

## Creativity

This year, two new temporary public art projects have been delivered. 'Light Lines' was installed in the Town Hall gardens to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. The artwork was a huge community project, focusing on the men who were tragically killed on the first day of the battle from Barnsley and involving over 300 school children, researchers and volunteers. It won the prestigious Civic Trust Commended Award in the Pro Tem category. The artwork was on display from 1 July to Remembrance Sunday 2016. The estimated Advertising Value Equivalent for the entire project was £90,990 as the project gained extensive local and regional media coverage in the press and on television. 'Light Lines' is to be relocated to a permanent home in Barnsley thanks to the generous funding of NPS Barnsley and Barnsley Museums and Heritage Trust.

'Best of Barnsley' artwork produced banners celebrating inspirational individuals from Barnsley who have received national or international recognition in their respective fields. These banners were installed in the Town centre and in Experience Barnsley's Clocktower Gallery.



In the first year of a poetry themed programme 'Hear My Voice', Barnsley Museums inaugurated Ian McMillan as Barnsley's first ever Poet Laureate to drive the project forward. Within his role he has created a plethora of works to mark and interpret key events in Barnsley's calendar, and acted as a Champion and ambassador for the programme. Hear My Voice has provided a range of engagement opportunities, from poetry competitions, to poems in the pub and literary walks. People across the borough are discovering a new found love of poetry. Our work with local care providers through memory cafes have helped to enhance health and wellbeing, providing new opportunities for communication and creativity. Over 300 children have worked on poetry themed projects with authors, creating anthologies and even reciting their work on BBC Radio Sheffield. Hear My Voice has been generously funded by Barnsley TUC Training Ltd with additional support from the DVLP.

“It did what I hoped it would do, what good writing and good art should: it made us think and it made us feel. I couldn't be prouder to be a part of it.”

**Nik Perring**  
Author working on Hear My Voice.

## Workforce Development

We have continued to invest in workforce development as part of our resilience strategy. This year Barnsley Council was awarded Gold for Investors in People. Judges commented that the restructure of Culture, Housing and Regulation presented a number of positive changes for employees and managers within this service, which was described by one manager as 'being on a major journey over the past couple of years which has seen considerable achievements in the way services are delivered'. Further to this, managers were able to describe how the Future Council process has greatly improved clarity, strengthened the purpose and direction for teams and given employees a clearer focus on the outcomes and priorities for the service. One manager said 'these changes have helped staff to make sense of their work and how their roles fit in within the Council's wider agenda. As a result, they are more engaged about the future and they are working more effectively as individuals and as teams.'



The Council's Leadership Programme has had a huge impact on the museum service managers with many describing how they are more aware of their behaviours, they are working smarter, delegating work to develop employees to ensure they are working to capacity and are acting more as leaders than managers.

“As a new manager, the Leadership Programme has been transformational in developing my skills and confidence.”

**Jemma Conway**  
Learning Manager.

**BARNSELY  
MUSEUMS**  
**ANNUAL  
REVIEW**  
**2016-2017**



# Welcome to a year at Barnsley Museums

Over the past year Barnsley Museums has gone from strength to strength and enjoyed a number of significant successes. Visitor figures have remained consistently high and once again we welcomed well over a million visitors to our five museum sites. We have maintained a very clear focus on delivering outcomes that support the Council's key priorities, for example, by continuing to grow and develop we strengthen the visitor economy and play our part in ensuring that Barnsley has a thriving and vibrant economy. The work we do touches people's lives, for example being dementia friendly or providing an exemplar learning service helps people in Barnsley to achieve their potential. We know that the people of Barnsley value their incredible heritage assets and collections, which help them to feel connected to them and each other and to foster a strong sense of belonging as a result of the work that Barnsley Museums do to build strong and resilient communities.

Barnsley Museums has an amazing track record in securing external funding, bringing money into the borough to enhance our facilities, develop our culture and heritage offer and deliver programmes of activity for the people of Barnsley. It is this funding that enables us to make sure our museums are free for people to enjoy and while other places are cutting back and closing down, we are continuing to grow, develop and improve. This team has actually raised the phenomenal amount of over £17 million pounds in external funding over the years. This year we have secured £3 million from the Heritage Lottery Parks for People fund to restore and develop Cannon Hall Park and Gardens. We also opened the stunning Cooper Gallery extension to rave reviews, with the help of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and thousands upon thousands flocked to see its first major exhibition of Picasso Linocuts.

It's not just the money that's important, it's the fantastic quality and high standard that Barnsley Museums continually strive to achieve, this leads to awards, national recognition and builds civic pride and confidence in our Borough. I am frequently reading case studies which cite Barnsley as an example of good practice, for example I recently received the LGA publication on the role of Culture in Place Making and Barnsley is one of ten case studies from across the Country that is featured. We also won a National Civic Trust Award for our poignant piece of public art to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

The importance of Elsecar in Barnsley has been recognised by Historic England in the recent announcement of it as a new 'Heritage Action Zone', reflecting both the importance of its heritage and its potential for generating impact and growth in the future. Barnsley Museums has succeeded in putting Elsecar firmly on the map, by securing over £1.2m in funding and being named by Historic England, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council as one of only 16 "Great Places" in the country.

I am exceptionally proud of the Barnsley Museums team and what they have achieved for the people of Barnsley and look forward to an exciting year ahead.

**Councillor Roy Miller**  
**Cabinet Member for Place**



## Collections

This year, we've displayed more of our art collections than ever before at the Cooper Gallery thanks to a fantastic new extension funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Trustees of the Cooper Gallery. New research into the artworks and the collectors has been carried out, the collections are going online and we've produced a beautiful new collections catalogue for people to find out more.

Our collections have been shown in galleries at home and abroad, and we've loaned in special items on Barnsley's history to enhance our own collections. A beautiful new painting by Jacob Kramer has been acquired at the Cooper Gallery and we've loaned out paintings by JMW Turner to Salisbury Museum and by Caesar van Everdingen to Stedelijk Museum Alkmaar in Holland, the place of the artist's birth. We brought the 13th century Barnsley Market Charter Roll to Barnsley for the very first time, on loan from the National Archives which generated huge interest at Experience Barnsley Museum.

We've been developing a Sound and Film Archive through the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund. This has included the conversion of sound and film footage, roadshow events, a training programme and the creation of new film footage to enhance and interpret our collections. We've also been working hard to ensure our collections are digitised and available to view online, launching a new catalogue with 5000 items and growing - find out more here:

[explorebarnsleycollections.com](http://explorebarnsleycollections.com)

Amazing new objects have been donated to the museum including medals and books from soldiers who fought at the Battle of the Somme, glass eye baths made by Wood Brothers, and a four storey doll's house. Newly received donations include a colliery horsekeeper's book which has shed new light on the use of horses down local coal mines. We have also received archives of the Regent Masonic Lodge in Barnsley covering 1901-2015, the records of the Barnsley Poor Law Union from the 1850s to the 1930s, and papers from schools in Darton and Mapplewell.

Volunteers have supported research on collections across the museums, from exhibitions to archives. The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership have worked with a group of dedicated volunteers to lead a research project which produced, for the first time, an accurate list of 383 individual men and boys who lost their lives in the Oaks Colliery Disaster of 1866.



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**Since the refurb and extension to the Cooper Gallery it seems to have ‘upped its game’ even more becoming the most stunning, inspiring place.”**

## Sustainability & Resilience

As part of our ongoing strategy to be more resilient and sustainable as an organisation we have continued to focus on earned income generation, external funding applications to support our vision and the further development of the Barnsley Museums and Heritage Trust.

Income to the service has increased through our improved wedding offer, by forming effective partnerships with event organisers and suppliers, improving our retail offer and reviewing our car parking strategy. We continually seek new ways to increase the income to the service through commercial opportunities and utilising our assets.

We are very excited that the village of Elsecar has been awarded Heritage Action Zone status by Historic England, following an application by Barnsley Museums. It is widely recognised that Elsecar has great potential as a visitor attraction. People living and working in the village and neighbouring communities have much to gain from its rich heritage and proud story.

### This Heritage Action Zone will:

- Improve understanding of the village's heritage, which is largely hidden, extending the visitor experience to include important archaeological sites.
- Bring historic buildings back into use, providing offices and retail units.
- Identify suitable sites for new development.
- Encourage local people and community groups to get involved in the village's development - to help them forge new skills, provide rewarding experiences and raise awareness and pride in Elsecar's heritage.

The grounds of Cannon Hall will be restored to their former Georgian glory thanks to a grant of almost £3m from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund's Parks for People programme. The money will be used to restore and repair original features, some of which have never been seen by the public, with the aim of placing the visitor attraction firmly on the tourist map. Work commences on site in 2017 with a robust business plan focused on sustainability at the heart of the project.

The DVLP, working in partnership with Barnsley Central Area Team, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Twiggs Ground Maintenance have helped to start a transformation of the Grade II listed Barnsley Main, which occupies the same site as the old Oaks Colliery. A series of volunteer work days throughout 2016 have involved the community in making a huge improvement on site. From this community involvement a new Barnsley Main Heritage Group has been established. The site is now more accessible and the work is set to continue, improving conditions and re-establishing Barnsley Main as a community space.

We are also delighted to be able to continue investing in our collections as well, with an award of £88,100 from the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund, run by the Museums Association, for a project to engage people with the impressive ceramics collection at Cannon Hall Museum. Over the next two and a half years, the project will fund both research and a wide programme with young people and families, involving them in digital and sensory activities to create new and exciting galleries at Cannon Hall Museum.

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**The grant is a major boost for a historic recreational site and is absolutely fantastic news for the Barnsley community.”**

**Richard Emerson**  
Chairman of The Friends of Cannon Hall



Barnsley Museums and Heritage Trust launched in February 2016 and since then has had a fantastic response and great support from the public and local organisations.

The Trust was established as a fundraising body for Barnsley Museums. The main objective of the organisation is to raise money to support the service and in the last year the Trust has supported many projects to preserve and animate Barnsley's rich heritage.

Over the year the Trust has raised funds supporting significant exhibitions and learning activity. The Trust has also secured funds from the Woodmansterne Art Conservation Fund for a Dutch Old Master painting 'Landscape with a Shrine' by Frederick de Moucheron which will feature in a major exhibition of Dutch paintings in 2018.

The next twelve months will be just as exciting and challenging. The Trust has committed to raise money to support learning activities that will be linked to a unique programme of Egyptian exhibitions curated by Barnsley's own Egyptologist Joann Fletcher.



Margot Walker, Chair of Barnsley Museums and Heritage Trust said: "We really couldn't have achieved so much without the support of our friends, sponsors and donors. I really just want to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped us to achieve our ambitions so far. Raising money is always a challenge and every penny really does make such a difference, people can become members via our website or support us from our donation boxes that are located around the venues."

Lynn Dunning, Group Leader – Museums and Heritage Culture and Visitor Economy at Barnsley Council, added: "Barnsley Museums forms a significant part of the borough's history but also its future developments. We have five wonderful venues that welcome more than 1,000,000 people through their doors each year and we couldn't be more proud of what we have achieved with the support of the Trust."



# Driving the Visitor Economy

Our ambitions to drive the local visitor economy had a great boost this year through our events and exhibitions programme, and investment in our venues. Newly extended and refurbished exhibition spaces opened at the Cooper Gallery to plaudits both from the public and our peers. The extension was officially opened by HRH The Duke of Kent. The touring exhibition 'Picasso Linocuts' from the British Museum opened in January 2017 and has seen visitor numbers soaring at the Cooper Gallery, bringing people into the town centre and contributing to the local economy. Funding has been secured to enhance the outdoor garden space with public art commissions.

Our varied and popular exhibitions programme has continued and we were delighted to welcome exhibitions by two of Barnsley's most popular artists at the Cooper Gallery in 2016 – Graham Ibbeson and Terry Brookes. At Experience Barnsley, we explored two extremely significant moments in Barnsley's history in exhibitions 'The Stories of the Somme' and 'When the Oaks Fired'. A local hero of a different kind has been the subject of our latest exhibition 'Dickie Bird: My Life in Cricket', an inspirational tale of the life, times and achievements of one of Barnsley's most famous sons.



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**My friend and I visited the Cooper Gallery today. We came from Sheffield on the train. I would just like to tell you how much we enjoyed our visit. We came mainly to see the linocuts. But the whole gallery is a joy.”**

Rosemary and Shirley

# Learning & Engagement

This year we have been supported by the Arts Council Museums and Schools programme to deliver high quality activities and experiences to over 11,000 children.

We've developed a new schools offer, ensuring all our programmes are linked to the national curriculum to enhance teaching and learning- find out more here [barnsley-museums.com/school-visits](https://barnsley-museums.com/school-visits) We've developed a new outreach programme and a teacher's consultation to ensure we're providing the best possible learning opportunities for children and young people. Our Learning events and activities across all 5 sites from baking, to printmaking, to nature trails and craft sessions have helped children to grow in confidence, enhance their skills and fulfil their potential.

This year 275 young people from 10 schools across Barnsley have gained their Discover Arts Award, receiving a special edition certificate in partnership with the Imperial War Museum for their work to commemorate the Battle of the Somme.

Through our programme of exhibitions and events, we've provided opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to get involved.

A touring exhibition of Picasso's linocuts from the British Museum has enabled us to develop a new school offer- a popular printmaking workshop for key stage 1 and key stage 2 linked to the national curriculum has been experienced by over 450 children so far. New family learning opportunities through workshops, outreach and events have seen new audiences at the museums.

“

**It's lovely to spend time with all ages of families collaborating – ideas sharing time with children, creating something together as a family.”**



# 1,178,276

Total number of visits to museums

19,729



17,275



478



Social media followers

# 11,000

visits by local children to organised activities

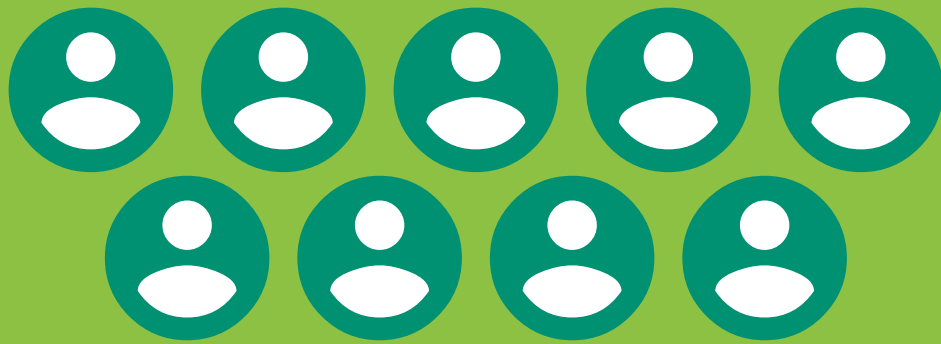
# £25M

Economic impact of over £25M



# £3,979,840

Total external funding secured



9 new jobs created



Total news reach  
8.84 million people



News value  
£1.22million



# ARTS AWARDS



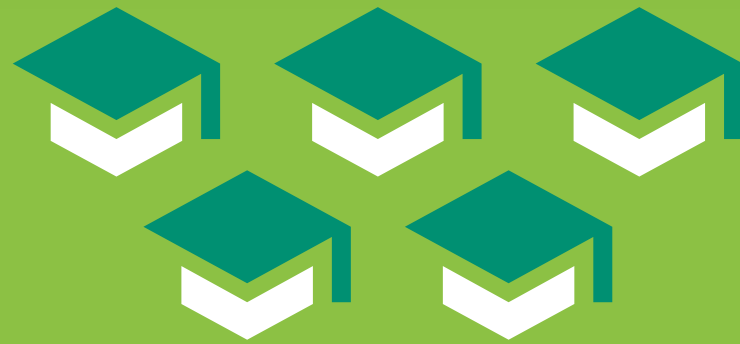
# 10,748

volunteer hours

# 45



businesses supported on our sites



5 apprenticeships supported



1 Civic Trust Commended Pro Tem Award



# 17



paintings conserved



Over 12 tonnes of organic flour milled



2 best practice case studies

# 5732



records added to our online collections database



new trees planted as part of the DVLP programme

# 06 INTERNSHIPS

through DVLP and RSPB