

**NATIONAL
COAL MINING
MUSEUM**

📍 Wakefield, Yorkshire, WF4 4RH
Open Wednesday—Sunday

What's On

April—June 2025

**Free
entry**

Donations
welcome



**UNEARTH THE
UNEXPECTED**

Welcome!

Make memories at the National Coal Mining Museum

Spring has sprung here at the museum, and our outdoor spaces are looking beautiful.

It's the perfect time to pick up one of our new adventure backpacks and explore our 40 acres, including a nature trail, play area, and Pony Discovery Centre.

It's an exciting time for the museum as we reopen our legendary underground tours after a short pause to replace our winder. You can once again travel deep beneath the earth on a totally unique journey that will take you through the fascinating history of coal mining, guided by a knowledgeable former miner in our authentic underground mine.

Spring also brings a brilliant new exhibition to the museum: **From the Earth Comes Light: Women, Creativity, and Mining in 20th Century Britain**

Discover the untold stories of women in twentieth-century British mining through the eyes of Guest Curator Jennifer Jasmine White. This groundbreaking exhibition showcases artworks that highlight women's significant roles and contributions to mining, as narrated by the women themselves.

Spend spring days here at the museum and make wonderful memories. Enjoy interactive galleries, relaxing walks, incredible exhibitions, explore exciting collections, and enjoy lots of exciting events, making each visit totally different. Meet our ponies and canaries and spot us out and about at events across Yorkshire and England, as we share the important stories of coal mining.

It's going to be a brilliant spring and we can't wait to welcome you!



Journey 140m deep underground in an unforgettable experience



Underground Tours

Wed–Sun

£7.50, pre-book at

Visitor Reception Desk or online

Descend 140m underground into the last deep coal mine in England, and discover 180 years of history with a captivating former miner. Every tour 'darn pit' is led by an ex-miner with a 'reyt' broad accent and loads of experience under his somewhat heavy tool belt. He'll unhand you of your 'contraband', and talk you through 180 years of mining.

He'll explain why he has every right to tell you to 'shut tha trap' and when you are 'done and dusted' you can carry on exploring life above ground.



Exhibitions

From the Earth Comes Light: Women, Creativity, and Mining in 20th Century Britain



Fri 4 April — Sun 28 Sep 2025

📍 Exhibition Space, The Hub

Discover the untold stories of women in twentieth-century British mining through the eyes of Guest Curator Jennifer Jasmine White. This groundbreaking exhibition at NCMME showcases artworks that highlight

women's significant roles and contributions to mining, as narrated by the women themselves. For the first time, their artistic impact on mining's cultural history is celebrated, offering fresh and essential perspectives that resonate today. Don't miss this unique opportunity to explore the vital connections between women and mining.

From Coal Queens to Comedy Kings: The Sculptures of Graham Ibbeson

Until 7 Sep 2025 📍 Sitewide Trail

This captivating sculpture trail leads you around our beautiful inside and outside spaces, introducing memorable moments of mining history and much-loved performers. Figures include Coal Widow, part of the Oaks Disaster Memorial, on loan from the NUM as well as celebrated performers such as Eric Morecambe, Laurel & Hardy and Ken Dodd.

Get involved during your visit by striking the famous poses of the characters and tagging the museum's social media pages using [#CoalQueensComedyKings](#)



Events

VE Day Beacon Launch



Thu 8 May: 9.30pm–10pm*

Free, just turn up

Join us as we commemorate VE Day and the role of the Bevin Boys in the Second World War. This special evening event will honour the bravery and sacrifice of those who served, with a moving memorial service including the lighting of the beacon, poetry readings and brass band performances.

*The Museum will remain open until 10pm, with Time Tunnel tours available to pre-book via the website until 8.30pm.

Brian Elliott Book Launch and Signing

Sat 10 May: 10.30am

📍 Conference Centre

Free, pre-bookable

Join mining historian Brian Elliott and friends for the launch of his new book, over ten years in the making: 'Miners and the Great War'.

Brian will be sharing some of the many untold stories sampled from about half a million coal miners, who served in all the armed forces and all theatres of war.



Miners' Memorial

Little Hummingbird: Makers' Food & Gift Markets

Sun 11 May: 10am–4pm

📍 Pit Yard

Free, drop-in

Explore a diverse collection of local artisans and makers offering handmade crafts, unique gifts, and more. Enjoy a day of shopping and support small, independent businesses. Perfect for the whole family!



Little Hummingbird Market

Miners' Memorial

Sat 17 May

This special commemorative event is exclusively for those who have purchased a glass check, to see their check installed as part a heart-warming ceremony.

To purchase a glass check to remember your loved ones, please visit ncm.org.uk/garden

Bold as Brass

Sat 7 June: 10.30am–6.30pm

📍 **Sitewide**

Free, just turn up

Join us for our annual brass bands march & entertainment contest, in partnership with Brass Bands England. Brass bands from across the country will be performing throughout the day for a variety of prizes including 'most entertaining', 'best march' and the all-important 'People's Choice' where you get a chance to vote for your favourite performance. Live music, beer tent & street food all day, remember to grab your camping chairs and picnic blankets!



1940s Day

Sat 21 June: 10am–4pm

📍 **Sitewide**

Free, just turn up

Join us for a day inspired by the 1940s. Enjoy live music, explore stalls with unique items, savour sweet treats, admire classic cars, and enjoy some dancing. Dressing up in your best 1940s attire is highly encouraged! If you miss out on Saturday's fun, we'll have a vintage bus on the Sun 22 June courtesy of South Yorkshire Transport Museum.



Classic Car Rally

Sat 28 June:

10am–4pm

📍 **Pit Yard**

Free, just turn up

See Caphouse Colliery come to life for a Classic Car Rally with vintage and classic motors on display in the museum's Pit Yard.



**Don't miss
Geology Rocks on
Sat 26 April**

See page 11 for
full details

Talks and Tours

Discover our History

Why's Our Water Orange?

Last Saturday of the month
(volunteer dependent):

1.30pm–2.15pm

📍 Meet at Reception

Free, just turn up

Discover how we pump and purify orange mine water, through our innovative water treatment system.

Heritage Walk

Thu 17 Apr, Thu 15 May &
Thu 19 Jun: 10am–12pm

📍 Meet at Reception

Free, pre-bookable

Enjoy a country walk?
Fascinated by local heritage?
Join us for a countryside circular walk around the museum and discover shadows of the industry.

Captured History: Photography Walk

Fri 11 Apr, Fri 9 May &
Fri 13 Jun: 11am–12pm

📍 Meet at Reception

£1.50, pre-bookable

Whether you're a seasoned photographer or a curious beginner, bring along your camera or smart phone and join our guided photography walk, led by our expert Volunteer Roy, and discover the amazing spaces of the museum.

Steam Winder Demos

Weekends and school holidays:
Demos throughout the day

📍 Steam Winding House, Caphouse
Free, just turn up

See how a few puffs of steam can work with some giant machinery to move the mighty Pit Wheel.



Photography Walk



Heritage Walk

Credit: Nick Singleton



Steam Winder Demonstrations

Pithead Baths Explore

Wed—Sun: 12pm—12.45pm

📍 Meet at Pithead Baths

Free, just turn up

Find out more about the lives, interests and lifestyles of miners on this fun family friendly tour.



Pithead Baths Explore



Nature Trail

Meet the Trees: Guided Walk

8+ years

Thu 17 April: 11am—12pm

📍 Meet outside The Hub

Free, pre-bookable

Join us for a relaxed guided walk through our Nature Trail. Discover different trees and enjoy the sights and sounds of spring.

Pit Poetry Walk

Wed 2 Apr, Wed 7 May
& Wed 4 June: 11am—12pm

📍 Meet at Reception

Free, pre-bookable

Discover the history of the museum and the mining industry through poems and stories, led by our Volunteers.

Accessible Overground Tour

Thursdays: 1pm—2pm

📍 Meet at Reception

Free, must be pre-booked*

Join our friendly Volunteers on an accessible tour of the museum. You will be guided around site on our wheelchair accessible buggy and learn all about our mining heritage.

*Please note the buggy can only hold one wheelchair and 5 seated.



Accessible Overground Tour

Get Creative!



**FEEL GOOD
FRIDAYS**

Adults

Are you a creative person? Do you enjoy trying new things? Join us for an uplifting afternoon of craft and creative skills. No previous experience needed.

1.30pm–3pm

📍 Learning Space, The Hub

£7 (carers free), pre-bookable

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Fri 4 April | Paper Making |
| Fri 2 May | Modrock Relief Strata |
| Fri 9 May | Sunburst Mirror |
| Fri 23 May | Gelli Printing |
| Fri 6 June | Embroidered Nature Printing* |
| Fri 20 June | Basic Book Binding* |
| Fri 27 June | Soap Making |

*Part of Kirklees
Woven festival



Exhibition: **Dancing Coalfields**

Wed 30 April – Sun 22 June

📍 Project Space, The Hub

Dancing Coalfields is a dynamic project that brings together students from Outwood Academy Shafton with the rich oral histories and mining heritage of Grimethorpe.

The exhibition features a collection of works created by the students in response to their visits to the museum and collaboration with Gary Clarke Company.

Highlights include a film capturing the dance and music performances, alongside artistic pieces crafted by the students.

**GARY
CLARKE
COMPANY**



ADULT ART WORKSHOPS

Adults

Be inspired by our stunning art collection at our exciting art workshops.

10.30am–12.30pm

📍 Education Room, The Hub

£12, pre-bookable

Pit Pony Watercolour with Moira Spencer Sun 11 May

Get creative with a palette of colours and lots of interesting techniques to create a pit pony-inspired artwork.

Paper Sculpture (Sean Barry) Sun 8 June

Explore the art of three-dimensional paper crafting and master techniques to sculpt intricate designs, fold and assemble layers to create imaginative artworks.



Schools

Our museum creates powerful, meaningful and memorable learning experiences that last. Our full days of led and self-led activities enable children's imaginations to run free.

Discover more about our amazing school workshops and learning resources here ncm.org.uk/learning or scan the QR code above



Family Fun! Easter

**5–20
April**
Closed Mon
& Tue

For **STEAM
Club** and
Caphouse Creators
Easter specials,
see pages
14–15

Easter Scavenger Hunt

Under-5s

Older siblings welcome

Fri 11 Apr: 10.30am–11.30am

📍 Meet outside The Hub

£2.50 per child, pre-bookable

Spring is here! Join us in our Pit Wood for our seasonal scavenger hunt where we'll be looking out for blossoming flowers, budding leaves and tweeting birds – there may be a chocolate treat at the end!

Inspiring Animation

6–12 years

Fri 11 & Fri 18 Apr:

1.30pm–3pm

📍 Learning Space, The Hub

**£7 per family pair,
pre-bookable**

Join artists Lenny and Whale to explore animation techniques. Design characters using paper-based drawing and collage approaches. Bring your works of art to life using animation apps.

We recommend this workshop for family pairs (1 adult + 1 child) sharing an iPad, which will be provided.

Makers' Shed

Daily: 11.30am–3.30pm

📍 Pony Discovery Centre

Free, just turn up

Get creative and explore the power of light and dark with free crafts.

Horsekeeper Talk

Daily: 12pm & 2.30pm

See overleaf for full details.

Minecraft- inspired Escape Room in a Box

7+ years

Fri 11 Apr & Fri 18 Apr:

12pm–1.30pm

📍 Conference Centre

£15 per family, pre-bookable

Join us for a Minecraft inspired escape room challenge. Problem-solve your way to victory!

Paddy Train

**Daily: 11am–4pm
(weather permitting)**

See overleaf for full details.

Stories of Pit Lasses

Daily: 11.30am–3pm

📍 Parkinson's Yard, The Hub

Free, just turn up

See overleaf for full details.

Coming soon: Geology Rocks

Sat 26 Apr: 10am–5pm

Free, just turn up

Uncover and handle amazing rocks and fossils as you dig into the fascinating world of geology. Enjoy immersive shows, guided tours, activities and storytelling to discover the hidden wonders beneath your feet.

Event organised in partnership with Yorkshire Geological Society.



Family Fun!

May Half Term

**24 May
–1 June**
Closed Mon
& Tue

For Caphouse
Creators May half
term special, see
page 14

Horsekeeper Talk

Daily: 12pm & 2.30pm

📍 Pony Discovery
Centre

Free, just turn up

Hear all about our
four-legged friends in
the 12pm talk and see
them being fed
at 2.30pm.



Stories of Pit Lasses

Daily: 11.30am–3pm

📍 Parkinson's Yard, The Hub

Free, just turn up

Listen to family-friendly
stories of strong women
from mining communities
– from coal queens to pit
brow lasses.

Makers' Shed

Daily: 11.30am–3.30pm

📍 Pony Discovery Centre

Free, just turn up

Get inspired by our Nature
Trail and make some bright
and beautiful Spring-
themed crafts to take home.

Paddy Train

Daily: 11am–4pm

(weather permitting)

📍 The Hub – 📍 Hope Pit

**£2.50 per person
(all day ticket), available
from Reception**

Travel in a train that used
to carry miners at work.



Paddy Train

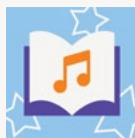
Coming soon: Eric and Ernie's Birthday

Sat 14 Jun: 10am–3pm

Free, just turn up

Our ponies Eric and Ernie are celebrating
their 21st birthday! Come and help
them celebrate with a day of family
fun including horse-themed crafts!





**UNDER
5s**

Wacky Wednesdays

Wednesdays: 10.15am–11am

📍 Learning Space, The Hub

£2.50, pre-bookable

Play and learn with your pre-schoolers!

Join us as we explore one of our fun weekly themes through interactive storytelling, activities, singing and crafts.

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wed 2 Apr | Easter |
| Wed 23 Apr | Pit Nurses |
| Wed 30 Apr | Coal Queens |
| Wed 7 May | Pit Wood |
| Wed 14 May | Allotments |
| Wed 21 May | Dragonflies |
| Wed 4 Jun | Brass Bands |
| Wed 11 Jun | Miners are Fathers Too |
| Wed 18 Jun | Pit Ponies |
| Wed 25 Jun | Mining Myths |

Stay and Play

Fridays (term-time): 10am–11.30am

📍 Hope Conference Room, The Hub

£1.50 per child, pre-bookable

Stay and play with your pre-schoolers!

Join us for our weekly 'Stay and Play' session for under 5s. The perfect opportunity to play for your little ones, including dressing up, sensory tuff trays, a sensory dark tent, story corner, musical instruments and crafts.





CAPHOUSE CREATORS

7–12
years

Calling all 7–12 year olds! Get creative at our hands-on monthly club, working with different materials to learn new skills.

11am–12.30pm

📍 Learning Space, The Hub

£7, pre-bookable

Easter special: Decoupage and Electronics Fri 11 & Fri 18 April

Create a nature-inspired decoupage design on a glass jar whilst learning the fundamentals of electrical components to wire your own circuit to illuminate the darkness!

May half term special: Paper Making Wed 28, Thu 29 & Fri 30 May

Turn recycled paper into beautiful handmade sheets using real papermaking tools. Learn creative techniques and sustainable practices along the way.





STEAM CLUB

Join us for our hands-on monthly STEAM Club and enjoy a creative twist on your STEM subjects using different materials to learn new skills.

11am–12.30pm & 2pm–3.30pm

📍 Learning Space, The Hub **£7, pre-bookable**

Lego Robotics Run by IzWiz Robotics

7+ years

Rescue Mission **Wed 9 & Thu 10 April**

Design and program a robot to navigate a collapsed mine and rescue trapped Lego miners using IzWiz Robotics, all while overcoming obstacles and debris.

On the Move **Wed 16 & Thu 17 April**

Design and program a coal conveyor belt to transport Lego coal efficiently, competing in speed and stability while boosting creativity and problem-solving with IzWiz Robotics.

Mini Vehicle Making **Sun 18 May**

11–16 years

Explore how underground ventilation systems keep things safe by moving air. Design and build your own air-powered vehicle to see how it moves.

Mines Rescue **Sun 15 June**

11–16 years

Join us for a hands-on workshop where you'll explore how rescue teams protect themselves from underground hazards by testing and analysing materials used in protective clothing.





HOME EDUCATORS

7–13
years

Home Educators are always welcome here at the museum. Every month you can get a deeper understanding of the museum with our specially tailored workshops.

Workshops:

11am–12.30pm & 2pm–3.30pm

📍 Education Room, The Hub

£7, pre-bookable

Geology

Wed 23, Thu 24 & Fri 25 April

Discover how fossils are formed, explore the stories they tell about prehistoric creatures, and learn about the process of sedimentary rock formation. You'll even create a fossil to take home.

Science and History

Wed 14, Thu 15 & Fri 16 May

Join Sir Humphry Davy to discover the story of inventors racing to create the first flame-safety lamp for miners. Become an inventor, use your imagination and scientific knowledge to design your own lamp.

Science: What's in our Water

Wed 11, Thu 12 & Fri 14 June

Investigate how successful our water treatment plant is for cleaning polluted mine-water. Experiment with lab equipment to test if the iron content is safe to be released into the local river.



Drop into the Shop

No visit is complete without a visit to the Museum Shop.

Find the perfect gift for your loved one or treat yourself to a selection of quality gifts, books, and art.



Be part of our story and volunteer with us

Find out more about flexible volunteering opportunities that work for you. Dedicated support, training and social events.

Find out more here
ncm.org.uk/joinus/volunteering



Lives lived, lives lost

Lives Remembered

Take your place in history

Our Miners' Memorial Garden celebrates and commemorates the courage and camaraderie of miners, and the close-knit families and communities that supported them. A place for quiet contemplation and reflection, the Garden allows all who visit us to share memories of what coal mining has meant to them over many generations.

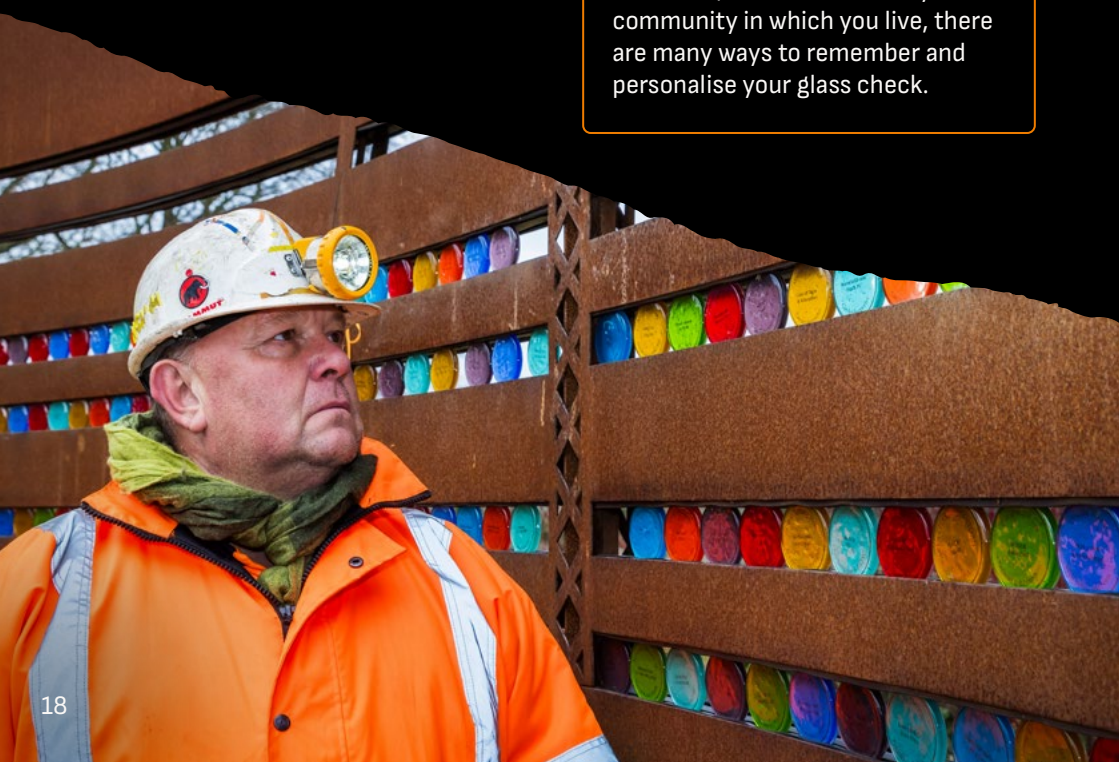
To find out more, visit
ncm.org.uk/garden



Remember your loved ones

Each beautifully handcrafted check costs **£75** and creates a unique and lasting memory for years to come.

Whether you wish to remember a loved one, or share a memory of the community in which you live, there are many ways to remember and personalise your glass check.



Make a difference...

Dig Deep and Donate

We are a charity and every penny counts.

Your donation, however large or small, is vital to us and is used to share the history of mining for everyone to learn about and enjoy.

Donate today via ncm.org.uk/donate



Adopt a Pony Today

**For just £30 a year,
you could make a real
difference to them.**

Our ponies and Clydesdale help to honour the memories of the pit ponies that once lived and worked in mines across England's coalfields. Help us keep their story alive by adopting a pony today.

In return for your support, you will receive a certificate, cuddly toy and pony updates.

Adopt today via
ncm.org.uk/ponies

Could
you help
care for our
ponies?



Travel through time in a new immersive digital experience

New for
2025

Are you ready to travel through time?

Our brand-new immersive Time Tunnel Experience is now open!

Be transported through the decades as you are taken through almost 200 years of mining history thanks to state-of-the-art technology. Led by a former miner you will encounter digital characters of the past through exciting films, touch treasures of times gone by and be greeted by authentic sights and sounds, all culminating with an unforgettable special effects finale.

This exciting, new, accessible experience is a permanent addition to the museum. It also provides an exciting alternative to our famous Underground Tour, as its suitable for ages.

See website and social media pages for details



Scan here to plan
your visit, or go
to ncm.org.uk



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Share your
experience
#NCMME

