

VISUAL ARTS NORTHUMBERLAND

A guide to contemporary visual arts
organisations in Northumberland



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

NORTHUMBERLAND
Northumberland County Council



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Image: Katie Davies: The Lawes of Marches (Film Still) Courtesy of the artist. Commissioned by Berwick Visual Arts for the 10th Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival with support from Arts Council England

VISUAL ARTS IN NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland has an extraordinary range of fascinating visual arts venues to explore. Their offer is wide ranging from international residencies, artists' film, moving image installation, live performance, sculpture, landform art and exhibitions of national and international standing. This booklet celebrates some of the amazing organisations we have across the county working in a rural and breath-taking context. Through their websites you will be able to explore their programmes to see where there are opportunities to plan your visit.

This year is the tri-centenary of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's birth, one of Northumberland's greatest artists. He was born in Kirkharle, Northumberland where his naturalistic landscape design created England's finest estates that were inspired by the open, rolling landscape of Northumberland. Artists including Turner and Lowry have always found inspiration in Northumberland and this attraction continues to this day with many artists working, living and exhibiting in the county.

We welcome you to Northumberland to be inspired by our vibrant visual arts organisations and our creative landscape.

www.visitnorthumberland.com



IMAGE: NORTH PENNINES COMMUNITY OBSERVATORY DESIGNED BY ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS BECKY WISE, KATIE FISHER AND NOOR JAN-MOHAMED AT NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY.

ALLENHEADS CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Allenheads Contemporary Arts (ACA) was established in 1994 by artist Alan Smith and curator Helen Ratcliffe. ACA works from an old Victorian Schoolhouse situated on a steep hill overlooking the village of Allenheads in Northumberland, where it designs and delivers innovative contemporary arts projects.

In 2016 the project 'As Above So Below' will involve an exciting range of artists to look at the human desire to advance its ability to navigate and travel, constantly scrutinizing expanding distances above our heads and below our feet.

The project will encourage new ways of engagement with the landscape through explorations of the subterranean labyrinths of disused lead mines, the vast expanses of heather moorlands and the far reaches of the dark skies above Allenheads.

Working with experts from other fields including astronomers and conservationists, and in collaboration with the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership, ACA will develop a community observatory and a programme of exhibitions, performances and astronomical events.

www.acart.org.uk

Allenheads Contemporary Arts
The Old School House,
Allenheads,
Hexham,
Northumberland, NE47 9HR

Large open studio
 Gallery
 Conference facilities
 Accommodation for up to 12

alanshead@acart.org.uk
helenshead@acart.org.uk
 01434 685 040
 07813 313 985

Facebook: Allenheads Contemporary Arts





PHOTO: CAVE EXITS
CREDIT: DAMIEN WOOTEN

BERWICK FILM & MEDIA ARTS FESTIVAL

Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival (BFMAF) is an international celebration of the art of film. The inaugural festival took place in September 2005, and is now in its 12th year.

BFMAF is one of the UK's few film festivals that is as serious about new cinema as it is about commissioning and exhibiting artists' work - really taking cinema beyond the film theatre.

The festival's programme includes 70 films and moving image works, screened, projected and installed in ten locations across the historic border town of Berwick-upon-Tweed. Passionate, joyful, genre-busting cinema of the widest possible range and scope, appears alongside that of filmmakers who primarily consider themselves visual artists.

From the Town Hall, to the Customs House on the quayside, Coxon's Tower and the Magazine on the ramparts, Berwick-upon-Tweed transforms with a festival without borders.

www.berwickfilm-artsfest.com

Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival Office:

The Maltings, Eastern Lane,
Berwick-upon-Tweed
Northumberland, TD15 1AJ

Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival
returns for its 12th edition on
Wed 21 - Sun 25 September 2016

info@berwickfilm-artsfest.com
01289 303 355

Twitter: @berwickfilmfest
Facebook: Berwick Film Fest





BERWICK VISUAL ARTS - THE GRANARY GALLERY

Berwick Visual Arts is a contemporary visual arts organisation based in Berwick-upon-Tweed, England's most northerly town and programmes exhibitions in two galleries in the town:

The Granary Gallery showcases work from some of the best regional and national art collections. Previous exhibitions have included – Berwick's Burrell Collection, L.S Lowry in Berwick & Northumberland and works from the Crafts Council Collection.

www.berwickvisualarts.co.uk

**The Granary Gallery
2nd Floor, Berwick YHA, Dewars Lane,
Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 1HJ.**

**Open Apr-Sep: Wed-Sun 11am-5pm
Oct-Mar: Wed-Sun 11am-4pm**

Disabled parking in Bridge Street car park
Ramped access. Adapted toilet
Lift to gallery on second floor
Guide dogs are welcome
YHA Granary Bistro on the ground floor

**berwickvisualarts@maltingsberwick.co.uk
01289 330 999**

**Twitter: @BerwickVA
Facebook: Berwick Visual Arts
Instagram: BerwickVisualArts**





PHOTO: GYMNASIUM GALLERY, SOUND STRATA OF COASTAL NORTHUMBERLAND.
CREDIT: COLIN DAVISON COURTESY OF AV FESTIVAL

BERWICK VISUAL ARTS - THE GYMNASIUM GALLERY

The Gymnasium Gallery hosts an ambitious programme by regional and national contemporary visual artists including newly commissioned work, installations and artists films. Previous artists who have exhibited include: Catherine Yass, Mark S Gubb and Juneau Projects.

Berwick Visual Arts also run a programme of artist's residencies inviting artists from the UK and internationally to live and work in the town for 6 months alongside a programme of artist's talks, workshops and events throughout the year.

Children are always very welcome at the galleries and there are various opportunities to get involved, details available on the website.

www.berwickvisualarts.co.uk

**The Gymnasium Gallery
Berwick Barracks, The Parade,
Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 1DF**

Open Apr to Sep: Wed-Sun 11am-5pm

Disabled parking in nearby Church Street
Ramped access. Adapted toilet
All on one level
Guide dogs are welcome

**berwickvisualarts@maltingsberwick.co.uk
01289 330 999**

**Twitter: @BerwickVA
Facebook: Berwick Visual Arts
Instagram: BerwickVisualArts**





PHOTO: CHEESEBURN GRANGE



PHOTO: 'ORIGIN' (DETAIL) BRONZE. JOSEPH HILLIER

CHEESEBURN SCULPTURE

Cheeseburn presents contemporary sculpture and artists projects in the elegant grounds of Cheeseburn Grange Hall in Northumberland. Cheeseburn is a new centre for sculpture and an enchanting venue where visitors can encounter the work of new and established artists in the setting of the historic gardens and Stables Gallery.

The 2016 Exhibition Programme will begin on the Bank Holiday weekend of 30 April and feature the launch of artist proposals for The Gillian Dickinson North East Young Sculptor of the Year Award in the Stables Gallery.

The sculpture gardens include over 30 works and sound installations together with a changing programme of exhibitions in the Stables Gallery. Cheeseburn's exhibition programme presents work for sale and proposals for commissions.

www.cheeseburn.com

Registered charity: 1164777

Cheeseburn Sculpture

**Cheeseburn Grange Hall, Stamfordham,
Newcastle upon Tyne
Northumberland NE18 0PT**

Just 12 miles west of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Cheeseburn Grange Hall is in the Tyne Valley close to Stamfordham and Hadrian's Wall

Cheeseburn is open 11 am – 4pm on selected weekends and Bank Holidays.

Cheeseburn is available to view by appointment throughout the year for clients, collectors, architects and developers.

The gardens offer limited disabled access and the gallery is on the first floor. Dogs are not allowed due to livestock.

Onsite parking | Food and Drink during open weekends | Toilets and Baby Changing

info@cheeseburn.com

[twitter: @cheeseburnart](https://twitter.com/cheeseburnart)

[Facebook: cheeseburn](https://www.facebook.com/cheeseburn)

CHEESEBURN

Contemporary art, design & culture



PHOTO: THE WARM ROOM, KIELDER CAMPSITE

KIELDER ART & ARCHITECTURE

The landscape around Kielder Water & Forest Park has inspired the creation of a unique collection of visual art and architectural work that responds to the scale and complexity of its unique environment and also the area's varied and fascinating history. Art and architectural works in the Park are located in village, visitor centre, along the Lakeside Way cycle path and at sites within the forest.

20 works are currently available to visit and during 2016 Fiona Curran's new sculpture 'The grass seemed darker than ever' will add to these at a site close to Kielder Castle visitor centre.

Kielder's Art and architectural projects have won many awards including the Stephen Lawrence Prize for the Kielder Belvedere, four RIBA Awards and three Civic Trust Awards.

A programme of Curator led Art & Architecture tours are planned for 2016. Details are available on the KA&A website.

www.kielderartandarchitecture.com

**Kielder Art & Architecture
Tower Knowe Visitor Centre
Kielder Water,
Bellingham
Northumberland NE48 1AU**

**Kielder's landscape is
openly accessible all year**

Most art and architectural works are fully accessible although some lie at distances of up to 4 miles from the nearest public parking.

These more distant works are normally accessed by bicycle or on foot using the Lakeside Way cycle track.

A range of catering, accommodation, recreation and other facilities are available at Kielder Water & Forest Park visitor centres.

info@kielderartandarchitecture.com
01661 855 525



QUEEN'S HALL ARTS CENTRE

The Queen's Hall is a magnificent early Victorian building which faces Hexham Abbey (dating from 647AD) and boasts a 350-seat theatre and two galleries all managed by Queen's Hall Arts.

Queen's Hall Arts (QHA) is the charitable company that manages the venue, Queen's Hall Arts Centre, Hexham and provides an arts service to a large part of rural Northumberland.

Queen's Hall Arts Centre has established itself as a strong base for an extensive range of artistic activity, attracting the best international and national artists.

QHA exhibitions include a series of digital exhibitions throughout the building featuring new commissions and curated works.

www.queenshall.co.uk

Queen's Hall Arts Centre
Queen's Hall,
Beaumont Street
Hexham
Northumberland, NE46 3LS

Mon-Fri 10am-5pm
Sat 10am-4pm

Disabled access to all public areas of the building via ramps, automatic doors, disabled toilet facilities and lifts. Guide dogs are welcome in all areas of the building.

Two Gallery spaces managed by Queen's Hall Arts. Hexham Library and the Little Angel Cafe are within the Queen's Hall

boxoffice@queenshall.co.uk
01434 652477





PHOTO: HIGHGREEN 2013. BAILER WRAP, WIRE. BY HELEN PAILING

VISUAL ARTS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES (VARC)

Visual Arts in Rural Communities is based at Highgreen, Tarsset, Northumberland. VARC funds and manages an on-going programme of twelve-month residencies for visual artists and projects with special schools. Through the residencies it aims to offer opportunities to artists to develop new work in response to the remote rural landscape and its community and to offer benefit to the community and visiting groups in engagement with art and artists, through contact and creative activity. It also aims to benefit young people with special needs, particularly those with autism spectrum condition, through creative projects with artists.

www.varc.org.uk

Visual Arts in Rural Communities
The Dovecote Office,
Highgreen,
Tarsset,
Hexham
Northumberland, NE48 1RP

janet@varc.org.uk

Twitter: @varc_arts

Facebook: Visual Arts in Rural Communities

Vimeo: Visual Arts in Rural Communities





WHISTLE ART STOP

The Whistle Art Stop is a community arts programme in Haltwhistle that offers studios and facilities for all ages and abilities. A small gallery and shop showcase the work of local artists along with a large workshop area and outdoor space for community art activities.

www.whistleartstop.org

**Whistle Art Stop
Westgate
Haltwhistle
Northumberland, NE49 0AX**

Check website for opening hours

Disabled Access and Parking available

**arts@whistleartstop.org
01434 320800
Twitter: @WhistleArtStop
Facebook: The Whistle Art Stop**



WEeping WINDOW POPPIES AND ORIGINAL CONCEPT CREATED BY ARTIST PAUL CUMMINS, INSTALLATION DESIGNED BY TOM PIPER PHOTO COLIN DAVISON & WOODHORN 2015

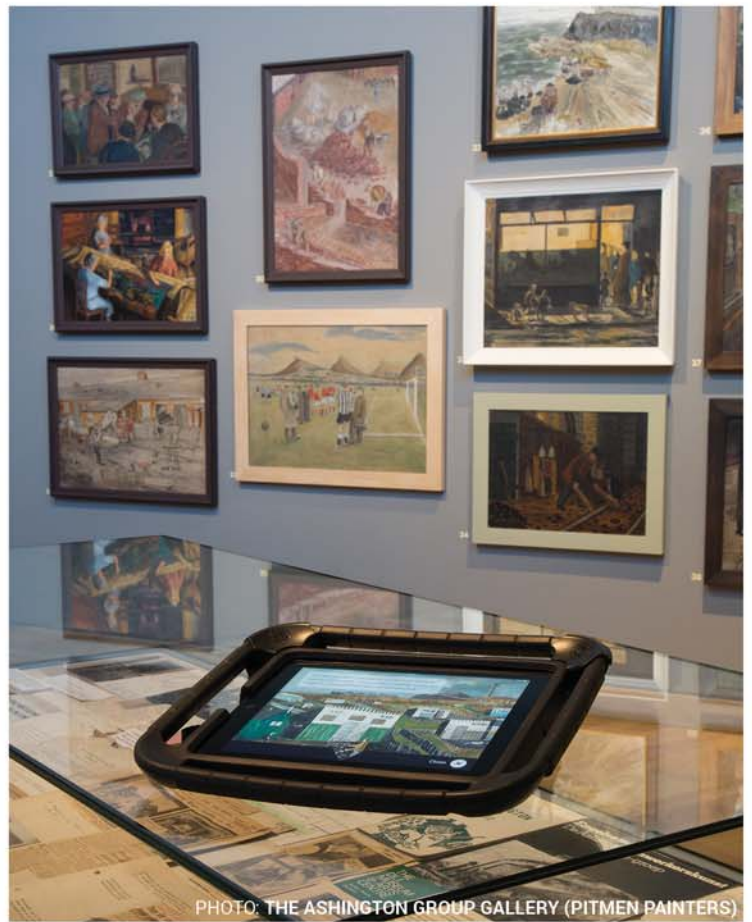


PHOTO: THE ASHINGTON GROUP GALLERY (PITMEN PAINTERS)

WOODHORN

Woodhorn is a colliery heritage site, museum & archive based in South East Northumberland. The museum is home to a significant collection of paintings by the Ashington Group (Pitmen Painters). Alongside the museum's coal mining, art and social history collections, Woodhorn houses the Northumberland Archives, a vast resource of documentation from over 800 years of Northumberland's history.

Woodhorn's diverse public programme includes the presentation of exhibitions, commissions, residencies and events from regional, national and international contemporary artists, art agencies & curators. Our programme has a particular focus on partnership working and community and audience engagement. Woodhorn has three gallery spaces dedicated to temporary exhibitions and work may also be presented across site in specific installations and interventions.

Beyond the museum site, Woodhorn's community engagement programme works with groups and individuals in various community settings across a range of disciplines ranging from stand-up comedy to new folk music commissions. Our Creative People & Places project bait works in partnership with artists and the community to support more people in South East Northumberland to create and take part in inspiring and high quality arts experiences.

www.experiencewoodhorn.com

Woodhorn Museum
QEII Country Park
Ashington
Northumberland, NE63 9YF

Opening Times: Wed-Sun
(plus Mon & Tue in school holidays and Bank
Holiday Mondays)
April – September 10am-5pm
October – March 10am-4pm

All visitors to Woodhorn will find a visit rewarding with almost all of the buildings open to the public fully accessible. Visitors are welcome to borrow one of three wheelchairs or a motorised scooter during their visit. Assistance dogs are welcome at Woodhorn, but family pets are not allowed. We are happy to discuss any special requirements in advance of a visit.

Car Park (charge applies)
 Café
 Toilets
 Accessible Toilets
 Baby Change

generalenquiries@woodhorn.org.uk
01670 624455





NORTHUMBERLANDIA

Northumberlandia is a unique piece of public art designed by Charles Jencks, set in a 46 acre community park with free public access and 4 miles of footpaths on and around the landform.

The inspiration for the landform comes from the distant Cheviot Hills, which are pulled into the foreground by the curves and shapes of the female form used for the artwork.

Far from being a rigid manicured art form, Northumberlandia is a living part of the countryside that will mature over time and change with the seasons. What you see when you visit is only the start of something that will evolve through generations.

www.northumberlandia.com

Northumberlandia

Northumberlandia is located next to the town of Cramlington in Northumberland, just North of Newcastle. If you have a satnav use postcode NE23 8AU.

Northumberlandia Country Park and landscape sculpture is open from dawn til dusk each day. Visitor centre and cafe is open from 10am-3pm on Friday – Sunday.

The approach from the car park into the public park to view the sculpture at ground level is fully accessible. The landform itself has a range of slopes with different gradients; a map of the park is available on the website to enable visitors to plan the most appropriate route for your ability.



PHOTO: COUPLE
CREDIT: RICHARD HOLLINSHEAD

COUPLE

Couple by artist Sean Henry is the first offshore sculpture in the UK. The 20 metre long, 12 metre high bronze and steel sculpture was completed in August 2007 and is integrated into a sea defence scheme to protect the beach at Newbiggin by the Sea.

Henry took his inspiration for Couple from the scale of the breakwater. He decided the project should have three distinct elements: the tapered steel pier platform and the two figures. He always wanted to have more than one figure to reflect a shared experience and intends to create an air of mystery by keeping the figures anonymous - looking out to sea with their backs to the shore.

www.newbigginbay.co.uk

Couple

Couple can be viewed throughout the year from the beach at Newbiggin by the Sea – a small seaside town in the South East of the County.

Concrete steps and ramps provide easy access onto Newbiggin's beach.

NORTHUMBERLAND CONTEMPORARY VISUAL ARTS VENUES

1. Allenheads Contemporary Arts
2. Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival
3. Berwick Visual Arts
4. Cheeseburn Sculpture
5. Kielder Art & Architecture
6. Queen's Hall Arts Centre
7. Visual Arts in Rural Communities
8. Whistle Art Stop
9. Woodhorn
10. Northumberlandia
11. Couple

