

## ACCESS GUIDE

[WWW.JABBERWOCKYMARKET.ORG.UK](http://WWW.JABBERWOCKYMARKET.ORG.UK)

Venue: **LIDDIARD THEATRE – POLAM HALL SCHOOL**

Address: Grange Road, Darlington, DL1 5PX

Their website: [www.phs.woodard.co.uk/contact-details/](http://www.phs.woodard.co.uk/contact-details/)

Shows and events at this venue this season:

- Juliet and Romeo
- BIG Little Gigs

Please direct all event specific questions to us at [jabberwockymarket@gmail.com](mailto:jabberwockymarket@gmail.com) or 07583 655018



*All photos taken with permission by Kerami Roberts*

## INTRODUCTION

In 1794, a young Darlington merchant called Harington Lee built the area's first country villa on land at Polam. Now a 'Free School' that educates children age 4-18, the building was once used by the Darlington Society of Friends (Quakers) as a girls' finishing school and the main building is listed for its special architectural or historic interest.

Opposite the main building is the Liddiard Theatre [LINK HERE](#) where Jabberwocky Market events are primarily held. This is a purpose-built theatre with raised seating and full black out; each event there is will be set up for the best performance, and so the audience can be comfortable and have a great view. Do read the following information as this is a listed building and it may help to know about the more modern accessible features of this venue.

Woodard Polam Hall School works in partnership with Luxi on various projects including Jabberwocky Market Pop-Up Theatre Events.

## BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

Please have a look at this Access Guide to help you decide what support you need to attend safely and comfortably. Our Welcome team members are available to contact before and during the event. You can contact us on 07583 655018 or email [jabberwockymarket@gmail.com](mailto:jabberwockymarket@gmail.com)

If there is something we have not covered or that you need we warmly encourage you to get in touch. We aim to be discreet, honest and friendly.

**CARER TICKETS:** If you require an adult to assist or care for you to enable you to take part in a Jabberwocky Market event then you can book an extra 'Carer Ticket' free of charge by contacting us directly. Luxi, who run the events, is a not for profit company and it aims to keep ticket prices low. Some performances are 'Pay What You Decide' allowing audiences to pay in private, whatever they feel they can afford. Some performances have special offers and all ticket prices are kept as low as possible. Jabberwocky Market events are world-class shows presented as pop-up theatre in small scale venues, open to all who would like to come along.

Please check all travel arrangements before you book tickets. We can't be held responsible for information given by other parties. Our information was last updated September 2018.

## **TRAVELLING TO THE VENUE**

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** Darlington has excellent transport links via the railway and roads. For local bus services please get in touch with Arriva [HERE](#). For up to date train information get in touch with National Rail Enquiries [HERE](#) and information about Darlington Train Station can be found [HERE](#). For more information regarding 'Journey Care' or 'Journey Assistance' which is help that train companies can give to their ticket holders in need of support click [HERE](#).

The nearest bus stop is next to Sainsburys supermarket just a 2 minute walk or roll from the Liddiard Theatre along a smooth, level path.

The train station is a little further away and those with mobility difficulties may wish to look into either local buses or taxi services.

**BY ROAD:** Cars, taxis and bikes must use the school's one-way system clearly marked out. Coming from the town centre, from the bus stop or train station the entrance is the first left.

## GETTING IN TO THE VENUE

**ONE WAY SYSTEM:** Roads and paths are on a one-way system that takes you past several parking areas. There are several options for parking or being dropped off.

**CARS AND PARKING:** Coming from the town centre, bus stop and train station, the entrance to the school is the first left.





**MAIN CARPARK:** This short road goes past the area marked 'Staff Only' but this is available for audiences parking for Jabberwocky Market events.

This parking is a short walk to the theatre but there isn't a clearly defined or protected path. Those with mobility difficulties or using a wheelchair or scooter may want to park closer



## CLOSER

**PARKING:** Just along from the Staff parking the main gates to the school have a pedestrian entrance and large gates wide enough for cars, taxi, minibus etc. During school hours these are opened via the intercom on a post but for Jabberwocky Market events these will be opened by our Welcome team. Just drive to the gates and we will make sure you get in and find really good parking. If we are not there please call the Jabberwocky Market phone on 07583 655018.



As you enter, to the right is the entrance to the main school building. (Please note, we are NOT using this entrance for events) There are accessible parking spaces here with extra room. The main theatre entrance is just a 10 second walk or roll from these spaces on the opposite side of this carpark.





**CLOSEST PARKING:** As you enter through the gates, to the left are parking spaces that are metres away from the accessible Main Entrance to the theatre. These may be more suitable. For any parking concerns please DO get in touch as we believe we can accommodate you in these flexible spaces.



This photo shows you the Main Entrance to the Liddiard theatre, the grey doors on the left and how close cars can park. This is a step-free entrance to the theatre. The door on the right is the entrance to the foyer and accessible toilet.

## ENTRANCE TO LIDDIARD THEATRE FOYER AND

**TOILETS:** Audience members who need step-free level access may need to use the dropped curb as shown in this photo. There are hand rails near the door and paths are smooth and clearly defined. Inside is an open space known as the Liddiard Theatre Foyer containing our small Gift Shop and our Ticket Desk.

To the right inside of the doors is access to the accessible toilets and there is another entrance to the theatre to the left. This is accessed down 6 steps but this entrance will not be used in these events.





**Main Entrance to the Theatre:** Car park and paths are smooth and well surfaced. For the events we'll be using the side doors to the theatre. There is a shallow slope up to the doors, and doors will be held open. As you enter the surface will change to smooth carpet and there is enough room here to fit a wheelchair comfortably. This may not be suitable for larger scooters.



**ENTRANCE RAMP:** The Main Theatre entrance brings you to the top of the raised seating, to the top of a large and steep ramp. The width is about 1.2m, the length is about 3m and it is a steeper ramp. The floor surface is short pile carpet which is firm under foot but may slip a little under wheels. If you use a mobility aid you may need to bring an adult to assist you (please see information about free 'Carer ticket'). We will help you in all ways we can but we are unable to push you up or down this ramp. Here are some photos so you can judge this for yourself. If you are concerned please contact us as there may be ways you can still enjoy the event.





Below is a picture of the empty theatre space looking back at the door and ramp. Every event is different and the set, props, sound equipment and seats will be designed to create the best performance and audience experience. This gives us lots of flexibility!



To enable us to give you the best audience experience, please contact us before the day of the event and we can discuss our options and how they suit your needs. You are the expert in your requirements.



## VENUE FACILITIES

**TOILETS:** Standard toilets are accessed from the theatre via the Foyer (indicated earlier). To get there you need to exit the theatre through the side doors and ramp, and re-enter the Foyer via the dropped curb outside if needed.

There is a more accessible toilet (pictured) that will be clearly signposted during events. This toilet is not a 'changing places' toilet, it may not be suitable for all needs but has been adapted to be as accessible as is currently possible. It is certainly big enough to large wheelchairs and most scooters and push chairs in.



The toilet is raised, there are bins, low sink and some grab rails. There are plans to refurbish this toilet but meanwhile the flush is very high, and some grab rails mean it isn't possible to get a wheelchair up to the sink.

You may need some assistance in using this toilet and we hope this photo helps you assess what help you would need. Please see information about our free 'Carer tickets' and give us a call. There are alternative public toilets in the Sainsburys supermarket about 7 minutes walk away and the nearest 'Changing places' Toilet is about 10 minutes walk away in the Dolphin Centre [LINK HERE](#)

**SEATING AND FLOORING:** Seating in this venue is mainly on raised, fixed seating and there are also some moveable seats. There is some flexibility and audience members in wheelchairs can have a great view at the front, chairs positioned on the floor. Assistants, carers, family and friends can be seated with audience members in wheelchairs at most events. Please give us a call to make sure we get this right.

**LOOP SYSTEM AND SOUND:** There is no current loop system at this venue. Care has been taken to amplify all performers and announcers using the purpose built theatre sound system. If this is something that may affect your ability to take part, do please give us a call.



**COMMUNICATION:** Some performances are currently available with BSL interpretation. Performers take into consideration the needs of those communicating in non-conventional ways, and the organisers are working hard to progress with this.

All safety announcements will be clear and staff will always be in the venue to make sure that actions have been taken by all patrons of the venue. We have aimed to make all signage (for example of exits, toilets and safety notices) clear and easy to read for all audience members and performers.

Written programs are available in larger print and some performances will have BSL provided by our fabulous Jenna Johnson (Link [HERE](#)) who brings our shows to life for those who use British Sign Language to communicate



**FOOD AND DRINK:** If there are no refreshments during the event you're attending, then the town centre has many places to eat, drink and rest. Have a look [HERE](#) if you need ideas. Although eating and drinking are not encouraged during the performances, we are aware that some audience members will need to if medically required. Perhaps you could mention this to a Welcome team member before the performance starts, or call beforehand. You may prefer us to advise you of another space or require us to do absolutely nothing while you do what you need to do.

**CHILL OUT / QUIET SPACE:** There is sometimes a designated quiet /chill out space in this venue. Opposite the school is a tree-covered walkway that is peaceful, calm and has a good path. Please chat with the Welcome team if you need guidance.

**HEATING AND LIGHTING:** Performances will be professionally lit and there may be complete black outs or bright lights. For details of individual performance (e.g. Strobe lighting or periods of darkness) please get in touch for absolute accuracy.

The venue is over 200 years old and this space is often very cold, extra layers are advised.

**THEMES AND TRIGGERS:** Most shows are described on our website and promotional material, and most have a video giving an impression of what the setting and themes of performances will be like. Luxi endeavours to produce and present high quality events, and sometimes this creates a dialogue about topics that may be a trigger for some, while being valuable and interesting to others. We invite you to discuss this with us before the show if you need to. We add age guidance (not rules) on our programme to guide your decision making.

## **AFTER THE SHOW**

Do let us know what you did and didn't enjoy about the event. All feedback helps us to improve and evolve and we appreciate your time in filling out feedback forms or getting in touch with us. These are often given out at the end of performances or are available by email afterwards.

Have a great time at Jabberwocky Market events!

**Kerami Roberts**  
Luxi Access Consultant

