

Peter Bowes - City of Culture Transcript

[Text: Peter Bowes, Journalist and Broadcaster]

Hello, I am Peter Bowes, I am a journalist and broadcaster and I just wanted to add my personal perspective on County Durham's bid to become the UK's City of Culture 2025, which I wholeheartedly support.

For the last quarter of a century I have been based here in California, this is where I work, but my home, my true home is County Durham. I was born in Sedgfield at Hardwick Hall when it was a maternity hospital I grew up in the little hamlet of Bradbury, probably still best known to most people as an intersection on the motorway. My first job was with Radio Tees, the original Radio Tees that is, the commercial radio station with that evocative tag line; "The sound of home."

Well one of my first assignments was to cover the year long miners strike in 1984-85 a really gut wrenching time for the region. Well over the years and especially returning home to see family and friends I have been struck by how the area has reinvented itself. The resilience of its people has shone through and of course it remains and grows as a region of great historical importance with a rich cultural heritage; the beautiful cathedral, one of the finest in Europe, Beamish Museum, I spent many happy days there as a child, there is the world renowned university of course, and today so many really useful programmes to promote investment in the arts in small communities around the county.

You know jobs were an issue when I started my career in County Durham in the 1980's and jobs are still an issue now, and if this bid is successful there is no doubt that it will shine a light on the county like never before. It will attract visitors, it will create jobs and it will be such a well deserved accolade for, yep, my home county, but most importantly its hard working people.

Durham, the best of luck!

[Text: Durham. No ordinary county. Follow County Durham's bid for the UK City of Culture 2025. UK City of Culture bid logo. UK City of Culture Bidding City logo.]