

**NATIONAL
COAL MINING
MUSEUM**

Wakefield, Yorkshire, WF4 4RH
Open Wednesday—Sunday

ncm.org.uk

What's On

July—September 2026

**Free
entry**

Donations
welcome

**UNEARTH THE
UNEXPECTED**



Welcome!

Make memories at the National Coal Mining Museum

Begin your summer adventure right here at the Museum...

As our flowers bloom, canaries sing and the summer sun shines, our spectacular 43-acre museum really is coming alive – making it the perfect time to visit. Whether you're wandering through our outdoor spaces, discovering original historic buildings and impressive collections, or stepping inside our inspiring interactive galleries, every corner of the Museum tells the powerful stories of Britain's industrial past and the fascinating history of coal mining.

Each visit offers something new. Take the trip of a lifetime as you journey 140 metres underground into England's last deep coal mine, an unforgettable, immersive experience led by a former miner. With your hard hat and lamp, you'll be guided through the centuries and experience first-hand what life was like below ground. Prefer to stay above the surface? Our accessible

Time Tunnel uses cutting-edge digital technology to bring the history of mining to life, perfect for younger visitors and families alike.

And that's just the beginning. This summer, the Museum is packed with hands-on experiences, from adventure playgrounds and interactive galleries to nature trails where you can explore the rich wildlife that calls the Museum home, complete with specially designed discovery backpacks.

We have an action packed line up of exhibitions, family shows, performances, art workshops and craft activities, there's something for everyone to enjoy. We're also celebrating all things Yorkshire, making this summer an extra special time to visit.

It's set to be an unforgettable summer, and we can't wait to welcome you on your next coal mining adventure.



TIME TUNNEL

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

Time Tunnel

Wed–Sun

See website for pricing.

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.



Underground Tours

Wed–Sun

See website for details.

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

Jason and the Coal Mining Adventure

Until Sun 4 Oct 2026

📍 Temporary Exhibition Gallery
and across the site

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.

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.

Alongside the tapestry, 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.

J W M
Jason Wilsher-Mills

Coming Soon: Villagers — Sculpting the Community

23 Oct — 24 Jan 2027



A colourful and creative new exhibition inspired by Betty Miller's sculptural tableau *My Village* displayed in full for the first time in over twenty years. Artists Lenny and Whale have collaborated with participants from ex-mining communities to create contemporary sculptural and digital works that respond to Miller's vision of village life. The resulting exhibition will debut at the Museum, celebrating creativity, heritage and community identity, before travelling to the Mining Art Gallery, Bishop Auckland.

People Like Me: Recovery & unity through sport and creativity

Wed 15 July – Sun 4 October

📍 Café and Conference Area, The Hub

Celebrate the resilience, solidarity and collective spirit that made mining communities unique.

People Like Me is a co-created exhibition with Art@Pinders, an art group based at Pinderfields Hospital whose members include people with disabilities, their families, and friends. Through photography and objects we explore the vital role miners' welfares played in the rehabilitation, convalescence, and recovery of injured miners.

Part of the Welfares Reimagined partnership project. Funded by the Museums Association's Esmée Fairbairn Communities and Collections Fund.

Working by Lamplight

Sat 18 July – Sun 20 September

📍 Project Space, The Hub

Discover West Midlands artist Matt Sayers' evocative charcoal drawings, created under lamplight in his studio to mirror the atmosphere of working underground. These exclusive, site-specific charcoal works reveal the beauty of Caphouse Colliery, tracing a journey from deep below the surface to the industrial heritage we share today.

Artworks available to purchase in the Museum Shop.



Events

Artist Talk with Matt Sayers

Sat 18 July, 11am

📍 Project Space, The Hub

Free, just turn up

Join artist Matt Sayers for an insight into his exhibition Working by Lamplight. Matt will share personal reflections on his new work, discuss the influence of underground mining conditions on his drawing process, and demonstrate his technique under lamplight.

Heritage Open Day: Working by Lamplight

Sat 12 September, 10am–3pm

📍 Project Space, The Hub

Free, just turn up

Step into the glow of a miner's lamp with artist Matt Sayers. Inspired by Henry Moore and mining artists including Tom McGuinness, Harry Hicken and Margaret Boulton, Matt draws under lamplight to recreate the atmosphere of working underground. Meet him in his exhibition, and hear how mining heritage shapes his work.

heritage open days

Events

Pony Party

Sat 11 July: 10am–5pm

📍 Pony Discovery Centre

Free, just turn up

Come and join us for a very special birthday celebration! Celebrate with our ponies and shire yearling with a day of family fun! We will be marking this special occasion with a day of horse-themed activities, talks, cakes, hobby horse racing, pony pedicures, and so much more.



Wind in the Willows: Outdoor Theatre Performance

Sat 15 Aug: 12pm

Free

Noisy Cow Theatre Co invites you to leave the modern world behind and join Mole, Ratty, and the formidable Badger on Kenneth Grahame's classic adventure that has captivated hearts for over a century.

The Caphouse Brick Show

Sun 23 Aug: 10am–4pm

£4 early bird / £5 on the day (no entry before 12pm), pre-bookable

Get ready to unleash your imagination and join the building fun – a fantastic day out for fans of all ages! See LEGO brick-built masterpieces across a wide variety of themes and enjoy hands-on fun in a building zone.

BRICKTOPIA

Yorkshire Day!

Sat 1 Aug: 10am–5pm

📍 Site wide Free, just turn up

Join us for a grand gala family fun extravaganza in the proper Yorkshire way, inspired by the vibrant Miners' welfare galas of years past. Immerse yourself in the sights, sounds and experiences of real coalfield celebration. Enjoy brass band music, free creative activities, performances, stalls and competitions.

Take part in different sports with Disability Sport Yorkshire as we celebrate the historic role the welfare fund played in supporting rehabilitation through sport for disabled miners.

Part of Welfares Reimagined: a partnership project with National Coal Mining Museum for England, CISWO, the Miners' Welfare Charity, Spectrum People, Creative Minds and the Creative Health Hub at the University of Huddersfield, funded by the Museum's Association's Esme Fairbairn Communities and Collections Fund.



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 visiting ncm.org.uk/learning Or scan the QR code.



Emergency Services Day

Sat 5 Sept: 10am–4pm

📍 Site wide

Free, just turn up

Join us for a jam-packed day celebrating our emergency services! Experience the thrill of using a fire hose with the fire service, meet and greet representatives from different emergency services and 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.



Dino Discovery Day

Sun 13 Sept: 10am–4pm

📍 Site wide

Early Bird: £13 per car.

Standard: £15 per car.

Step into a Jurassic Adventure! Join us for an amazing day as we bring prehistoric magic to life. Experience a roaring dinosaur event that's fun for all ages. Discover how the creatures that once stomped across ancient forests helped shape the coal seams deep underground.

Morris Minor Rally

Sun 27 Sept: 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

The People Who Made Caphouse Tour

Thu 2 July, Thu 6 August,
Thu 3 September:
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.



Discovery Spots

School Holidays:
Throughout the Day
📍 Site wide
Free, just turn up

Look out for our friendly volunteers across site with interactive activities throughout the day.

Captured History: Photography Walk

Sat 11 July: Light & Shadow
Sat 8 Aug: Young Snappers
Sat 12 Sep: Summer Walk
11am–12pm
📍 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.

Steam Winder Demonstrations

Weekends and
School Holidays:
Throughout the Day
📍 Meet at Reception
Free, just turn up

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

Heritage Walk

Thu 16 Jul, Thu 20 Aug,
Thu 17 Sep: 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 Nature Walk

Fridays (term-time)
📍 Meet at Reception
Free, to pre-book
Visit: ncm.org.uk/SensoryNature or ring
01924 848806

Enjoy a gentle 45-minute sensory circular walk around the Museum site, designed for groups with additional needs. Explore nature and mining heritage in a relaxed, informal way with hands-on opportunities to discover how coal was formed, how mining has changed the natural world, meet our ponies and listen to our canaries sing.

Sensory Storytelling

Wednesdays & Thursdays (term-time)

📍 Meet at Reception

Free, to pre-book

Visit: ncm.org.uk/SensoryStorytelling or ring the Visitor Welcome Desk on 01924 848806

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

Everyday: 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 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 July,

Sat 29 Aug, Sat 26 Sep:

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!



**FEEL GOOD
FRIDAYS**



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 Room 2, The Hub

£7 (carers free), pre-bookable

- Fri 3 July** Cyanotype
- Fri 10 July** Felt White Roses
- Fri 17 July** Wire Beaded Trees
- Fri 4 Sep** Shrinky Pin Badges
- Fri 18 Sep** Wool Weaving



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





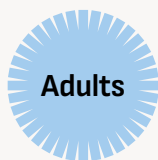
ADULT ART WORKSHOPS

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

10.30am–12.30pm

📍 Learning Room 2, The Hub

£15, pre-bookable



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.

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.



Family Fun!

£10 summer offer applies to all bookings from 18 July – 30 August.
Enjoy all the amazing activities and events happening this summer.

Some workshops and tours carry an additional charge.



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 1 July** Allotments
- Wed 8 July** Mining holidays
- Wed 9 Sep** What is coal?
- Wed 16 Sep** What is a miner?
- Wed 23 Sep** What do miners wear?
- Wed 30 Sep** Animals underground



Muddy Boots: Stay and Play

Saturdays: 11am–12.15pm

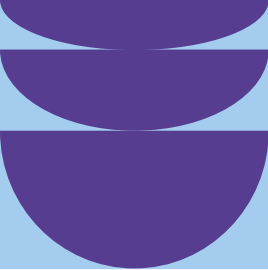
📍 Reception, The Hub

£2.50 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 11 July** Dawn Chorus (birds)
- Sat 1 Aug** Pond Life
- Sat 5 Sep** Hedgerow Harvest





Your six-week summer adventure starts here at the **National Coal Mining Museum**

Join us from **Saturday 18 July** until **Sunday 30 August** for a holiday themed summer of family fun.

Get ready for weeks of amazing entertainment with interactive family shows, hands-on craft workshops, pop-up beach with music, and classic giant holiday games, special events, creative trails, pony feeding and pony keeper talks plus much, much more.



Makers' Shed

Summer Holidays

Sat 18 Jul – Sun 30 Aug: 11am–4pm

📍 **Pony Discovery Centre**

Free, just turn up

Join us for free crafts inspired by the work of Jason Wilsher-Mills and miners' welfare trips to the seaside from a bygone era.



Family Fun!

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Enjoy all the amazing activities and events happening this summer.

Some workshops and tours carry an additional charge.



Science Show: Light in the Darkness

Summer Holidays

**Wed–Sun: 11.30am, 1.30pm,
2.30pm & 3.30pm**

📍 Blacksmith's Workshop

Free, just turn up

Step from light into darkness in this explosive, interactive science show packed with fascinating facts, dazzling demonstrations, and encounters with historical characters.

From Pit to Play Trail

Wed – Sun

**Free, pick up at
Reception**

Step into the shoes of miners and discover what working life was like, both underground and above! This fun, family-friendly interactive trail will take you on a journey across the Museum, where hidden rubbing plaques are waiting to be found. Bring them to life by creating your own images, then finish your adventure by building a unique 3D dice game to take home.

Horsekeeper Talks

Weekends & Holidays:

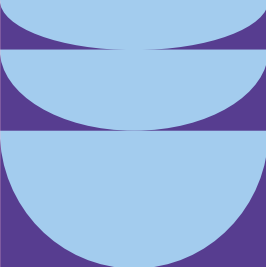
12pm & 2.30pm

📍 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.





Minecraft Inspired Escape Room in a Box

Thu 23 July, Thu 6, Sat 8, Thu 20 Aug:
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!

Inspiring Animation

Wed 29 and Thu 30 July: 1.30–3pm

📍 Learning Room 1, The Hub
Free, pre-bookable

Join artists Lenny and Whale to explore animation techniques. Design characters using paper-based drawing and collage approaches. Use digital drawing apps to develop your work.

We recommend this workshop for family pairs (one adult and one child) sharing an iPad, which will be provided. Part of Sculpting the Community, supported using public funding by Arts Council England.

Nature Crafts Family Workshop

Summer Holidays

Wed 29–Fri 31 July
& Wed 5–Fri 7 Aug: 11am–12.30am

📍 Meet at Reception, The Hub
£10 per family, pre-bookable

Head out onto the Museum's nature trail for a hands-on craft adventure, and get close to nature making sun prints, hammer-printing organic materials onto textiles. Forage the forest floor to create beautiful clay tiles to hide in the trees.



Engineering Explorers

Summer Holidays

Wed 12–14 Aug: 11am–12.30pm

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

Do you have what it takes to become a master mining engineer? Use your special Museum currency to buy materials, plan your design, and build your very own pit props strong enough to hold an incredible 20kg of coal! Can your team beat the challenge?



Family Fun!

£10 summer offer applies to all bookings from 18 July – 30 August.
Enjoy all the amazing activities and events happening this summer.

Some workshops and tours carry an additional charge.



Bath Bomb Making

Summer Holidays

13 August:
11am–12.30pm

📍 Learning Room 1, The Hub
£9 per child

Join Forever Fizz for a fun bath bomb making workshop where creativity meets science. Create your own vibrant fizzy treats from scratch and discover how the ingredients react to create the colour explosion in your bath.

Shrinking Pin Badges Family Workshop

Summer Holidays

Wed 19–Fri 21
& **Wed 26–Fri 28 Aug:**
11am and 12.30pm

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

Join us for a crazy colourful workshop, inspired by the vibrant storytelling tapestries of Jason Wilsher-Mills.

Create your own pin badge that tells a story using Jason's playful emblems, then watch it magically shrink before your eyes with heat.



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

📍 Learning Room 2, The Hub

7–12 years

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

Art and History

Wed 23, Thu 24, Fri 25 Sep

Step back into wartime Britain and meet Mr or Mrs Ackroyd as you discover the experience of a WW2 evacuation and the important role of the Bevin Boys. Explore real artefacts through object handling, then get creative by making a recycled poppy to become part of an art installation.

 See accessible information via our website.

12–16 years

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

Hydraulic Woodworking

Wed 8, Thu 9, Fri 10 July

Use traditional woodworking tools to design and build your own wooden hydraulic machine – explore how simple systems create complex motion.

Art and History

Wed 30 Sep, Thu 1, Fri 2 Oct

Meet Mr or Mrs Ackroyd as you discover the experience of a WW2 evacuation and the important role of the Bevin Boys. Explore real artefacts through object handling, then get creative by making a willow poppy to become part of our large commemorative poppy installation on site.



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?



Your six-week summer adventure starts here!

SUMMER TIME

at the *Coal Mine*

£10 per car (£7.50 early
bird until Sat 11 July)

Join us from **Saturday 18 July** until **Sunday 30 August**
for a holiday themed summer of family fun.

Get ready for weeks of amazing entertainment with interactive family shows, hands-on craft workshops, pop-up beach with music, and classic giant holiday games, special events, creative trails, pony feeding and pony keeper talks plus much, much more.

It doesn't matter if it's a traditional soggy British summer or the sun is shining all through the holidays, come and see us for a full day out like no other!



Our summer offer is great value for families; just £10 per car, including all of our amazing activities and unlimited Paddy Train rides for everyone (usually £2.50 per person) – weather permitting. *Some workshops and tours carry an additional charge and can be booked online in advance.*



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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Share your
experience
#NCMME

