

**NATIONAL
COAL MINING
MUSEUM**

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

ncm.org.uk

What's On

April—June 2026

**Free
entry**

Donations
welcome



**UNEARTH THE
UNEXPECTED**

Welcome!

Make memories at the National Coal Mining Museum

Discover something new on every visit, with so many places to explore inside and out.

Step into our galleries to experience the bright and bold world of Jason Wilsher-Mills, this groundbreaking national art project celebrates the heritage and human stories of Britain's mining communities. The exhibition includes a world first, interactive tapestry celebrating our historic collection of coal mining union banners and two monumental, mega inflatable sculptures.

This season promises a jam-packed calendar of events from a roar-some Geology Rocks and the return of our much-loved Bold as Brass event to a Pony Party like no other - there's so much to do and see.

For lovers of the great outdoors, we have stunning green spaces where you can take a relaxing stroll or opt for a more challenging walk. Surrounded by wonderful wildlife and habitats you will enjoy our brilliant play area, trails, waterfall, bird hides and hidden spots with lots of opportunities to sit and contemplate along the way. Don't forget to pick up a brand-new, and free, Nature Trail map from the Visitor Welcome Desk.

Make sure to say hello to our ponies, shire foal, canaries and cat on your travels, who make the Museum their home. Finish off your visit with a browse in the shop, a delicious bite to eat and a refreshing drink in the café. Whether it's a day out with the kids or a day of discovery and wonder, we offer the perfect trip out.

Are you ready to travel through time?

Time Tunnel

See website for pricing. Pre-book at Visitor Welcome Desk or online

Are you ready to travel through time?

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.



Underground Tours

Wed-Sun

Booking currently paused. See website for details and pricing.

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.



Exhibitions

Children Playing in the Street of a Durham Pit Village

Sat 18 Apr – Sun 12 Jul
📍 Project Space, The Hub

Step into Tom McGuinness's world. For the very first time our immersive installation brings Children Playing in the Street of a Durham Pit Village vividly to life, celebrating the centenary of one of Britain's greatest mining painters and his enduring vision of community.



Tom McGuinness

'Not Afraid or Ashamed': Life During 1926 General Strike and Miners' Lockout

Fri 1 May – Sun 12 Jul
📍 Café, The Hub

In 1926, over 1.5 million workers stood with miners fighting pay cuts and longer hours. This exhibition uncovers the courage, hardship and solidarity of the General Strike and Miners' Lockout, showing how families, women and whole communities pulled together. Though the struggle ended in defeat, its impact endures. Researched and curated by NCMME volunteers Eddie and Josh.



Beamish Open Air Museum

Discover the digital exhibition with Bloomberg Connects. Scan the QR code to download the app.



Jason and the Coal Mining Adventure

Until Sun 4 Oct 2026
📍 Sitewide

Jason and the Coal Mining Adventure is a groundbreaking national art project celebrating the heritage and human stories of Britain's mining communities. The exhibition unveils a world first tapestry created by acclaimed disabled artist Jason Wilsher-Mills MBE, marking one of the most ambitious commissions of his career.

Funded by almost £145,000 from Arts Council England, the yearlong project has resulted in a spectacular tapestry inspired by stories gathered from former mining communities across the UK.

The tapestry has been created in partnership with the internationally renowned Flanders Tapestry in Belgium, historic weavers to leading artists including Grayson Perry and Damien Hirst.

The exhibition combines traditional craftsmanship with digital innovation. Powerful yet playful animated films, screened in the gallery and accessible via QR code, bring to life audio interviews with mining families who shared vivid memories of life above ground. Memories from holidays and hobbies to the leisure activities that brought communities together.

Alongside the tapestry, visitors will experience two monumental, mega inflatable sculptures. As well as new animations and film created in collaboration with Hot Knife Digital Media. These vibrant works will stand in dynamic contrast with the Museum's nationally significant mining collections.

On display in the hub, are artworks created by over 60 people from community groups, community art collectives and schools in West and South Yorkshire who took part in a series of digital art workshops led by Jason, inspired by his tapestry.



JW M
Jason Wilsher-Mills

Events

Geology Rocks!

Sat 11 Apr: 10am–5pm

📍 Sitewide

Free, just turn up

Geology Rocks is back! Unearth amazing rocks and fossils, marvel at unique shows and guided tours, and witness spectacular demonstrations, all with a roar—some twist that will delight adventurers of all ages.



Spring Bulb Wreath Workshop

Sun 12 Apr: 11am–1pm

📍 Café

£37 per person, pre-bookable

Spring has sprung! Try your hand at creating a spring bulb wreath — the perfect decoration to brighten up your home. Experiment with a range of florals to create a stylish one-of-a-kind masterpiece.



What Do You See? Online Workshop

Wed 3 & Tue 16 Jun: 7pm–8.30pm

📍 Online via Teams

Free, pre-bookable

Step into the world of Tom McGuinness, and explore visual thinking techniques to ask questions about his art. Imagine you are in his paintings – feel the air, listen to sounds, and think about the stories within.

Bold as Brass

Sat 23 May: 10am–5pm

📍 Sitewide

Free, just turn up

Join us for Bold as Brass, 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. Remember to bring your camping chairs and picnic blankets!



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 by scanning the QR code or visiting ncm.org.uk/learning



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

The People Who Made Caphouse Tour

Thu 2 Apr, Thu 7 May,
Thu 4 Jun: 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.



The People Who Made Caphouse Tour

Captured History: Photography Walk

Sat 11 Apr:
Industrial Textures
Sat 9 May: Late Spring
Sat 13 Jun: Black and White
Photography

11am–12.30pm
📍 Meet at Reception
Free, pre-bookable

Join us for a relaxed guided photography walk, and explore the dramatic spaces and stories of our industrial heritage. Led by our knowledgeable volunteer guide, the walk combines practical photography tips with fascinating insights into the site's history.



Heritage Walk

Heritage Walk

Thu 16 Apr, Thu 21 May,
Thu 18 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.

Sensory Storytelling

Wednesdays & Thursdays (term-time)
📍 Meet at Reception
**Free, to pre-book ring the Visitor
Welcome Desk on 01924 848806 or visit:
ncm.org.uk/SensoryStorytelling**

Discover history through stories you can see, touch, hear and smell! Step back in time and experience the life and stories of mining communities through our Sensory Storytelling sessions – designed especially for adults with learning disabilities and people living with dementia.



Accessible Overground Tour

Wed–Sun: 1pm–2pm
📍 Meet at Reception
**Free, available upon
request, please call
ahead to book.**

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 passengers.**



Pithead Baths Explore

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.

Why's Our Water Orange?

Sat 25 Apr, Sat 30 May,
Sat 27 Jun:
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.



Accessible Buggy

i Please note: All these tours are volunteer dependent

Get Creative!



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 April Gelli Print
- Fri 1 May Paper Quilling
- Fri 15 May Bath Bombs
- Fri 22 May Beaded Bracelet
- Fri 19 June Rag Rug Bird
- Fri 26 June Textile Batik



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/volunteer



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

10.30am–12.30pm

📍 Education Room, The Hub

£15, pre-bookable

Wooden Relief Carving with Sean Barry

Sunday 10 May

Work with craftsman Sean in this practical workshop, using traditional woodworking tools and techniques to create your own carved masterpiece.

Batik with Ali Taylor

Sunday 12 July

Use wax resist to create striking designs on cotton fabrics. Inspired by the traditional Indonesian art of batik, you'll develop a variety of pieces experimenting through applications of wax and dye.

Watercolour Landscapes with Moira Spencer

Sunday 14 June

Delve into the colourful and dynamic world of watercolour in this guided experimental workshop. Discover and apply new tips and tricks along the way to paint a vibrant mining landscape.



Family Fun!



Family Fun!



 **UNDER 5s**

Wacky Wednesdays

Wednesdays: 10.15am–11am

 Learning Room 1, The Hub
£2.50 per child, pre-bookable

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

- Wed 15 Apr** Pit Nurse
- Wed 22 Apr** Coal Queens
- Wed 29 Apr** Pit Ponies
- Wed 6 May** Canaries
- Wed 13 May** Colliery Cats
- Wed 20 May** Brass Bands
- Wed 3 June** Dragonflies
- Wed 10 Jun** Mining Myths
- Wed 17 Jun** Father's Day
- Wed 24 Jun** Mining Past Times

Muddy Boots: Stay and Play

Saturdays (term-time): 10am–11.30am

 Hope Conference Room, The Hub
£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.

- Sat 4 Apr** Dawn Chorus
- Sat 2 May** Butterflies
- Sat 6 Jun** Wildflowers



 **MAKERS' SHED**

Makers' Shed

Easter Holidays

Wed 1–Sun 5, Wed 8–Fri 10 and Sun 12 April: 11am–3pm

 Project Space
Free, just turn up

Get crafty and create your mini-you and become part of Jason's Community Miniverse art installation.

JWM
Jason Wilscher-Mills

Tales of Coal, Care and Community Life

Easter Holidays

1–5 and 8–12 April: 11.30am–3pm

 Parkinson's Yard
Free, just turn up

Discover how welfare above ground gave miners and their families support, and a sense of belonging, through interactive storytelling.



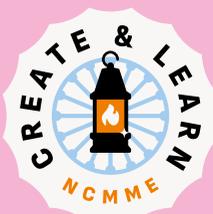
Horsekeeper Talks

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.

Family Fun!



Family Fun!



Easter Holidays

Making a Miniverse: Family Workshop

Wed 1–Fri 3, Wed 8–Fri 10 Apr:
11am–12.30pm

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

Step into the wonderfully quirky world of Jason Wilsher-Mills, as you craft your own fantastical mini-me into a digital artwork.

Use digital art technologies to design and create a unique artistic mini-me inspired by your own identity and imagination. Each creation will take pride of place in Jason's Miniverse and be showcased in the Museum as part of a vibrant, collaborative display.

JWM
Jason Wilsher-Mills



Spring Scavenger Hunt

Wed 1, Fri 3, Wed 8 and
Fri 10 Apr: 10.30am–11.30am
£2.50 per child, pre-bookable

Especially
suited to
under 5s

Spring is here! Join us in our Pit Wood for our spring scavenger hunts, discover the natural colours of the season.

The Big FREE Easter Pit Top Trail

Sun 5 Apr
📍 Conference Centre, The Hub
Free, must be pre-booked

Hop into Easter and join us for our special Easter Trail, searching for hidden eggs along the way. Complete the puzzle to pick up a chocolate treat from Reception.

Mindful Movers

Thu 9 Apr: 10am–11am
📍 Conference Centre, The Hub
£6 per child, pre-bookable via the
babybeats.co.uk website

Master new skills by allowing children to explore their senses. The movement and travelling exercises increase cardiac health and our poses aid concentration, balance and body awareness.

Minecraft Inspired Escape Room in a Box

Easter Holidays

Wed 8 Apr: 10.30am and 1pm
📍 Conference Centre, The Hub
£15 per ticket (Up to 2 adults & 1 child)
+£5 per additional child, pre-bookable

Think you've got what it takes to crack the code? Experience our Minecraft-inspired Escape Room in a Box and put your skills to the test. Work as a team, solve clues, and see if you can problem-solve your way to victory before time runs out!

Life in the Pit Village: Wartime Stories Unearthed

May Half Term

Fri 22–Sun 24, Wed 27–Sun 31 May:
11.30am–3pm
📍 Parkinson's Yard
Free, just turn up

Travel back to the 1940s and uncover what life was really like in the Pit Village. Learn how the war touched every household and handle the treasured items that helped hold the community together.



Makers' Shed

May Half Term

Sat 23–Sun 24,
Wed 27–Sun 31 May: 11am–3pm
📍 Pony Discovery Centre
Free, just turn up

Step into the streets of Tom McGuinness paintings and make games inspired by pit village pastimes.



Scavenger Hunt

May Half Term

Wed 27–Fri 29 May:
10.30am–11.30am
📍 Learning Room 2, The Hub
£2.50 per child, pre-bookable

Join us for a woodland adventure hunting for nature's treasures.

Especially
suited to
under 5s

Family Fun!



Paint, Patterns and People Workshop

May Half Term

Wed 27 & Sat 30 May:
1.30–2.30pm and 2.30–3.30pm
📍 Learning Room 1, The Hub
£2.50 per family of up to 4 people,
pre-bookable

Join artists Lenny and Whale for this fun painting workshop. Create your own colourful character to add to our sculptural village that will be exhibited at the Museum in October 2026, inspired by sculptor Betty Miller's 'My Village'.



Kite Making Family Workshop

May Half Term

Wed 27, Thu 28 and Fri 29 May:
11am–12.30pm
📍 Learning Room 2, The Hub
£10 per family, pre-bookable

Celebrate the joy of spring in our hands-on traditional kite making workshop, where you'll craft your own beautiful kite using wood, fabric, and ribbon while learning time-honoured techniques. Build it, decorate it, and watch your creation soar against the spring sky.

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

📍 Education Room, The Hub

7–12 years

11am–12.30pm
& 2pm–3.30pm
£7, pre-bookable

Nature and Wellbeing Wed 22, Thu 23 & Fri 24 Apr

Explore nature and biodiversity, and discover ways to attract more pollinators into our natural spaces. Use heritage craft techniques such as papermaking, seed bomb creation, and herb planting, you will make eco-friendly tools to support local ecosystems.

Science Wed 3, Thu 4 & Fri 5 Jun

Complete the citizen science survey Earthworm Watch in association with the Earthworm Society of Britain. Investigate earthworms and how many we have in the Museum landscape.

12–16 years

10.30am–12.30pm
& 2pm–4pm
£10, pre-bookable

History and Electronics Wed 6, Thu 7 & Fri 8 May

Explore the concepts of positive and negative imagery through both photography and electronics. Drawing inspiration from darkroom negatives in our collection, you will create your own illustration and bring it to life by wiring and soldering a custom-lit circuit board.



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.

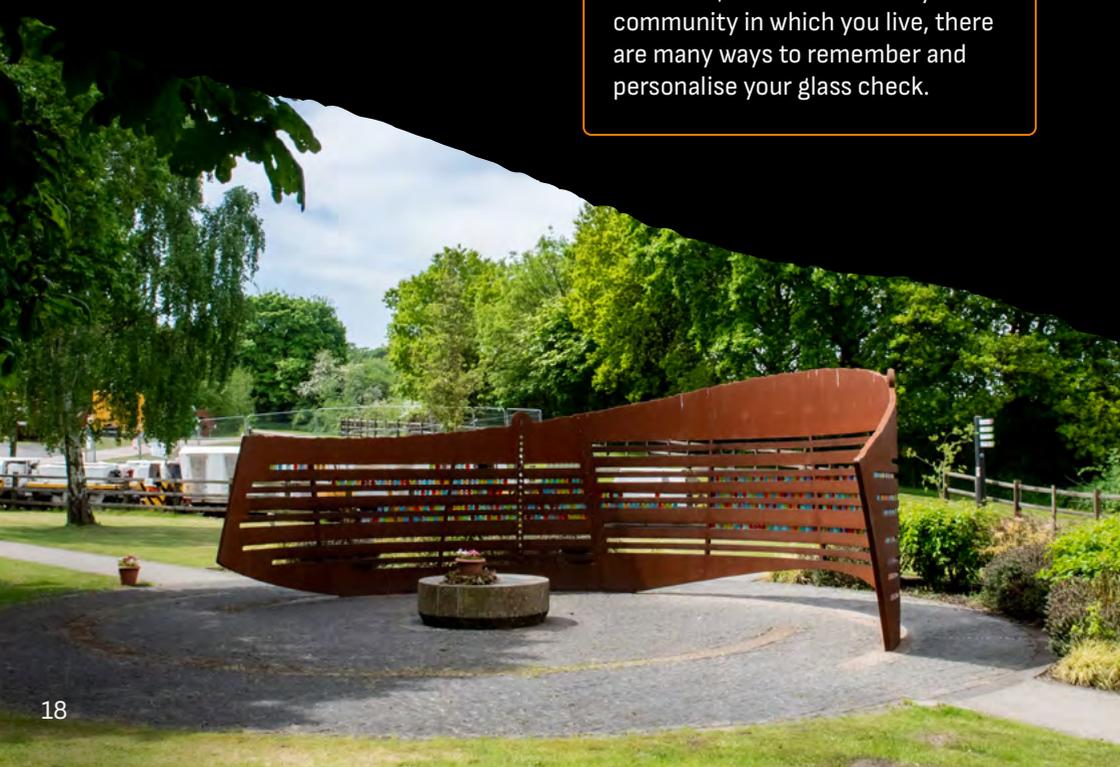
To find out more, visit
ncm.org.uk/garden



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

From 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

Could you help care for our ponies and shire foal?



Coming Soon...

Sat 11 July, 10am-5pm

Pony Party Day

Come and help us celebrate our fantastic ponies and shire foal with a day of family fun!

We will be celebrating in style, join us for horse-themed fun, special horse keeper talks, farrier demonstrations, crafts, plus much more.

Join us for
a party like
no other!



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

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experience
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