

Darlington Association on Disability

Information Guide

Arts, Leisure and Sports

The scope of leisure activities is very wide and a guide like this cannot detail everything. As a general rule it helps to contact any destination in advance to make sure you can enjoy it. Many leisure opportunities may be limited for disabled people due to bad access, lack of sign language interpreters and other obstacles. This section aims to enable you to plan ahead before taking part in leisure activities and manage any obstacles. It outlines the main sources of information about local facilities and organised art and leisure events for disabled people.

Contents

Arts and Leisure Information

Arts and Leisure Service Providers

Sport Information

Sport Services

Information about local Social Activities

Providers of local Social Activities

Other Sources of Information

Contacts

Arts and Leisure Information

The **Disability Cultural Projects (DCP) Community Interest Company** was established in 2008. The aim of the organisation is to further the cultural equality of Deaf and Disabled people / Deaf, Disability arts practice, and to support new approaches to the way these are delivered. DCP provides a free weekly newsletter – EtCetera, and Arts Access UK, a national online Access database.

If you are planning a trip to London, visit the **Artsline** website. This has lots of information on many arts venues across the capital. Artsline also runs Attitude-is-everything, which was set up in response to young disabled people's complaints of unfair treatment at live music venues, clubs and festivals in the UK.

Arts and Leisure Service Providers

Darlington Arts Centre and Civic Theatre offer several facilities to make their performances accessible to more people. Ask what is available when booking tickets.

The Arts Centre main entrance is ramped and there is level access to the Theatre, Ballroom, Bistro, Main Bar and other ground floor rooms. There is a lift to the Garden Bar; other rooms are up one or more flights of stairs. There are adapted toilets suitable for wheelchair users and people with a mobility impairment.

There is level access into the Civic Theatre from Borough Road into the Stalls and the Conservatory Bar. There are double yellow lines at this entrance, but it is usually possible to stop and set down passengers. There are no lifts at the Civic Theatre. Disabled people who need someone with them to access the performance may bring a companion or helper free of charge. Wheelchair spaces are charged at a concessionary rate for performances where concessions are available. There are adapted toilets suitable for wheelchair users and people with a mobility impairment.

'What's On', the Arts Centre & Civic Theatre's season brochure, is available in audio cassette version, large print format or braille. Audio described performances are also marked in 'What's On'. Touch tours of the set may be arranged one hour before an audio described performance, but the request needs to be made to the box office at least two days in advance when booking tickets. Guide dogs are welcome and water bowls can be provided. Ask the Front of House staff on arrival. Programmes are available in braille at some performances.

There is an infra-red system in the auditorium at the Civic Theatre. Ask for a free receiver when booking tickets. There is an audio loop in both the Civic Theatre and the Arts Centre for people with hearing aids. Sign language interpreted performances are marked in the 'What's On' diary. A request should be made for the best seats for this service when booking. Headsets are available from front of house staff. Please arrange in advance with box office staff.

Head of Steam is the newly revamped Darlington Railway Centre and Museum. It is located on the 1825 route of the Stockton & Darlington Railway, the world's first steam-worked public railway.

The site encompasses three significant Stockton & Darlington Railway buildings of the 1830s/50s: North Road Passenger Station, the Goods Shed and Hopetown Carriage Works. Exhibits include Stephenson's "Locomotion No. 1", built for the opening of the Stockton & Darlington Railway, and "Derwent", the earliest surviving Darlington built locomotive, on loan from The National Railway Museum Collection. Locomotion is one of the oldest surviving steam engines in the world and the first ever steam train to carry fare paying passengers. A range of smaller items complements the larger exhibits. Several events are held throughout the year. There is designated Blue Badge parking near the entrance, which is ramped and most parts of the museum are wheelchair accessible. The Centre has accessible toilets, an Induction loop at the reception, and a designated Access and Learning Officer. Information can be provided in different formats on request.

Teesside Park is a leisure and retail complex which includes a cinema, bowling hall, bars, clubs, supermarket and shops. The Hollywood Bowl provides ramps to all areas including bowling lanes, ball ramps and lane bumpers for use with or without wheelchairs, lightweight balls and accessible toilet facilities. The retail area in the park offers accessible parking bays and accessible toilet facilities. A manual wheelchair may be borrowed free of charge on request from any of the shops on the site. The wheelchair can be returned to a different shop on completion of your shopping. The Showcase Cinema is wheelchair accessible, with accessible parking bays, accessible toilet facilities and equipment for deaf visitors.

Sport Information

The **Ambulant and Wheelchair Disabled Supporters** group works to promote access to football stadiums and encourages the sharing of information about facilities on its website.

The **Riding for the Disabled Association** can provide information and advice about horse riding. Various riding schools in the area can provide assistance with riding, including equipment and individual support. For a list of riding schools contact the regional representative. The **Unicorn Centre** in Middlesbrough is registered as a centre for Riding for the Disabled.

Sport Services

Cirdan Trust provides disadvantaged young people, including disabled people with the opportunity for self development by living and working on large sailing boats. Courses can be tailor made and a full range of Royal Yachting Association (RYA) training can be provided.

Durham Area Disability Leisure Group provides sports, leisure and social opportunities for disabled people of all ages, living within County Durham and surrounding areas. It offers sports taster sessions, family activities and adapted push bikes for groups and individuals, including tandems and side-by-side bikes.

The **English Federation of Disability Sport** is the national body responsible for developing sport for disabled people in England and has a regional office in Durham. Its aim is to increase participation in sport and ensure disabled people can access the sport and physical activity of their choice, at a level and venue of their choice. The Federation brings together eight national disability sports organisations recognised by Sport England. These are : British Amputees and Les Autres Sports Association; British Blind Sport; UK Deaf Sport; Wheelpower - British Wheelchair Sport; CP Sport; Dwarf Athletics, Mencap Sport and the Special Olympics.

Leisure centres provide a variety of sporting and leisure activities. The facilities available for disabled people may vary from one centre to another. Darlington Borough Council's Community Services Department provides a variety of sporting and leisure activities. In Darlington, the **Dolphin Centre** has automatic entrance doors and ramped access to its Reception. There are accessible changing facilities, hoists for both the training pool and main pool, and a lift to all four floors. The centre has an accessible fitness suite with trained instructors. Disabled people and carers are eligible for concessions on Dolphin Centre activities using a LiveDarlington card. Application forms can be downloaded from the Dolphin Centre website or may be obtained from the centre's Reception. **Eastbourne Leisure Complex** offers a range of sports services, including a bowling green, running track, boulder climbing wall, fitness suite and exercise classes.

The **Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP)** at Newton Aycliffe has a hydrotherapy pool available to individuals and groups, with a

poolside hoist and accessible changing facilities. Accompanying carers are charged a reduced rate.

Information about local social activities

Darlington Association on Disability and **eVOLution** have contact details for local social groups for disabled and non-disabled people.

Providers of local social activities

Darlington Borough Council's **Youth Service** can provide information on a range of accessible venues and inclusive activities in local youth clubs.

Gateway Clubs offer different activities and events locally for children and adults with learning difficulties. Contact **Darlington Gateway Club** for more information about venues and activities.

Other Sources of Information

Other sections of the Darlington Association on Disability Information Guide may contain further information relevant to arts, sports and leisure activities.

The **Access** section gives further information regarding access issues to leisure and sporting facilities.

The **Children** section has more detailed information on arts, leisure and sports for children and young people.

The **Consumer Issues** section gives details on shopping.

The **Education** section has information regarding educational providers of art, sport and leisure courses.

The **Legal Rights** section gives further information regarding the Disability Discrimination Act.

The **Media** section provides information on tapes, books, television, radio, video and internet interests.

Contact **Darlington Association on Disability's** Information Service for assistance with searching for information about any subject in this guide or for support in dealing with your information requests.

There are a number of local and national organisations providing broad information and advice resources. Please refer to this guide's Introduction for contact details.

Contacts

Ambulant and Wheelchair Disabled Supporters

2 Coopers Fold

Ribbleton

Preston

PR2 6HW

Telephone / fax : 01772 700 788

Minicom :

Email : barbs@awads.co.uk

Website :

Artsline

54 Chalton St

London, NW1 1HS

Telephone : 020 7388 2227

Minicom : 020 7388 2227

Fax : 020 7383 2653

E-mail: access@artsline.org.uk

Website : www.artsline.org.uk

Cirdan Sailing Trust

3 Chandlers Quay

Fullbridge

Maldon

Essex

CM9 4LF

Telephone : 01621 851433

Fax : 01621 840045

Minicom :

E-mail : info@cirdansailing.com

Website : www.cirdansailing.com

Darlington Arts Centre & Civic Theatre

Head of Theatre & Arts

Parkgate

Darlington

DL1 1RR

Telephone : 01325 486 555

Fax :

The Civic Theatre minicom : 01325 387 761

The Arts Centre minicom : 01325 489 094

E-mail : access@darlington-arts.co.uk.

Website : www.darlingtonarts.co.uk

Darlington Association on Disability

20-22 Horsemarket

Darlington

DL1 5PT

Telephone 01325 489 999

Fax : 01325 488 188

Minicom : 01325 245 061

Email : mail@darlingtondisability.org

Website : www.darlingtondisability.org

Darlington Gateway Club

Salters Lane

Darlington

Telephone : 01325 250421

Fax :

Minicom :

E-mail :

Website :

Disability Cultural Projects (DCP) Community Interest Company

Contact via a form on the website

Website : www.disabilityarts.info

Dolphin Centre

Darlington Borough Council

Horsemarket

Darlington

DL1 5PT

Telephone : 01325 388406

Fax :

Minicom : 01325 380786

Email : leisure.services@darlington.gov.uk

Website : www.darlington.gov.uk/culture/DolphinCentre

Durham Area Disability Leisure Group

Donald Owen Clarke Centre

Riverside South

Chester-le-Street

Co Durham

DH3 3SJ

Telephone : 0191 389666

Fax : 0191 389666

Minicom :

E-mail : via website

Website : www.communicate.co.uk/ne/dadlg

Eastbourne Sports Complex

Darlington Borough Council

Bourne Avenue

Darlington

DL1 1LJ

Telephone : 01325 243177

Fax : 01325 245575

Minicom : 01325 380786

Email : leisure.services@darlington.gov.uk

Website : www.darlington.gov.uk/culture/Eastbourne

English Federation of Disability Sport

Manchester Metropolitan University

Alsager Campus

Hassall Road

Alsager

Stoke on Trent

ST7 2HL

Telephone : 0161 247 5294

Fax : 0161 247 6895

Minicom : 0161 247 5644

E-mail federation@efds.co.uk

Website : www.efds.co.uk

English Federation of Disability Sport North East

Telephone : 0191 334 7207

Fax :

Minicom :

E : mail: northeast@efds.co.uk

Website : www.efds.co.uk and follow link to North East region

eVOLution

Church Row

Darlington

DL1 5QD

Telephone : 01325 266 888

Fax : 01325 266 899

Minicom :

e-mail : enquiries@evolutiondarlington.com

Website : www.evolutiondarlington.com

Head of Steam

North Road Station

Darlington

DL3 6ST

Telephone : 01325 460 532

Fax : 01325 287746

Minicom :

E-mail : museum@darlington.gov.uk

Website : www.darlington.gov.uk

Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP)

Cobblers Hall

Off Burn Lane

Newton Aycliffe

DL5 4SF

Telephone : 01325 321234

Fax : 01325 301129

Minicom :

E-mail : enquiries@pcp.uk.net

Website : www.pcp.uk.net

Riding for the Disabled

The Unicorn Centre

Stainton Way

Hemlington

Middlesbrough

TS8 9LX

Telephone : 0845 450 6920

Fax : 01642 576254

Minicom :

Email: enquiries@unicorn-centre.freeserve.co.uk

Website: www.communigate.co.uk/ne/unicorn

Riding for the Disabled Association

Norfolk House

1a Tournament Court

Edgehill Drive

Warwick

CV34 6LG

Telephone : 0845 658 1082

Fax: 0845 658 1083

Minicom :

Email: via website

Website: www.rda.org.uk

Teesside Park

The Management Centre

Teesside Shopping Park

Sandown Way

Stockton on Tees

TS17 7BT

Telephone : 01642 679447

Fax :

Minicom :

E-mail : enquiries@teespark.com

Website : www.teessideshoppingpark.co.uk

Youth Service

Darlington Borough Council

Telephone : 01325 362957

Fax :

Minicom

E-mail : via the website

Website : www.darlington.gov.uk/Education/ysportal.htm

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