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Barnsley Museums

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Image front:  
Betty Woodman, *Aztec Vase and Carpet #1*, 2012. Installation view at the Cooper Gallery, January 2018. Image courtesy Liverpool Biennial. Photo: Scott Bairstow

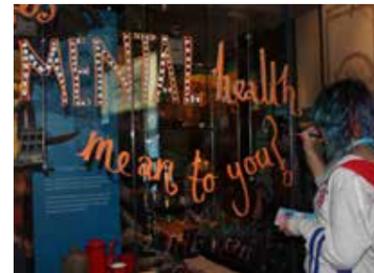
## Creativity & Diversity

Creativity and giving local people access to great art and culture is a key ambition for Barnsley Museums, as is diversifying the audiences we engage with and making the creative case for diversity. Our *Hear My Voice* programme is going from strength to strength, with a fantastic second year under our belts and recognition from the schools we are working with that the creative writing is having a positive impact on those pupils taking part. The second HMV Festival, extended to a full month, took place in March 2018 with a fantastic line up of events and activities to appeal to all ages led by a great mix of artists, authors and filmmakers.

We applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project exploring ideas of 'home' with four community groups: My Barnsley Too (disability forum), LGBT MIND group 'In Your Shoes', St George's Church Iranian community and Barnsley Deaf Forum. Over a year we've held around 20 workshops, with 60 people, taking 'home' as a starting point. We explored themes relating to what 'home' means in both the physical, practical and the abstract, which stimulated discussion on home and daily life, challenges for different demographics, positive and negative experiences of 'home' both practically and emotionally. We discussed home in the sense of Barnsley, how it has changed and adapted, and people's experiences of 'home' within this. From this, we created recordings and poems within the sessions that followed.

Digital outcomes have been deposited into Barnsley Archives Sound and Film Archive, which has in turn become more diverse and representative of the Barnsley population, with these voices being available in it for the first time. A poetry anthology has been produced which details the work across the project and a selection of the outcomes from each group.

As a finale to the project, a town centre exhibition has been created to display the work of the project. Haikus and songs from My Barnsley Too and LGBT MIND have been artistically spray painted onto the pavements outside and surrounding Barnsley Markets. Images designed by My Barnsley Too and quotes from the transcripts with the Iranian community have been designed into vinyl and placed on town centre hoardings. The exhibition has put these voices right into the heart of the town centre.



“

**I have been moved, humbled and inspired by the people I have met through this project. So many unheard stories of struggle, triumph and hope, that are now becoming heard in lots of different ways, through the creative vision and talents of Barnsley folk. Brilliant!”**

**Hayley Youell,**  
Artist

## Community Engagement

Barnsley Museums are committed to engaging our diverse communities through a variety of activities using our collections, museum venues and wonderful landscapes. Becoming a National Portfolio Organisation in 2018 will allow us to embed this work fully as part of our core programme.

The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership (DVLP) is a great example of how we work as an organisation. It's an innovative, five year (2014– 19) programme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). It focuses on working with local communities to protect, preserve and enhance the heritage and environment of the Dearne Valley area of South Yorkshire. Covering parts of Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham, the DVLP is led by Barnsley Museums. This year has seen a huge variety of work for the DVLP including Community archaeology projects, improving access to key heritage sites in the Dearne, encouraging communities to get involved with the management of woodlands and habitats, get hands on with environmental surveys and much more! The team have led on creation of new interpretation, delivery of workshops, walks and new art commissions.

The increased profile of the Dearne Valley through television, newspaper, Twitter, Facebook, radio and magazine coverage is impressive. This included features on Look North and Radio Sheffield for the art projects Kes 50 book drop and in particular for Neon

River. The latter saw the projection of a laser from the Digital Media Centre in Barnsley nine miles (and beyond) down the Dearne Valley following the route of the River Dearne. This “river in the sky” was featured live on Look North, Calendar, and Radio Sheffield with considerable reach on social media. This included a comment on Look North that the Dearne Valley featured some of the best landscapes in the country. This has helped in one of our aims of changing perceptions of the area and encouraging more people to visit it, as well as encouraging local people to be proud of where they live.

This work was recognised with the team winning the Community Involvement Category of the Local Government Awards, a tremendous achievement. The team have also been recognised for their significant environmental impact, being awarded the National Biodiversity Network's Group Award for Biological Recording.



“

**Great! It (the NBN Award) puts Barnsley on the map, and a great advert for collaborative work. DVLP is an organisation the like of which I have never encountered. I hope this award extends its funding into the far future.”**

**Robert Cameron,**  
Sorby Natural History Society.

# BARNLSLEY MUSEUMS ANNUAL REVIEW 2017–2018



# Welcome to a year at Barnsley Museums

Barnsley Museums have a unique role to play in the borough. Its track record of innovation and excellence, working in partnership, providing high quality cultural experiences that engage diverse audiences, and using collections, heritage buildings and stories to enrich people's lives, lie at the heart of its ethos. This last year has been one in which Barnsley Museums has taken a quantum leap forward, achieving Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation Status is recognition of the excellent work that Barnsley Museums does and putting our Museums on a national footing. This funding will enable Barnsley Museums to deliver more great culture and art for everyone as well as working more closely with local communities; inspiring people to engage with the museums and their collections. The focus of the work will be on the social impact of Barnsley Museums in their local community and how museums can change lives.

Barnsley Museums has continued to build relationships across existing networks and develop key partnerships as well delivering services to local residents in Barnsley and the surrounding areas, it has seen growing visitor numbers and engagement. It consistently receives positive feedback from visitors and its community and learning service delivers a wide ranging programme for children and young people from across Barnsley.

Despite an overall financial climate of reducing resources Barnsley Museums has managed to deliver more and higher quality by embracing change, with strong leadership motivating a small team to take an innovative and creative approach to financial sustainability. It has experience of long term, strategic planning and leveraging in appropriate funding to deliver its planned work programmes, think about what its needs to achieve with its communities and seek to fund its ambitions. Barnsley Council is committed to

providing free access to its museums and has prioritised cultural activity through its Future Council Transformation Programme, recognising the impact that arts and culture can deliver against the Council's key priorities of a Thriving and Vibrant Economy, People Achieving Their Potential and Creating Strong and Sustainable Communities.

The service has been recognised nationally through inclusion of case studies in the LGA publication "The Role of Culture in Placemaking" and the Department of Culture Media and Sport's Independent review of museums in England "The Mendoza Review" and by the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership winning the Local Government Chronicle Award for Community Involvement.

All in all it has been yet another a fantastic year for Barnsley Museums and it has a bright future with much to look forward to in the year ahead.

## Councillor Roy Miller Cabinet Member for Place



## Collections

This has been a very busy and exciting year for our museum and archives collections teams.

The *Cracking Ceramics!* project is a two year programme of displays and activities funded by the Esmee Fairbairn Collections Fund through the Museums Association. Through this funding we have been able to run creative workshops for groups of young people and for families, based around the wonderful collection of over 800 ceramic pieces at Cannon Hall. We are working with young people to create digital games and resources based on the ceramic collection, and providing opportunities for them to gain new creative and digital skills. The ceramics collection has been tucked safely away in store for some time, but is now enjoying a bold new role in inspiring people of all ages with its colours, characters, shapes and textures. We have opened a new project space at the museum to explore the collection in these new ways.

The Cooper Gallery fine art collection is now fully online at [explorebarnsleycollections.com](http://explorebarnsleycollections.com), thanks to the collections research undertaken during the extension and refurbishment project at the gallery, which opened in 2016. We are pleased to be receiving research enquiries and requests for loans from the collection to enable even greater access to these wonderful artworks.

A bequest of ten paintings through the Art Fund to Cannon Hall Museum has been a significant addition to Barnsley's fine art collections. 'A Bequest for Barnsley' exhibition presented these beautiful paintings including 'An Introduction into Doubtful Company' by Robert Hillingford and three excellent still life works by Barnsley artist Abel Hold.

We became a fully accredited archives service in November, receiving the award from The National Archives. This followed a lengthy programme of work earlier in the year, ensuring that all our policies, plans and procedures were in place. Achieving accreditation shows that the service is working efficiently and effectively, a huge achievement that we are very proud of. User numbers have continued to increase and we added over 2000 more items to our online catalogue. We moved our digital plans forward further with the launch of the Barnsley Film Archive on YouTube, through our *Joy of Sound and Vision* project, with thanks to Heritage Lottery Funding. We also experimented with the colourisation of Victorian photographs.



**The (Archives Accreditation) award is a tribute to all, from council members and senior managers, team members to friends and volunteers."**

**Keith Sweetmore,**  
Engagement Manager for the North of England, The National Archives

## Sustainability & Resilience

We have continued with our strategy to be more resilient and sustainable as an organisation by focusing on income generation, targeted external funding applications and increasing public donations. Workforce development is central to us achieving our ambitions.

This year has been a very exciting one during which our teams, partners and volunteers have been exploring the potential of Elsecar, further developing the offer for visitors, our partnerships and putting in place very exciting plans for what the future might hold. The performance of Elsecar continues to exceed hopes and projections, with continuing growth in visitor numbers and full capacity across our commercial tenancies.

In particular, the year has seen the launch of the Elsecar Heritage Action Zone, a partnership with Historic England - one of the first ten of its type announced across the country. It reflects the importance of Elsecar but also the potential for growth and development in the future. We have also launched the new 'Great Place' project, a partnership between Barnsley and Rotherham Council, and Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust, focused on the heritage of Elsecar and Wentworth, through the delivery of major festivals and activities to engage and inspire young people in our boroughs and tackle challenging social issues.



**I defy anyone not to be thrilled by Barnsley Museums Elsecar Heritage Centre."**

**Neil Mendoza,** in a letter to The Guardian, following publication of his once-in-a-generation review of museums in the UK

There are exciting changes afoot at Cannon Hall Museum Parks and Gardens; the project has begun to restore the park and gardens with funding of over £2.8million from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund.

Over the next three years the parks and gardens will be transformed by Restoring the Glory and Revealing the Secrets, there will also be opportunities for people to get involved in events and volunteering. This part of the scheme aims to create wider long lasting community benefits through apprenticeships, learning activities, events and volunteering programmes. Central to this project is a robust business plan to ensure the long term management and maintenance of the historic landscape.

In the last year Barnsley Museums and Heritage Trust, set up to raise funds for Barnsley Museums, has gone from strength to strength. This is thanks to the support of the people of Barnsley, visitors to the museum sites and the companies, organisations and funders who are committed to supporting Barnsley's heritage. We are once again proud to work with our partners NPS Barnsley and Barnsley College, and have been delighted to welcome Kate Rusby to join our existing patrons Mel Dyke and Professor Joann Fletcher, all of whom have gone the extra mile in support of the Trust.

Visitors showing their support by making a donation when they visit sites was a major growth area, along with grants from trusts and foundations. Support was secured from Foyle Foundation, Awards for All, Co-op Local Community Fund, Better Barnsley Bond, Idlewild Trust, Shawlands Trust and Creative Minds.

As a result of the funds raised the Trust has been able to support a variety of important Museum activities throughout its sites. These include learning projects such as those linked with the Egypt Exhibition as well as conservation work that will culminate in a Dutch Painting Exhibition in 2018. In addition, a variety of community and family projects such as our family trail and 'Buns on the Run' project at Worsbrough and the Hear My Voice, Dying Matters project with Barnsley Hospice have also been funded. Finally, the Trust was delighted to be able to support the permanent installation of public artwork to remember the many brave Barnsley soldiers who fell in the Battle of the Somme.

This year the Trust hopes to once again increase its fundraising activity and generate more income through building further strategic partnerships with funders and local organisations and by increasing opportunities for individuals to show their support.



**I started volunteering with Barnsley Museums as part of my MA course at the University of Sheffield. Just three months after completing my degree I got a job here as a Visitor Services Assistant. I love my job and the opportunities and experiences I've had through it."**

**Shannon Birds**



For latest information about trust activities visit [bmht.org](http://bmht.org)

This year we have also created our first Workforce Development Plan, and continued to invest in the development of our team. The Council's Leadership Programme continues to have a huge impact on our management team and how we work. We have worked with eight Yorkshire Museums and industry specialists to share best practice and develop our front of house services and improve our visitor welcome. We trained over 30 library staff in the community to enable better customer service for family history enquiries. We have also furthered our commitment to volunteering, and this is a priority for us moving forward into the next four years as an NPO, with the appointment of our first Volunteer Co-ordinator.



## Driving the Visitor Economy

The primary focus of our events programme is to raise awareness and change perceptions of Barnsley and to drive footfall to the Museum sites and to the town centre, generating an economic impact. This year the Food Festival at Elsecar featured Bake Off winner Nadiya Hussain and attracted 5,000 visitors over the weekend event. Worsbrough Country Fair and the Christmas events were popular with local people and attracted a combined audience of over 6,000.

In the town centre hosting the Luminarium, with support from Arts Council England, provided an exciting new addition to the programme and was a huge success delivering a 'high profile high impact' event - selling out with almost 5,000 people buying tickets for entry into the structure. The huge uptake demonstrated a public appetite and interest for this type of event which also took prime spot with live broadcast on BBC's Look North generating significant profile for Barnsley.

Once again Barnsley hosted the Tour de Yorkshire which this year centred on the small market town of Penistone. The community engagement, land art and facilitated learning programmes delivered with the aid of an Arts Council grant generated significant media attention and set a new bar for this type of event and led to Barnsley being chosen to be a "start" for the 2018 Tour de Yorkshire. The borough will host 40 miles of the route passing all of our Museums sites and providing a unique opportunity for additional engagement with new audiences together with increased profile.



## Learning

This year our learning service has been funded by Arts Council England, via the Department of Education, to deliver on the Museums and Schools programme. We've developed and delivered new successful sessions on Ancient Egypt and Creative Writing, linked to the National Curriculum. We've continued to develop our partnerships with the Wallace Collection in London and Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield. We've welcomed 4,392 pupils through our formal primary schools programme.

This year we have been developing new resources for teachers to enable them to explore our amazing parks and gardens, and look at the outdoor places differently, through an art and design lens. We've developed an 'Outdoor Art Sparks' self-led teachers pack for Cannon Hall in conjunction with Yorkshire Sculpture Park. These activity ideas for teachers provide an opportunity to explore art, nature, clouds, sculpture, plants and collections in new ways at our sites.

The Cooper Gallery in Barnsley, has secured the prestigious Sandford Award for Heritage Education. The award is an independently judged assessment of education programmes and the UK's benchmark for high quality learning provision by heritage venues.

“Museums and galleries provide a unique learning experience that can inspire and motivate young people in exciting and memorable ways.”

Stephanie Simm,  
Relationship Manager, Children Young People and Learning, Arts Council England



1,214,277

Total number of visits to museums

22,837



22,936



782



Social media followers

4392  
8997

school children attended formal sessions

local children took part in organised activities



This has been a year of exciting and varied exhibitions as well. Highlight exhibitions included costumes in 'Tales of the Wedding Dress: From Home Made to World Stage' at Cannon Hall Museum, international contemporary ceramics in 'Liverpool Biennial with the Cooper Gallery Presents: Betty Woodman' and a whole season of Ancient Egypt in Yorkshire across three sites, with three stunning exhibitions curated by Barnsley's very own Professor Joann Fletcher. These exhibitions were immensely popular from the outset, along with a range of tours, talks, school visits and activity programmes running alongside the exhibitions.

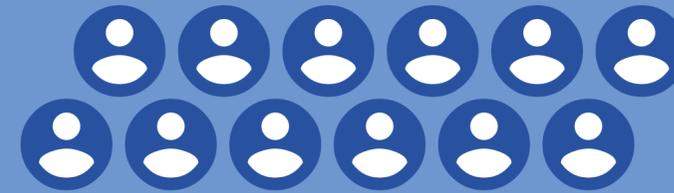
Following the successful tour of the 'Picasso Linocuts' exhibition to the Cooper Gallery in 2017, we are working with the British Museum again to develop another exhibition, this time of drawings. The Bridget Riley Art Foundation is continuing to support the British Museum in its aim of encouraging drawing nationwide. The 'Drawing Now' exhibition aims to stimulate excitement and enthusiasm for drawing through an exhibition of contemporary drawings.

10 PAINTINGS BEQUEATHED  
to Cannon Hall Museum

through the Art Fund

£3,979,840

Total external funding secured



12 new jobs created

£26M

worth of Economic impact

294 ARTS AWARDS

27

Environmental sites surveyed by volunteers

50

Over 50 local businesses supported

10,000

Volunteer hours given



1 silver gilt award for Cannon Hall Gardens

FOUR

Paintings conserved



Over 12.5 tonnes of organic flour milled

£1,394,693

News value

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHRONICLE



Award for Community Involvement

06 INTERNSHIPS

Supported

14

Exhibitions hosted across our Museums