

**NATIONAL
COAL MINING
MUSEUM**

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

What's On

July—September 2025



**UNEARTH THE
UNEXPECTED**

Welcome!

Spectacular Summer at the National Coal Mining Museum

**Summer is finally here,
and there's no better place
to spend it than at our
Museum!**

With the sun shining and warmer days ahead, it's the perfect time to explore our 42-acre Museum! Whether you are looking for a relaxing stroll, historic walk or just space to let off steam, we have it all. Dive into the great outdoors by picking up a nature back pack from reception and discover all the fascinating habitats that make our Pit Wood Nature Trail their home. It will lead you to our adventure playground, bird hides, picnic areas and Pony Discovery Centre to meet Finn our Clydesdale horse and ponies Bud, Eric and Ernie.

This summer sees the return of Beach Time at the Coal Mine, as we bring all the fun of the seaside to the Museum. Our pop-up beach is the perfect spot to build sandcastles, play games and make special memories during the school holidays.

There is so much happening above and below the ground! See lots of exciting exhibitions as well as our Underground Tours that take you deep beneath the earth and are the perfect way to escape the heat.

Make the most of your summer days here and what an action packed time it will be! With free crafts and family activities every day, regular events, performances, music and displays it really is going to be a summer to remember.

See you soon!

**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 and discover 180 years of mining history. Led by knowledgeable ex-miners with first-hand experience and a good dose of Yorkshire humour, you'll learn all about the tools, techniques, and teamwork that made life down the pit so unique.



**Are you ready to
travel through time?**

Time Tunnel

Wed–Sun

**Children (under 3): Free
Children (up to age 16): £5.50
Adults: £6.50**

Be transported through the decades as you are taken through almost 200 years of mining history thanks to state-of-the-art technology. 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.

The Time Tunnel provides an exciting alternative to our famous Underground Tour, as it's suitable for all ages!

**New for
2025**



Exhibitions

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

Fri 4 April — Sun 28 September 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.

Aria of Canaries

Wed 2 July — Sun 14 Sep 📍 The Hub

Get ready for an exciting family exhibition to fly into our galleries. This exhibition is a vibrant celebration of movement, migration, and memory, Aria of Canaries features a sweeping fresco of 100 golden canaries in flight, accompanied by a haunting soundscape.



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

Until 7 September 2025

📍 Site wide 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](#)

Coming Soon

Kellingley Remembered: A Decade Since the Last Shift

Sat 18 October 2025 — Sun 11 January 2026

Meet the Curator — Spotlight Talks

Thu 31 July: 11am & 2pm
Thu 21 August: 11am & 2pm
11am sessions will focus on Coal Queens & 2pm sessions will focus on individual artists

📍 Exhibition Gallery
Free, pre-booking essential

Join us for spotlight talks about our fascinating collections, inspired by our latest exhibition, From the Earth Comes Light: Women, Creativity & Mining in 20th Century Britain.

Threads of Resistance: Women's Creativity in Protest and Activism

Sat 2 August:
11.15am—12.15pm
& 2pm—3pm

📍 Conference Centre
£5, pre-bookable

Meet knitting historian & writer, Ashleigh-ellán Kavanagh, and learn in this talk how women have long used creativity as political power.

Film Screening The Scar and Collection of Oral Histories

Sat 16 August
Screening: 11am
Oral Histories:
1.30—4pm

📍 Conference Centre (Film Screening) and Library (Oral Histories)
Free, pre-bookable

Join us for a screening of The Scar, the first film in the Coalfield Trilogy, exploring the resilience of East Durham's women after the closure of the last collieries.

Following the film (1.30pm—4pm), the AmberSide Trust is collecting personal stories from those who worked in coal mining or protested pit closures. Contribute your experiences and help expand their archive of mining life.



An Illustrated Talk by Graham Ibbeson

Sat 30 August:
10.30am—12.30pm

📍 Conference Centre
Free, suggested donation £5

Join us for an intimate afternoon as the 'People's Sculptor' reflects on a life shaped by art, family, and community, marking the close of our From Coal Queens to Comedy Kings exhibition.



Events

Yorkshire Day Weekend!

**Fri 1 – Sun 3 August:
10.30am–4.30pm**

📍 Site wide
Free, just turn up

Join us for a grand gala family fun extravaganza in t' proper Yorkshire way, inspired by the vibrant Miners' welfare galas of years past! Over three days, immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, and experiences of real coalfield celebration. Enjoy brass bands, sports demos, Rugby skills training and be amazed and entertained by Professor Jon's Flea Circus (Friday), Barnard and Jones's variety spectacular (Saturday and Sunday).



Remember the Coal

**Fri 29 August:
7pm**

📍 Site wide
**£15 per person
or £30 family ticket,
pre-bookable**

Experience a powerful performance which looks at Britain's mining industry through original folk songs by Alan Wood and gripping narration by John Snook. From child labour in the pits to the last deep mine closure – the show highlights the power of coal over the centuries.

Emergency Services Weekend

**Sat 6 & Sun 7 September:
10am–5pm**

📍 Site wide
Free, just turn up

Join us for a jam-packed weekend where you'll get to: Experience the thrill of using a fire hose with the fire service, meet & greet representatives from different emergency services, learn first-hand about today's emergency response teams and how they work together, explore emergency vehicles and the tools professionals use to save lives.

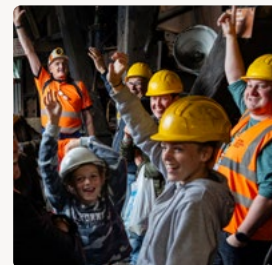


Heritage Open Days

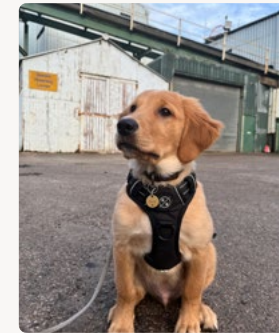
**Sat 13–Sun 14 September:
10am–5pm**

📍 Site wide
**Free, just turn up, special
tours pre-bookable**

See NCMME come to life with Living History performances and tours of our Screens Building (usually off limits!). See mining machinery demonstrations and much more over the weekend celebrating the heritage of mining.



Heritage Open Days



Paws at the Pit

**Sat 20 September:
10am–4pm**

📍 Site wide
Free, just turn up

Get ready for Paws at the Pit, featuring doggie goodies, games, and activities for all ages. Enjoy demos, pet stalls, and dog-friendly fun throughout the day!

Morris Minor Rally

**Sun 28 September:
10am–4pm**

📍 Pit Yard
Free, just turn up

Join the West Yorkshire Branch of the Morris Minor Owners Club for their Branch Rally. Whether you're a proud Morris Minor owner or simply a classic car enthusiast, everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy a wonderful display of beautifully maintained Morris Minors.



Talks and Tours

Discover our History

Railways of Caphouse Tour

Every Wed:
1.30pm

📍 Meet in Pit Yard
Free, just turn up

Join our passionate volunteer guides for a fascinating tour exploring the hidden railways of Caphouse Colliery. Discover the story of the Lister-Kaye Tunnel and the pioneering innovations that made coal transportation faster, cheaper, and more efficient—connecting the pit to the wider world.

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

Accessible Overground Tour

Every Thu:
1pm—2pm

📍 Meet at Reception
Free, must be prebooked

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

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 out mining heritage.

Why's Our Water Orange?

Last Sat of the Month:
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.

The People Who Made Caphouse Tour

Thu 3 July, Thu 7 August,
Thu 4 September:
10am—12pm

📍 Meet at Reception
Free, pre-bookable

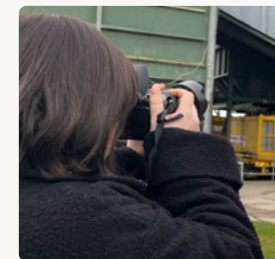
Discover more about the lives of the inventors and innovators that made Caphouse Colliery and Hope Pit.

Captured History: Photography Walk

Fri 11 July, Fri 8 August
and Fri 12 September:
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.



Nick Singleton

Heritage Walk

Thu 17 July, Thu 21 Aug,
Thu 18 September:
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.

Meet the Trees: Guided Walk

8+ years

Sat 19 July: 1.30pm—2.30pm

📍 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 summer.



Please note: All these tours are volunteer dependant

Get Creative!



Adults

Get creative and try 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 Jul	Pebble Marbling
Fri 11 Jul	Canary Cage Memo Board
Fri 5 Sep	Basic Book Binding
Fri 19 Sep	Soap Making
Fri 26 Sep	Macrame Feathers



Looking for a rewarding way to spend your time? Join our volunteer team!

With flexible opportunities to suit you, you'll receive dedicated support and become part of a friendly, welcoming community that makes a real difference.

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



Adults

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

10.30am–12.30pm

📍 Education Room, The Hub
£15, pre-bookable

Gelli Printing with Jennifer Ashby Sun 11 July

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

Life Drawing (Costumed) with Artist Moira Spencer Sun 14 September

Experiment with a range of art materials and patterned papers to capture the human form. Follow Moira's expertise as you look at proportion, shape and shadows to draw a costumed Pit Brow Lass.



World Photography Day Competition 2025

Capture your favourite moment at the National Coal Mining Museum this year and enter our photography competition, celebrating the theme "My Favourite Photo."

Open to all visitors, with special prizes for: **Under 16s** and **Over 16s**.

Winning entries will be displayed at the Museum and featured online.

Submit your photo to volunteer@ncm.org.uk by Fri 8 August 2025.

Wacky Wednesdays



Wednesdays (term-time):
10.15am–11am

📍 Learning Room 1, The Hub
£2.50 per child, pre-bookable, for under 5s

Explore our fun weekly themes through interactive storytelling, activities, singing and crafts.

- Wed 2 July Colliery Cats
- Wed 9 July Dragonflies
- Wed 16 July Miners' Holidays
- Wed 10 Sep What is coal?
- Wed 17 Sep Who are miners?
- Wed 24 Sep Miners' Clothes

Something scrumptious is cooking!

Our brand new café offer launches this summer so get ready for tempting treats and delicious drinks.



Muddy Boots: Stay and Play



11am–12.30pm

Wonderful Wildflowers:
Sat 19 July
Frogs & Friends:
Sat 16 August
Hedgerow Harvest:
Sat 20 September

📍 Nature Trail
£1.50 per child, pre-bookable

Join us for a fun-filled Outdoor Muddy Boots Stay and Play Session! Perfect for little ones under 5 who love to get their hands (and boots!) dirty.

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, crafts, and so much more!

Pompom Garlands



Sun 6 July:
11am–12.30pm & 2pm–3.30pm

📍 Learning Room 2, The Hub
£7 per child, pre-bookable

Join our workshop to craft colourful pom-pom garlands that will brighten any space, inspired by the thrifty charm of mining homes.

Horsekeeper Talk

Weekends and summer holidays: 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



Pony Discovery Centre



Makers' Shed

Makers' Shed

Wed–Sun (summer holidays): 11.30am–4pm

📍 Pony Discovery Centre
Free, just turn up

Celebrate a summer of art and sculpture, and get creative with free crafts.

Stories of Pit Lasses

Wed–Sun (summer holidays):
11.30am– 3.30pm
📍 Parkinson's Yard or Victorian Gallery
Free, just turn up

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

Minecraft-inspired Escape Room in a Box

7+ years

Sat 19 July, Sat 9 August and Sat 23 August:
11.30am and 2pm

📍 Conference Room
£15 per family, pre-bookable

Join us for a Minecraft themed, escape room challenge. Solve riddles, crack codes and problem-solve your way to victory.

One ticket required per family, max. 3 children per group.

Summer Scavenger Hunt

Every Wed and Fri during the summer holidays

Wed 23, Fri 25 July, Wed 6, Fri 8, Wed 20 and Fri 22 August:
Rainbow Theme

Wed 30 July, Fri 1, Wed 13, Fri 15, Wed 27 and Fri 29 August:
Mini Beast Theme

10.15am–11.15am

📍 Meet outside The Hub
£2.50 per child, pre-bookable

Join us in Pit Wood to discover nature's rainbow or the mini-beasts that call the Museum home.

All ages, especially suited to **Under 5s**





Inspiring Animation 6–12 years

Fri 25 and Sat 26 July:
1.30–3pm

📍 Learning Room 1, 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 (one adult and one child) sharing an iPad, which will be provided.

Wire Sculpture – Pit Cats



7–12 years

Wed 6 and Thu 7 August:
11am–12.30pm

📍 Learning Room 2, The Hub
£7 per child, pre-bookable

Sculpt your very own Purrfect Pit Cat using wire and modelling putty. Learn basic armature building and sculpting techniques to bring a charming feline to life!

Lego Robotics

(run by IzWiz Robotics)

8+ years

Sat 26 & Sun 27 July:
11am–12.30pm and
2pm–3.30pm

📍 Learning Room 2, The Hub
£7 per child, pre-bookable

Design and program a robot to move, learn how to control motors and sensors to get your robot to explore the world around them.

Engineering Explorers 6+ years

Fri 8, Fri 15, Fri 22 and
Fri 29 August: 11am–12pm

📍 Denby Grange
Conference Room
£5 per child, pre-bookable

Looking for a fun and engaging activity for the whole family to enjoy? Then come and take part in a range of problem-solving challenges that spark curiosity and creativity!

Activities include marble runs, robots and a whole lot more!

Mighty Machines



11–16 years

Wed 30 and Thu 31 July:
11am–12.30pm

📍 Learning Room 2, The Hub
£7 per child, pre-bookable

Uncover the power of hydraulics and pneumatics in coal mining, then bring engineering to life by building your own pneumatic-powered machine!

Chromatography Art



11–16 years

Wed 13 and Thu 14
August: 11am–12.30pm

📍 Learning Room 2, The Hub
£7 per child, pre-bookable

Create stunning works of art and explore how scientists use chromatography to detect contaminants in water and uncover hidden substances in colourful mixtures.

Greta's Glorious Garden 3–7 years

Sat 9 & 30 August
11.30am, 12.30pm,
2.30pm, 3.30pm

📍 Learning Room 2, The Hub
Free

Join Greta in her magical garden as she gets ready for the glorious garden competition, not everything goes to plan! Discover cheeky creatures, hidden beauty, and garden friends in need of help. This interactive puppet show is full of surprises.

La Jota

(Kidology Music Workshop)

5–12 years

Sat 23 August:
11am–12.30pm and
2pm–3.30pm

📍 Learning Room 2, The Hub
£7 per child, pre-bookable

Join musician Amanda Johnson for a fun, hands on workshop where you'll explore La Jota, a lively traditional dance from the Canary Islands! Use instruments like castanets and canary whistles to create dance rhythms.

The Whistling Mountains

(Kidology Music Workshop)

5–12 years

Sat 16 August:
11am–12.30pm and
2pm–3.30pm

📍 Learning Room 2, The Hub
£7 per child, pre-bookable

Explore the amazing whistling language of the Canary Islands, called El Silbo. Create beautiful soundscapes using fun instruments like the glass harp and bird whistles.

Wooden Movable Lizard



Wed 27 and Thu 28
August: 11am–12.30pm

📍 Learning Room 2, The Hub
£7 per child, pre-bookable

Carve, shape, and assemble your own movable wooden lizard. As your creation comes to life, journey back in time to uncover the incredible origins of lizards and their prehistoric ancestors!

Chirpy Canary Water Whistle



7–12 years

Wed 20 and Thu 21
August: 11am–12.30pm

📍 Learning Room 2, The Hub
£7 per child, pre-bookable

Join our workshop to sculpt a whimsical canary-shaped water whistle! With simple techniques and a touch of creativity, you'll craft a charming bird that sings when filled with water.

Wild Detectives



Sun 21 September

📍 Learning Room 2, The Hub
£7 per child, pre-bookable

Join us for a hands-on adventure where science meets nature! Discover how wildlife is thriving on former coalfields in this exciting workshop. Use real scientific tools to track bugs, survey wildlife, and explore how nature is bouncing back in rewilded landscapes.



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.

Home Education Workshops:

11am–12.30pm & 2pm–3.30pm

📍 Pony Discovery Centre

£7 per child, pre-bookable

Art and History

Wed 16, Thu 17 & Fri 18 July

Meet our ponies and learn about the important role that they would have played underground. Sculpt a clay pit pony using traditional hand-building techniques.

Coming soon...

Exciting Home Education sessions for children (ages 7–12) and young people (ages 12–16) are coming this October 2025!

Booking will be available soon – stay tuned.



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



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.



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

Could
you help
care for our
ponies?

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. Upgrade your adoption tier for additional rewards.

Adopt today via
ncm.org.uk/ponies



BEACH TIME

at the Coal Mine

A 'Sun'sational Summer Awaits!

Sat 19 July – Sun 31 August

Get ready for a super summer as the beach returns! From golden sands to daily activities and games, weekends of music and entertainment — we're bringing all the fun of the seaside to the Museum.

Whether you're building sandcastles, enjoying summertime music and performances, or getting creative with daily crafts, there's always something exciting to discover.

With new activities daily, every visit is a fresh adventure and perfect for low-cost family fun all summer long.



£7.50 per car



Throughout the summer holiday



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

Share your experience **#NCMME**

