

The Dales Countryside Museum (DCM) in Hawes will re-open with a special exhibition telling The Story of Schools in the Upper Dales.

A spectacular 4.5 metre-wide photo mosaic will be unveiled to the public on Monday 17 May, as the museum celebrates the end of a six-month closure owing to Coronavirus restrictions.



A Mosaic of Dales Youth, created by art and design studio [The People's Picture](#) led by digital artist Helen Marshall, features nearly 2,300 photo tiles of youth and school-life in Upper Wensleydale, Swaledale and Arkengarthdale. The images were shared by local people over eight weeks in autumn 2020.

'The Story of Schools in the Upper Dales' is also told through interpretation boards, vintage and modern photographs, a short film and oral histories.

The exhibition will open at [DCM](#) on 17 May, and run till 18 July 2021. It marks the culmination of a project run by [The NASH](#) in partnership with the museum, and funded by [The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#) and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's [Sustainable Development Fund](#).

Kids activity booklets will be provided for visiting children and families and there will also be a programme for local schools run by the project's Education Officer Heather Hodgson and teacher-actor Mark Cronfield, who will be in the character of a Victorian Headmaster.

Heather Hodgson said: "We all have memories of school, some stronger than others, often evoked by smells, songs and rhymes or photographs. Come and re-live your school days by sharing in our interactive exhibition telling the story of school life in the Upper Dales. There will be family-friendly activities, emotive displays and thought-provoking educational resources."

Fiona Rosher, Museum Manager at DCM, said: "We're so pleased to be able to share this wonderful exhibition at last. The museum has Covid Secure measures to keep visitors and staff safe, including timed tickets that can be booked online. We look forward to welcoming both visitors and local people to enjoy the exhibition and hope they will share their memories of school life with families and friends."

Visit www.thenashhawes.org/Story-of-Schools and www.dalescountrysidemuseum.org.uk for further information

