



## ACCESS GUIDE

Venue: **QUAKER MEETING HOUSE**

Address: 6 Skinnergate, Darlington DL3 7NB

Their website:

<http://www.darlingtonquakers.org/>

Shows and events at this venue this season:

- tbc



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

### INTRODUCTION:

This venue is used in partnership with the Darlington Religious Society of Friends, also known as the Darlington Quakers. The Meeting House was listed as a Grade II building of special architectural or historic interest in 1952 and is rich with Quaker family heritage telling the stories of Darlington's past. The present building was built in 1839 but the Quakers have occupied a property on Skinnergate since 1678.

Care has been put into creating good access into this lovely building. There is a designated car park, step-free access, ramps and a recently renovated accessible toilet with baby changing facilities. Skinnergate is pedestrianised so please look at the details below and get in touch with either the Jabberwocky team [HERE](#) or with the manager of the Meeting House [HERE](#)

## **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](#).

This venue is under 5 minutes walking distance from local and national bus stops. There is a fair slope from the bus stands servicing national buses but the paths are smooth.

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

**SKINNERGATE PEDESTRIANISATION:** Skinnergate is part of Darlington's pedestrianised centre which means access to the front of the Meeting House and the car park is restricted at certain times of day. Before 10am (10.30am on Sundays) and after 5pm, vehicles can drive up to the front of the Meeting House and/or enter the car park. There are no restrictions on exit - this can be done at any time of day.

**DARLINGTON TOWN PARKING:** Please check [HERE](#) for up to



date parking information in Darlington Centre. There are car parks within 5 minutes of the Meeting House. If you need to be closer the venue has its own car park behind the building.

**WALKING AND ROLLING:** Darlington

Town Centre is a Victorian market town and has some cobbles and textured pavements to maneuver round. The Quaker Meeting House is on a street that has good, smooth paths and has no slope.

## GETTING IN TO THE VENUE

Don't be put off by the front entrance that has lots of steps. There is a step-free entrance and carpark to the back of the building. Next door to the Meeting House is a shop called 'Footprints' and beyond this is an alley / tunnel under the building to get to the back.



The short tunnel is well-lit (this photo is much darker than it was) and has a motion sensor light that keeps it well-lit during the evening. The tunnel is wide and the flooring is smooth stones with no real gaps. There is a very slight slope upwards towards the carpark and graveyard beyond.



**PARKING:** The Quaker Meeting House has its own small car park behind the building that has a smooth tarmac surface. There are a few patches of slightly loose gravel but generally the surface is great for feet and wheels. As you enter there are a couple of 'permit only' spaces to the right but beyond them are spaces free to use by audience member for the duration of the show. It is possible to get super close to the ramp at the back door or to the front door. Please get in touch if you need this space or are concerned in any way about parking.



**ENTRANCE INTO THE BUILDING:** There are two ways to get in. At the front of the building there is a stepped entrance that leads to the main vestibule.

Step-free access is found beyond the fire doors and outside steps. Keep going round and this entrance will be open and well signposted.



This step-free access has a light door that stays open when pushed and is wide enough for scooters and wheelchairs.

At the door there is a permanent, smooth and steady ramp into the door that will be open for the event.

There are two larger rooms in the meeting house and both have permanent ramps with handrails. The carpet is a tough, thin pile and easy to walk and roll on.

At the top of the ramp are double doors which will be held open during the event.

Staff can help you find the best place for you to enjoy the show if you need them.



## VENUE FACILITIES:

### FLOORING AND SEATING:

Flooring is mostly hard-wearing, thinner pile carpet that is easy to walk and roll on. Seating in the Quaker Market Place is flexible. When you buy your ticket, let us know if there is anything we can do to enable you to get the most out of the show. For example, be closer to the action of the amplified



sound, or have dedicated space for your wheelchair and the rest of your party. This is easier if we know you are coming but we will accommodate you as best we can if that isn't possible.

**TOILETS:** There are ladies/gents toilets and an accessible toilet in the vestibule area near the front door entrance. These can be reached by leaving the performance space via the ramp and going right.



The facilities are quite new and have been renovated with care. There is a baby changing mat to the right as you enter but users are encouraged to

'Think Access' and keep this shut. There are bins, good hand-washing facilities but no changing table for adults or accompanying hoists.

The nearest 'changing places' toilet is at the Dolphin centre, about an 8-minute walk along flat paving. The changing places information can be found [HERE](#)

The toilet here is raised and has suitable grab rails. There is plenty of space for wheelchairs but scooters and pushchairs may need to be left outside.



**LOOP SYSTEM AND SOUND:** There is no current loop system at this venue. (Care has been taken to amplify all performers and announcers using mics and a professional PA system. If this is something that may affect your ability to take part, do please give the Jabberwocky Market team 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:** There are no refreshments available during these events but 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 our staff 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 are other rooms in this lovely building though they may be being used by other groups. Extra available space will be clearly signposted and we invite you to talk to our Welcome team if you need extra space.

**HEATING AND LIGHTING:** Performances will be professionally lit and there may be complete blackouts 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 well lit and well heated. The car park and entrance tunnel is lit with a motion sensor.

**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 performance. 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 online on the website.

Have a great time at Jabberwocky Market events!

**Kerami Roberts**  
Luxi Access Consultant

