

# Dance, Drama, Music, Art and Design, Photography, and Film

## Dance

- The [Theatre by the Lake](#) in Keswick has a few dance performances each year.
- Our large grass area provides an inspirational space for dancing. We can give you extra privacy by closing the grounds to non-residents.
- Our woodland provides small spaces for site-specific dance. Red squirrels, roe deer, birds, many different types of trees (and their folklore), an impressive waterfall, and the ruins of an eighteenth century hermitage provide rich inspiration for choreography, costumes, and story-lines. We also have occasional sightings of badgers and otters.
- Between meals, our large dining room can be used for dancing. We have held several ceilidhs in this dining room. You can see the waterfall, birds, and red squirrels from the dining room window.
- Our Grade II listed Georgian mansion was built for the eccentric wealthy bachelor Joseph Pocklington in 1787. He loved to entertain lots of guests with banquets and dancing. You could try recreating a Georgian dance.
- The original Adam fireplace in Room One depicts a scene from the life of Belisarius. You could research the stories of Belisarius and use them for inspiration.
- During the Second World War the hostel was used as a boarding house for children and their teachers from Newcastle Central High School. The evacuees were unfamiliar with the mountain environment, and they had to adapt to a different way of living. You could create a dance, based on imagined and first-hand accounts of the evacuees' experiences.
- Our dining room and other meeting rooms can be used for study and exercises. You will hopefully be able to find appropriate spaces for stretching, strength and conditioning exercises.
- Lakes Alive is a programme of world-class performance and arts events in the spectacular landscapes of Cumbria: <http://www.lakesalive.org/>
- Dance contacts in Cumbria: <http://www.activecumbria.org/sports-and-fitness/dance/>

## Drama

- The [Theatre by the Lake](#) has an impressive programme. Talk to us about group discounts and follow-up activities.
- During the summer there are some outdoor performances in Cumbria, including Globe on Tour at Brougham Hall.
- The history of our house and grounds can provide inspiration for story-lines and characters.
- Many writers are associated with Borrowdale and Cumbria. We have a useful book called *A Literary Guide to the Lake District* by Grevel Lindop. Their own lives, as well as their work, can provide great material for drama students.
- Lake District-based novels by Melvyn Bragg, Arthur Ransome, and Hugh Walpole have been dramatised at the Theatre by the Lake.
- Our house and grounds, as well as the local area, provide inspirational spaces for site-specific performance. From the Derwent Water antics of Squirrel Nutkin to the folklore of the trees in our grounds, you can find rich material for drama activities.
- Our house and grounds provide plenty of secluded spaces for drama activities.
- The University of Cumbria (Lancaster Campus) offers a Drama degree and its on-site productions are open to the public:  
<http://www.cumbria.ac.uk/Courses/SubjectAreas/Performance/Drama/Home.aspx>
- The Brewery Arts Centre in Kendal: <http://www.breweryarts.co.uk/>. This is about a one hour drive from the hostel.
- The Old Laundry Theatre in Bowness-on-Windermere has a lively programme from August to December: <http://www.oldlaundrytheatre.co.uk/>
- The Kirkgate in Cockermouth: <http://www.thekirkgate.com/>. This is no more than a 30 minute drive from the hostel.

## Music

- The [Theatre by the Lake](#) in Keswick has an excellent music programme. See its website for more details.
- The [Theatre by the Lake](#) holds a Jazz Festival in early May.
- The Bassenthwaite Festival in May always attracts world-renowned musicians, as well as excellent local performers: <http://www.bassfest.org.uk/>
- The Kirkgate in Cockermouth: <http://www.thekirkgate.com/>. This is no more than a 30 minute drive from the hostel.
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- Make your own instruments with materials from our grounds.
- Our large house and grounds provide plenty of spaces for singing and using instruments.
- The Dot Crotchets Community Choir (26 people) held a very successful singing weekend at the hostel, using our dining room as a practice space.
- A variety of local bands have used our dining room for concerts.
- You could compose musical accompaniments to Cumbrian poetry.
- You could create sound maps of Borrowdale.

## Art, Design, Photography, and Film

- Wad (graphite/plumbago) mining in Borrowdale led to the opening of a pencil factory in Keswick in 1832. There is now a Pencil Museum in Keswick, with an excellent exhibition, educational group visits, and hands-on activities: <http://www.pencilmuseum.co.uk/>
- Make your own charcoal and use it for drawing.
- There is usually an exhibition of local art at the Theatre by the Lake.
- Keswick Museum and Art Gallery: newly refurbished and extended.
- BBC Your Paintings is very useful for searching for publicly-held oil paintings of the Lake District (or indeed anywhere): <http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/>. Type Borrowdale into the search box and see what you can find!
- We have created an 8 mile Walk of Art, taking you through Borrowdale and Watendlath, with picture cards to help you compare paintings, sketches and engravings with the landscapes they depict. We have booklets available to borrow from the hostel reception, or you can download the booklet here: <http://www.discoveringbritain.org/walks/region/north-west-england/borrowdale.html>
- JMW Turner made three visits to the Lake District: 1797, 1801, and 1831
- We have a good book at the hostel called *The English Lakes: a History* by Ian Thompson. It has excellent chapters about artists in the Lake District.
- Selected Cumbrian artists: Percy Kelly (became Roberta Penelope from 1985), Alfred Heaton Cooper, and living artists: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/cumbria/hi/people\\_and\\_places/arts\\_and\\_culture/newsid\\_8459000/8459501.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/cumbria/hi/people_and_places/arts_and_culture/newsid_8459000/8459501.stm)
- Abbot Hall Art Gallery in Kendal: <http://www.abbothall.org.uk/>
- The Lakeland Arts Trust: <http://www.lakelandartstrust.org.uk/>
- Blackwell Arts and Crafts House near Windermere: <http://www.blackwell.org.uk/>
- Brantwood, the former home of John Ruskin, near Coniston: <http://www.brantwood.org.uk/>
- Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust in Carlisle: <http://www.tulliehouse.co.uk/your-visit/education>. Tullie House has a fantastic online resource called Open House, supporting art, design, textiles, and craft and technology education at KS3-5: <http://www.tulliehouse.co.uk/your-visit/secondary-schools-and-post-16/online-resources-open-house>
- The Wordsworth Trust collection of art (housed in the Wordsworth Museum and the Jerwood Centre at Grasmere): <https://wordsworth.org.uk/learn/the-jerwood-centre.html>. The fine art search is here:



<http://collections.wordsworth.org.uk/wtweb/home.asp?page=FA%20search%20home>

- Harris Museum and Art Gallery in Preston: <http://www.harrismuseum.org.uk/>
- Allan Bank, a National Trust property in Grasmere, has lots of art materials. You can sit in front of a window and create your own picture of the view – not suitable for large groups.
- We have many good spaces at the hostel for art and design activities – just let us know what you require.
- Use materials in the grounds to create your own art.
- Study the Georgian features of Barrow House and use them to inspire your own designs and art work. Design furniture that would suit the house in the late eighteenth century. Paint pictures that would have hung on the walls in the Georgian period.
- Design and make your own Lakeland letter racks, using the layered view of the fells as inspiration.
- Design a postcard and souvenirs for Derwentwater Independent Hostel.
- The frequently changing light makes for very interesting photography and film. The views from Ashness Gate jetty and Ashness Bridge (both a 10 minute walk from the hostel) are some of the most photographed in the Lake District: can you bring something new to these popular views? The variety of scenery and wildlife around the hostel will keep you occupied for a very long time.
- The hostel has an interesting photographic heritage: William Henry Fox Talbot, the Victorian pioneer of photographic techniques, rented Barrow House for several months in 1853 and 1854.
- We have a small photo book that was made by Robert Graham during his ownership of Barrow House (the photos are probably from the 1950s). The photographs, of Barrow House and its environs, were taken by [G.P Abraham Ltd of Keswick](#), the well-known Abraham brothers who also recorded many of the pioneering rock climbs in the Lake District.
- The annual Keswick Film Festival, held in late February, is an excellent focus for film studies. With John Hurt as its patron, and many directors giving talks, this is a really worthwhile festival to attend.
- [The Rheged Centre](#), on the A66 just west of Penrith, has a 3D cinema and changing art exhibitions.
- [Honister Slate Mine](#) is a popular location for film and TV. Mark Weir, who bought Honister in 1997, saw the dramatic potential of the gunpowder-blasted caverns and mountainous setting. He made plans for a theatre inside one of the mines, but his vision was adapted to suit film crews instead. You can study Honister as a location for a wide variety of film and TV.