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## **More than a million sculpture lovers visit Yorkshire**

More than a million people visited the Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle (YST) according to latest statistics, making it one of their best years ever.

The four world-class art galleries attracted around 1.01 million people from April 2017 to March 18 – that's more than the Houses of Parliament welcomed in 12 months.

Located in Leeds and Wakefield, the Henry Moore Institute, Leeds Art Gallery, The Hepworth Wakefield and Yorkshire Sculpture Park form the Triangle – which has been dubbed the British home of sculpture.

Leeds Art Gallery only reopened in October 2017 after an 18-month multi-million pound renovation and in that time it welcomed an impressive 213,430 people – up 52% on the same period in 2015/16 (prior to closure).

Yorkshire Sculpture Park had its second-best year ever after recording 481,334 visitors for 2017/18. The Hepworth Wakefield (and Art Fund Museum of the Year 2017) was up a massive 22% on the previous year after 248,731 passed through its doors. And Henry Moore Institute saw 73,853 people visit throughout the year – a rise of 9.8% year-on-year.

The Triangle has embarked on another UK first after work began on Yorkshire Sculpture International (YSI) – a major international exhibition across all four galleries launching in summer 2019, which has already attracted £750,000 funding from Arts Council England.

Jane Bhojroo, of the Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle, said: "This has been a massive year for the Triangle, with some impressive visitor statistics for all four of our world-class galleries across Wakefield and Leeds. It's a perfect prelude to our major new collaborative project, Yorkshire Sculpture International, which will put the Triangle not just firmly on the British map, but also on the international map too.

"We play a key role in the wider Yorkshire tourism offer and together we are another compelling reason for people to visit the county. Even better, all our galleries are free so it opens up access to the arts for everyone. Whether you're a lifelong art lover or have never set foot in a gallery, there's something for everyone – that, I think, is the secret to our success."

The Triangle is home to two winners of the biggest museum prize in the world, Art Fund Museum of the Year, with The Hepworth Wakefield winning the 2017 title adding to Yorkshire Sculpture Park's victory in 2014.

Sir Gary Verity, Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire, added: "Make no mistake the Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle isn't just a collection of good galleries – they are world-class. That's what drives hundreds of thousands of people to visit them, with many more yet to discover their charm.

“We’ve worked tirelessly to put Yorkshire on the world tourism map during the last decade and it’s attractions like these that play a vital role in complementing our stunning offer across towns, cities, dales, parks and coast. Some of these collections are the envy of the art world and we’re proud to show them off to the whole world.”

For more on Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle see [www.yorkshire-sculpture.org](http://www.yorkshire-sculpture.org) and for tourism in Yorkshire see [www.yorkshire.com](http://www.yorkshire.com)

Ends.

**Notes to editors:**

- Houses of Parliament attracted 1,007,568 people in 2017 (source: ALVA).  
<http://www.alva.org.uk/details.cfm?p=423>
- Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle’s four galleries attracted 1,017,348 visits in 2017/18.
- Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle stats for a year cover April 1 to March 31 the following year.
- Yorkshire Sculpture Park’s best ever year was in 2015/16 when they recorded 700,746 visitors due to the highly successful ‘Wave’ installation from ‘Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red’ by artist Paul Cummins and Tom Piper in conjunction with Historic Royal Palaces, originally at HM Tower of London in 2014.

**Images:**

**YST galleries’ senior team A pic (L-R): Godfrey Worsdale (HMI), Simon Wallis (THW), Jane Bhoyroo (YST), Sarah Brown (LAG), Clare Lilley (YSP)**

**YST galleries’ senior team (L-R): Jane Bhoyroo (YST), Sarah Brown (LAG), Godfrey Worsdale (HMI), Meghan Goodeve (YSI), Simon Wallis (THW), Clare Lilley (YSP)**

**Jane Bhoyroo of YST**