

**NATIONAL
COAL MINING
MUSEUM**

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



What's On

October – December 2025



**UNEARTH THE
UNEXPECTED**

Welcome!

Autumn Awaits at the National Coal Mining Museum

As the days draw in and we say farewell to summer, our museum comes alive with a new season of discovery, creativity, and celebration.

Whether you're visiting for the first time or returning for another adventure, there's always something new and fascinating to explore.

Autumn is a stunning time to visit. Wander through our 42-acre outdoor spaces, where you will see changing trees, habitats, and flowers as you explore our nature trail.

Our galleries are packed with monumental objects and enjoy brand-new exhibitions including Kellingley Remembered, opening in October, which pays tribute to one of the UK's last working collieries.

We've also got a whole host of family activities and events planned, from creative workshops to our magical Light Up Festival and Parade, when the museum glows with hundreds of handmade lanterns. As we head toward Christmas, we can't wait for the return of a very special guest... Santa will be making the museum his home this December, ready to hear your festive wishes and spread festive cheer.

So, wrap up warm, bring your curiosity, and join us for a season full of wonder at the National Coal Mining Museum.

Are you ready to travel through time?

New for
2025

Time Tunnel

Wed–Sun

Children (under 3): Free

Children (up to age 16): £5.50

Adults: £6.50

Pre-book at Visitor Welcome Desk or online

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.



Exhibitions

Kellingley Remembered:

A Decade Since the Last Shift
Portraits, Memories, and the Legacy
of the Big K

18 Oct 2025 – 11 Jan 2026

📍 Exhibition Space, The Hub

For 50 years, Kellingley Colliery, fondly known as the “Big K”, was more than just a coal mine. It was the beating heart of a community, a symbol of resilience, and a triumph of engineering in North Yorkshire.

Now, ten years after its closure marked the end of deep coal mining, explore the Museum’s provocative new exhibition. Featuring remarkable photography of The Last Miners by Roger Tiley, Ian Beesley, Charlotte Graham, John Arnison and members of the coalfield community.



Roger Tiley

Voices of Coal by Debbie Harman

Sat 29 Nov – Sun 1 March 2026

📍 Project Space, The Hub

Discover an immersive film installation rooted in memory and renewal. Inspired by Kellingley Colliery, the UK’s last deep coal mine, it explores grief, legacy, and transformation in a post-coal world through film, sound, and virtual reality.



Unreal Engine, by Tatiana Collet-Apaxine Still from the film Voices of Coal

Roots & Renewal

Wed 1 October – Sun 16 November

📍 Project Space, The Hub

Roots & Renewal is a powerful new sensory exhibition curated by the SPARK Youth Arts Ambassadors. Inspired by their visit to the National Coal Mining Museum, the exhibition traces the transformation of mining landscapes from black to green, celebrating Caphouse Colliery’s journey from industrial site to a thriving place of nature and creativity.

Featuring recycled and repurposed materials, *Roots & Renewal* highlights the Museum’s innovative mine water treatment scheme, where reed beds cleanse water and leave behind vibrant ochre – a symbol of renewal and environmental care.

This youth-led project is supported by Prosper and Creative Minds, and proudly forms part of the Natural History Museum’s *Fixing Our Broken Planet* programme.



Fairy Ponds – Dan Harnett

Part of the Fixing Our
Broken Planet Programme



Events

Light Up Festival

Sat 22 November:
10am—6.30pm

📍 Site wide
Free, just turn up

Join us for performances, music, and a spectacular projection created by children and young people from across the district. Make your own lantern and join in with the unmissable community lantern parade.

Plus, don't forget to enjoy some tasty festive treats in the Museum Café.



Christmas Market with Tilly & Primrose

Sun 23 November

📍 Pit Yard
Free, just turn up

Get your Christmas shopping sorted in style at the Museum's enchanting festive market, lovingly curated by Tilly & Primrose. Whether you're hunting for stocking fillers, indulgent goodies, or something truly special, this charming event promises a magical shopping experience wrapped in holiday cheer.

Remember the Coal

Fri 5 December: 7pm

📍 Conference Room
£15 per person, £30 family ticket, pre-bookable

Experience the powerful tale of 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 storyline highlights the power of coal over the centuries.

Calderdale Big Band Concert

Sun 14 December: 2pm

📍 Site wide
£12 ticket adult, £10 children, pre-bookable

Celebrate the season with an afternoon of festive favourites and uplifting big band arrangements, from joyful classics to heart-warming carols. Enjoy an unforgettable afternoon of live music to mark the most magical time of year.



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.



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.



Accessible Overground Tour

Every Thu:
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.



The People Who Made Caphouse Tour

Thu 2 October,
Thu 6 November &
Thu 4 December:
10am–10.45am

📍 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 10 October, Fri 14
November & Thu 18
December: 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 16 October, Thu 20 November & Thu 18 December:
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.

Why's Our Water Orange?

Sat 25 October and Sat 29 November:
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.



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 17 Oct	Sgraffito
Fri 24 Oct	Willow Star Lanterns
Fri 28 Nov	Slate Etching
Fri 5 Dec	Stained Glass Resin
Fri 12 Dec	Christmas Carousel
Fri 19 Dec	Bookbinding 2026 Diaries



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

Wire Sculpture with Sean Barry Sun 9 November

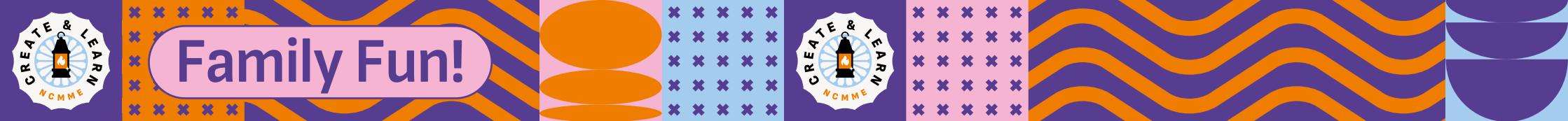
Sculpt with wire as you explore
industrial architecture in three
dimensions, transforming simple lines
into bold building forms.

Using a variety of hand tools,
you'll bend, twist, and shape
wire to create playful structures
that capture the essence of
architectural design.

Textile Printing with Ali Taylor Sun 14 December

Explore traditional printing
techniques to create
vibrant fabric designs
inspired by mining and
industrial architecture.
Play with shape,
contrast, and texture
to craft your own
unique textile piece.





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 1 Oct
Animals Underground

Wed 8 Oct
Colours of Nature

Wed 15 Oct
Pit Wood

Wed 22 Oct
Wacky Wednesday Welly Walk (£5 per child)

Wed 5 Nov
Collecting at the Museum

Wed 12 Nov
Miners are Brave

Wed 19 Nov
Light and Dark

Wed 26 Nov
Getting Dressed

Wed 3 Dec
Christmas Outdoors at the Museum

Wed 10 Dec
Christmas Special (£5)

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.

Muddy Boots: Stay and Play



Sat 18 October:
11am–12.30pm

📍 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 explore, learn, and get their hands (and boots!) dirty.

Wire Sculpture Pit Cats



7–12 years

Sun 5 October:
11am–12.30pm &
2pm–3.30pm

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

Unleash your creativity in this hands-on workshop where you'll sculpt your very own Purr-fect Pit Cat using wire and modelling putty. Learn basic armature building and sculpting techniques to bring this charming feline to life!

Ochre Art



Sun 19 October:
11am–12.30pm

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

Discover why our water treatment plant turns the water orange.

Use this by-product and other natural dyes to make your own incredible artwork to take home.

Horsekeeper Talk

Weekends and 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

Spooktacular Orange Crafts

Half Term

25, 26, 29–31 October &
1–2 November:
11.30am–4pm

📍 Pony Discovery Centre
Free, just turn up

Get creative and explore the science behind clean water through hands-on crafts inspired by our water treatment plant.

Spooky Stories from the Coal Shed

Half Term

Wed–Sun (October Half Term): 11.30am–3.30pm

📍 Parkinson's Yard
Free, just turn up

There's something nasty in the coal shed – come along for an interactive storytelling session, inspired by mining myths and legends to see what might be lurking inside...



Meet the Minibeasts

Half Term 7+ years

Sat 25 October:
11.30am–3pm

📍 Learning Room 1, The Hub
Free, just turn up

Join Michala from Lion Learners to meet some amazing minibeasts and learn how these tiny creatures help the environment! You'll also get to handle furry and scaly friends in this fun, hands-on session.

Limited capacity, arrive on time to avoid disappointment.

Black to Green Festival

Half Term

Sat 25 October:
10–6.30pm

📍 Site wide
Free, just turn up

Join us for the Black to Green Festival, created by SPARK's Youth Ambassadors. There's something for all ages—recycled crafts, meet the minibeasts, nature storytelling, theatre performances, guided tree walks, and a chance to discover how our amazing reed beds naturally clean the orange mine water. See our new youth-curated exhibition 'Roots & Renewal' exploring the journey of mining landscapes from black to green. Part of the Natural History Museum's Fixing Our Broken Planet programme. Don't miss the magical finale – an animated projection bringing Caphouse Colliery's story to life, tracing its journey from a bustling coal mine to a peaceful nature trail full of wildlife!



Greta's Glorious Garden

Half Term

Sat 25 October: 11am–4pm

📍 The Hub
Free, just turn up

Enjoy an interactive puppet show for all ages! Join Greta in her magical autumnal garden as she gets ready for the glorious garden competition.

Minecraft-inspired Escape Room in a Box

Half Term 7+ years

Weekend dates: 25, 26 October & 1, 2 November: 11.30am & 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.



Autumn Scavenger Hunt

Half Term

Wed 29 & Fri 31 October: 10.30am–11.30am

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

Join us in Pit Wood to discover the natural treasures of the season.

All ages, especially suited to Under 5s

Family Lantern Making Workshop

Half Term

Wed 29–Fri 31 October: 11am–12.30pm & 2pm–3.30pm

📍 Learning Room 2, The Hub
£10 per family, pre-bookable

Design and build a statement pyramid shaped lantern, ready to make a bold impact at our marching lantern parade on Saturday 22 November.

Spectacular Sparklers

STEAM CLUB 11–16 years

Sun 16 November: 11am–12.30pm

📍 Learning Room 1, The Hub
£7 per child, pre-bookable

Explore the science of combustion and energy transfer in this hands-on STEM workshop. Investigate which foods store the most energy. Then, put your knowledge into action by safely creating your own sparkler and discovering the chemistry behind the sparkle!

Santa is coming to Caphouse

Sat 22 Nov — Wed 24 Dec

Pre-bookable

This Christmas, before Santa goes down your chimney, he's making a special stop at the Museum! Venture into the atmospheric grotto where he'll be waiting to meet you. Will you make his naughty or nice list? Good children will receive a gift and a certificate, while those on the naughty list might just find coal in their stocking...

Makers' Shed — Christmas Decorations

Weekend dates:
23, 29, 30 November
& 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21 December:
11.30am–3.30pm

📍 Learning Room 2, The Hub
Free, just turn up

Get crafty this Christmas and make your own festive decorations.



A Festive Breakfast with Mrs Claus

Sat 6 & Sat 13 December:
9am—10am

📍 Café, The Hub

£17.50 adults, £15 children,
£60 Family Package (2 adults & 2 children),
pre-bookable

Join us in our café for a magical breakfast with Mrs Claus. Enjoy a delicious festive breakfast as Mrs Claus delights guests with festive tales and spreads Christmas cheer. Perfect for families, this special event includes seasonal treats and plenty of opportunities for little ones to share their Christmas wishes.

Victorian Christmas Candles



Sun 7 December:
11am—12.30pm & 2pm—3.30pm

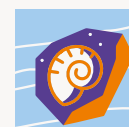
📍 Learning Room 2, The Hub
£7 per child, pre-bookable

Step into the glow of Christmas past as you wire and solder your own Victorian-style flickering candle. Using simple electronics and traditional techniques, you'll create a charming festive decoration while learning about how Victorian miners and their families lit their homes over the festive season.

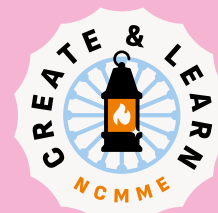
Snap Time?

We've given our café a fresh new look, making it the perfect spot to relax with a bite to eat or indulge in a tempting treat. Come and take a look at our brand-new menu, packed with delicious breakfast and lunch options for all tastes.

We can't wait to welcome you!



HOME EDUCATORS



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.

📍 Education Room, The Hub
£7 (7–12), £10 (12–16), pre-bookable



Home Education Workshops (7–12 years)

11am—12.30pm & 2pm—3.30pm
Wed 1, Thu 2 & Fri 3 October

STEM: Discover the world of renewable and non-renewable energy as you design and build your own working wind turbine. Put your creativity, problem-solving, and STEM skills to the test in our hands-on engineering workshop, complete with a resource shop to fuel your innovation.

Wed 5, Thu 6 & Fri 7 November

Art and Wellbeing: Learn the art of sculpture and contribute to our light-up event by creating a large diamond willow lantern. Be part of our marching lantern parade in November with your colourful creation.

Home Education Workshops (12–16 years)

10.30am—12.30pm & 2pm—4pm
Wed 8, Thu 9 & Fri 10 October

Engineering: Discover the world of renewable and non-renewable energy as you design and build your own working wind turbine. Pitch your turbine design to our panel of experts to secure funding and take your concept to the next level.

Wed 12, Thu 13 & Fri 14 November

Art and Wellbeing: Learn the art of sculpture as you create a shining star willow lantern for our spectacular light-up event. Personalise your star using colourful decoupage techniques, and march in our vibrant November lantern parade with your glowing creation.

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 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 a pony update. Upgrade your adoption tier for additional rewards.

Adopt today via
ncm.org.uk/ponies



Jason and the Underground Mining Adventures

Coming
2026

From March 2026

The Museum is proud to announce that it will be working in partnership with acclaimed artist, Jason Wilsher-Mills MBE, after he secured almost £145,000 in funding from Arts Council England to embark on an ambitious year-long national project.

This landmark project will see Jason create a permanent, interactive tapestry inspired by the museum's historic collection of coal mining union banners. Deeply personal to the artist, these banners evoke vivid memories of his childhood visits to the Wakefield Miners' Gala in Thornes Park during the 1970s, making the project event more poignant.

In addition to the tapestry, Jason will develop two monumental 20-foot inflatable sculptures featuring

interactive LED lighting, as well as immersive animations and film content in collaboration with Hot Knife Digital Media.

All the work will be exhibited in the Museum's gallery spaces alongside its outstanding mining collections, creating a striking contrast between industrial heritage and contemporary art.



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



All information in this booklet was correct at time of printing. National Coal Mining Museum reserves the right to change any details, prices, terms and conditions where necessary.

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Printed using FSC materials and Carbon Captured paper.

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