.



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We were delighted to be shortlisted in the LGC Team of the Year award, an endorsement of our hard work and commitment.

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Our Apprentice Conner Holroyd joined us this year, providing us with valuable marketing support across the museums.

“Working at Barnsley Museums has given me a lot of opportunities. I became an apprentice here as it provides a decent wage, together with training and the chance to work with lots of different people in different teams, learning as I go. This is the perfect place for that. Working with the Museums service is really interesting too as there are so many varied and interesting things happening all the time. Each of the five museums is unique and has its own special character.”

Tracey Hebron, Visitor Services Assistant, along with the Cooper Gallery team went on a peer learning visit to York Art Gallery:

“It was a pleasure to see the new gallery spaces and retail area at York Art Gallery with fellow colleagues. We were looking at the recent redevelopment of the gallery there, observing the many ways in which the front of house team works after a relaunch. The team at York demonstrated a passion for all aspects of their job and were happy to talk at length about the changes that have been made. This was so beneficial to me and other members of staff. It was highly effective in terms of boosting our motivation and focus. Sharing experiences with the York team reassured us about the quality and value of the work we do in Barnsley; it was a great opportunity to reinforce our own sense of pride in the work we do everyday. It felt good to come away and know that our team here at Barnsley Museums is just as good as others. We need to shout about that a little bit more!”



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Development Trust

In February we launched Barnsley Museums and Heritage Trust, a new charitable trust set up to raise funding and support for our work. It's run by a board of independent Trustees who have a combined interest and wealth of experience to ensure the future of our venues.

- The main objective of the Trust is to raise money to support the wonderful venues, collections, activities and programmes run by the service.
- The Trust has its own dedicated website www.bmht.org
- The trustees are: Josie Thirkell Chair; Ian McMillan Poet and Broadcaster; John Hamshire Chief Executive, Sheffield Industrial Museums Trust; David Exley Managing Director, Ledgard Jepson; Lee Manterfield HSBC Corporate, Relationship Director, SYCC and Margot Walker Regional Director, Yorkshire, The Audience Agency.
- The establishment of the Trust has been generously funded by Arts Council England's Museum Resilience Fund.
- A new membership scheme has been launched, with benefits for all supporters, including shop and café discounts and invitations to special exhibition launches, events and private tours.
- Barnsley College have pledged support as the first Joseph Locke partners.



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THROUGH THE
SUPPORT OF THIS
TRUST WE WILL BE
ABLE TO ACHIEVE
MUCH MORE AND
CONTINUALLY
IMPROVE THE
MUSEUMS, ALL FOR
THE BENEFIT OF THE
TOWN'S RESIDENTS
AND VISITORS.

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What’s next?

We are continuing to grow our business through new commercial enterprises, as well as embedding the work of the Development Trust key priorities for sustainability.

- The fully refurbished Cooper Gallery opens in June.
- The Vikings are coming to Experience Barnsley.
- A special poetry project, Hear my Voice launches.
- We relaunch the Cooper Prize.
- We'll commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Oaks Disaster with an exhibition at Experience Barnsley and related activities, unveiling new research into the names and lives of those killed in the disaster.
- We will continue to develop and deliver major capital investment programmes.
- DVLP launch their Community Grants Programme – individuals and organisations will be able to apply for grant funding up to the value of £2000 to pay for projects which will help to protect, preserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the Dearne Valley.
- Our online collections catalogue browser will be launched in 2016, allowing researchers from across the world to find information about and to explore our collections – archives.
- We will deliver an exciting project developing our film and sound archive.
- We'll be commemorating the Battle of the Somme with a special First World War exhibition at Experience Barnsley.
- In coming weeks an in-depth new guidebook is to be launched at Elsecar, tracing the remarkable story of the Earls' Village of Iron and Coal.
- A new masterplan is to be revealed, about how Elsecar can go forward into the future, reflecting the international importance of its heritage.
- At Cannon Hall, it's anticipated that initial works will begin on site for the Restoring the Glory: Revealing the Secrets project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. First steps will include exciting archaeology, which visitors will be invited to take part in.



“Barnsley Museums have embraced the transition towards greater commercial effectiveness with determination and tenacity.”

**Peter Latchford
Black Radley**

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Photo by Alwyn Timms



What our partners say

We could not have achieved so much this year without the commitment of our many partners and want to thank everyone who has supported the service this year.

Here is a snapshot of some of the work achieved through partnership –

“Your expertise, experience and good old common sense is a joy to behold!”

Louise Claire, HLF Development Officer.

“Great to see some of the brilliant work you and your team are doing, as well as the cultural partners in the town.”

Michelle Dickson, Director Arts Council England.

“It is an exciting time for Barnsley’s museums and galleries. There are lots of fantastic exhibitions and events taking place and a lot of hard work has taken place to secure significant amounts of external funding to invest in and improve the attractions. The service is ambitious in their objectives which is developing world class sites and are leading the way in their field. The Borough’s museums and galleries are not only an important part of the town’s proud history but also essential to local families and communities.”

Josie Thirkell, Chair of the Barnsley Museums Heritage Trust.

“We wanted to extend our thanks for your support with this weekend. It was great to have the expertise of your team. Roseanna you have an enthusiasm and energy that’s rare to find and the activities you brought were a great compliment to the weekend. As artists we so often work with a broad brush and a bit of imagination. Uplift is about encouraging people to notice, be curious and see things differently. Your in-depth knowledge brought another level of understanding for the people we work with! I also want to thank you for the way you supported Creative Recovery regulars to get involved, and supported the UPLIFT team in all aspects of delivery.”

Helen Boutle of Creative Recovery.

“It’s been a real pleasure working with Barnsley’s fantastic museums again this year, and as they show the rest of the UK what Barnsley has to offer in terms of its heritage and culture, I’m really looking forward to working with them on our next exciting project.”

Professor Joann Fletcher, University of York and Archaeology advisor to Barnsley Museums.

“I had to say a big thanks, there was no way it would have run as smoothly if not for all your help and John’s in the run up”

Producer of “Songs of Praise.”

“What a night. Thank you. And it’s about us, our engine and our history, and my mum and dad’s, and their parents, and their parents before them. All of them. It’s about the village.”

Local resident, November 2014.

“Elsecar: this is it. This is everything. What you have here the whole world wants. It is so important.”

ERIH Board Member, The Netherlands.

“We have been overwhelmed by the level of warmth and support extended to Qdos Creates by the Barnsley Museum team since we moved our office base into Cooper Gallery in September this year. Already we have delivered a number of small scale projects in partnership, providing actors in role to welcome visitors to ‘Meet the Harveys’ and the ‘De Morgan’ exhibitions. This work has really enabled us to feel part of the ‘happenings’ across the visitor sites. We are delighted to be part of Barnsley’s exciting and rich cultural offer and we relish developing a partnership that will enable us to deliver more creative engagement projects together in the future”.

Katrina Whale, QDOS Creates.

