

## **BOWES MUSEUM and BARNARD CASTLE** **Saturday 20th July**



The Bowes Museum has been described as ‘a hidden treasure, a jewel in the heart of beautiful Teesdale’. It was designed as an art gallery by John Bowes and his French-born wife Josephine Chevalier. Married in 1852, their plan was to create a world-class museum in John’s ancestral home, Teesdale, in order to bring the world of art to local people. Sadly both of them died before the project was completed, but the momentum and enthusiasm they had created ensured that the project was completed and the museum was opened in 1892.

The many galleries contain wonderful collections of fashion and textiles, paintings, ceramics, pictures and silver and metals, including the celebrated ‘Silver Swan’. There is also an extensive collection relating to the fascinating lives and work of founders John and Josephine Bowes. The Museum is set within lovely formal gardens and parkland. There is a cafe at the museum, or if you wish you could bring a picnic to eat in the grounds.

You may also wish to make the very short stroll from the Museum into the centre of Barnard Castle, and visit the High Street, The Castle (run by English Heritage) or the Parish Church,

**Accessibility:** the upper floors of the building are accessible by stairs but there is also a lift. This is a 19<sup>th</sup> century building, so obviously there are some uneven floors and steps. In the gardens there are some steps. There are toilets on the ground and first floors of the museum. You can find full details on the history of the building, the collections and accessibility at the Bowes Museum website <https://www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk/>

**Arrangements:** depart Wentworth Car Park (by leisure centre) 9.30 a.m. Shaftoe Leazes bus stop, 9.35 a.m., Benson Monument bus lay-by 9.40 a.m. Corbridge car park 9.45 a.m. We will aim to be back in Hexham by about 5.30 p.m.

**Please note:** a minimum of 30 people will be needed to to make this outing viable.

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Please return this form to Jennifer Britton, 4, Leazes Park, Hexham, NE46 3AX

Please reserve .....place(s) on the visit to the Bowes Museum at £18.00 per person (this includes your coach travel and group-rate entry to the Museum and grounds)

Name(s).....

Address.....

Email.....Telephone.....

**IMPORTANT:** Please state which pickup point you require.....

I enclose a cheque for..... made payable to **Hexham Local History Society**  
(our bank will not accept cheques made out to HLHS). **Please send a separate cheque for each outing**