

## **Barnsley Museums Case Study**

**Barnsley Museums delivered a climate themed Earth Day event for families at Worsbrough Mill, as part of a broader Art Fund funded 'Wild Escape' project.**

**Delivering towards Barnsley 2030 goals Sustainable Barnsley and Learning Barnsley by:**

- **Ensuring people are proud of and look after their local environment**
- **Ensuring everyone has the opportunity to create wider social connections and enjoy cultural experiences.**

Barnsley Museums recently participated in Art Fund's 'Wild Escape' project, aiming to encourage children to visit museums and respond creatively to the threat to the UK's natural environment. We worked with Year 5s from local school Birdwell Primary to explore the green spaces and biodiversity of Worsbrough Mill and make climate pledges to preserve and protect our planet. Pupils also created wire damselflies which formed part of Art Fund's national collaborative artwork, featuring children's works from all over the UK.

The project culminated in a free event for Earth Day on 22 April 2023 for families and visitors to Worsbrough Mill. Working with local artist Sarah Jane Palmer, we created a willow earth sculpture out of natural and biodegradable materials for people to tie climate pledges to. Pledges were made on wildflower tags which have now been planted onsite, and the sculpture has found a permanent home in the Country Park. People's pledges included things like eating less meat, reducing plastic use, and taking part in litter picking events.



**Visitors and Barnsley Museums staff tying their pledges to the Earth sculpture**

On the day, Oak Forest school also delivered outdoor 'disk bug' making activities for families onsite and visitors could also make their own earth mobiles out of recycled materials in our Learning hut. We ran milling demonstrations in the afternoon, and have a number of permanent outdoor trails available onsite encouraging people to engage with green spaces and nature.



### **Earth Day family craft activities at Worsbrough Mill – disk bugs and Earth mobiles**

Families loved the day and we received overwhelmingly positive feedback:

*'It's been lots of fun for both my children. We love to get out and about and today they have loved the craft sessions all around the Worsbrough Mill Site. Earth day celebrations have been great! Thank you'*

*'We have really enjoyed crafting today. Would love to continue coming and being creative. It is a lovely activity and environment to be in. Keep doing what you're doing, You're fantastic!'*

*'My 11 year old daughter, her friend and my 4 year old all enjoyed this activity. The staff were very helpful and friendly. It was nice seeing the older 2 doing something like this together rather than sitting on screens. Thank you!'*

*'Very creative. Lovely calming environment. More please.'*

*'Lovely idea and well thought out. Not rushed and calm feeling.'*