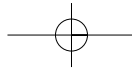


# Swindon's Access Guide to ...



**Swindon Dance  
cre8 studios  
Lydiard House  
Museum & Art Gallery  
Richard Jefferies Museum  
Libraries  
Arts Centre  
Artscape  
Wyvern Theatre**



## **Access for all**

Swindon Borough Council is actively committed to equalities. This reflects in the many adjustments it has made to improve disabled people's access to local arts, culture and heritage facilities. More improvements are planned.

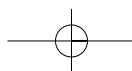
Most of Swindon's cultural facilities have wheelchair access and accessible toilets. The latest improvement extends the Old Town Arts Centre with a lift to the auditorium and an accessible foyer, toilets and dressing rooms. Plans for other venues include a new side entrance into the Wyvern Theatre. There are also schemes to fit more automatic doors for those of any age who find heavy doors difficult.

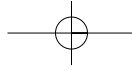
## **Help for every user**

Venues described in this leaflet are designed to cater for the full range of disabilities. So that you can ask for additional information, or about any extra access support you may need, the leaflet gives a contact number for each venue. During office hours the Swindon Borough Council's central help desk 01793 466300 can help you reach the person to contact.

The Borough Council particularly welcomes suggestions from its service users. Please tell us if you think there is information which could be added to future editions of this leaflet.

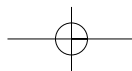
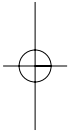
*Peter Monk, Borough Access Unit, 01793 466333  
pmonk@swindon.gov.uk*





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## TOWN HALL STUDIOS



**Regent Circus, Swindon SN1 1QF**  
**01793 463210**

The Town Hall Studios is an adapted Victorian building and houses Swindon Dance and cre8 studios.

**Swindon Dance** is one of only 10 National Dance Agencies in the country. Swindon Dance offers opportunities for everyone to experience quality dance activities.

We offer a wide range of classes, courses, workshops and performances for people of all ages and abilities. We also offer a range of training for professional dance artists and practitioners.

**cre8 studios** offer a wide range of activities to individuals and groups using film, video, audio and photography. We provide training, support and advice, equipment and facilities hire, special projects, events and education programmes.

### **Facilities:**

- On street parking with dropped kurb for Blue Badge holders outside front entrance
- The nearest car park with disabled bays is the Wyvern multi storey car park in Islington Street

# TOWN HALL STUDIOS

- Wheelchair access to front entrance via gently sloping ramp
- Wheelchair accessible toilet (ground floor)
- Stairlift (seated type) to first floor performance theatre and dance studio
- Infra-red receivers for people with hearing impairment (with or without hearing aids).  
To reserve one for use in the theatre auditorium, please call our Reception in advance to book
- Counter induction loop at Reception

## Reception Opening Times

Opening times vary according to term dates  
(please call to check details)

**Term Time:** Monday - Friday 9.30am - 8pm  
Saturdays 9.00am - 4.00pm

**Outside Term Times:** Monday - Friday 9.30pm - 5pm

If you would like more information or think you may need help to attend a particular activity or event, please contact us in advance and we can advise you.



## LYDIARD HOUSE



Lydiard Park, Lydiard  
Tregoze,  
West Swindon SN5 3PA  
01793 770401

Lydiard House, ancestral home of the Bolingbrokes, was saved from ruin by Swindon Corporation in 1943. Set amid rolling lawns and woodland, this beautifully restored Georgian mansion contains the family's furnishings, portraits and fine plasterwork. A rare 17th century painted window is found in the little blue boudoir, a room devoted to the 18th Century society belle and artist, Lady Diana Spencer. Exceptional monuments such as the Golden Cavalier can be found in St Marys Church just behind the house.

We are developing plans for improving access and facilities for all our visitors and in the meantime we will always do our best to ensure that your visit is enjoyable. Please ring in advance of your visit so that we can give you the most appropriate advice and information.

### **Facilities:**

There is a disabled drop-off point and parking in the courtyard of Lydiard House

This is reached via the Lydiard Park driveway off Hay Lane/Tregoze Way

# LYDIARD HOUSE

An accessible toilet is situated at the Visitor Centre (café end of Lydiard Park). Please bring your RADAR key. It is reached from the house via a 250 m semi surfaced drive (non car access). Though walkable, the drive is not ideal for wheelchair users.

The ground floor state rooms are fully accessible to wheelchair users. St Marys Church and meeting room have a car park outside and level access

Personal tours for blind/partially sighted visitors by museum staff are available by prior arrangement - guide dogs are welcome in the house.

Accessible story box audible guides are available in the Library, Dining Room, Drawing Room, State Bedchamber and Lady Diana Spencer Room. These provide documentaries and sound effects for adults and children.

The House main entrance is accessible by steps (no handrail) from the front lawn. The ground floor State Rooms are fully accessible on the level from the courtyard entrance by prior arrangement.

## Lydiard House Opening Times:

Mon - Sat 10am - 5pm

Sundays 2pm - 5pm

Early closing Nov - Feb 4pm



## SWINDON ARTSCAPE



**Contact: For specific enquires  
please contact the venue direct  
For general enquiries please  
contact 01793 466522 or 466517**

Swindon Artscape activities take place in several venues throughout the town. For information on access to our programme of exhibitions, courses and events, please contact the host venue who will have up to date information on access for disabled visitors.

Every effort is made by Swindon Artscape to make your experience of an Artscape event as enjoyable and informative as possible. If you require further advice or specific assistance please contact us.

**Old Town Gardens, Quarry Road, Old Town, Swindon**  
(A series of summer-time world music concerts)

An open-air park venue, with no shelter, therefore can get muddy in wet weather.

Blue Badge Parking Space (please call 01793 466522)

Wheelchair users access to the Bowl (narrow even-surfaced path with long gradient)

Wheelchair accessible toilet (300 metres from bowl entrance. steep path in places).

**Arts Centre, Devizes Road, Old Town, Swindon SN1 4BJ** 01793 614837 (Art Exhibitions and Workshops)  
Please see page 12 for specific information.

# SWINDON ARTSCAPE

**Wyvern Theatre**, Theatre Square, Swindon SN1  
Tel 01793 524481 (Art Exhibitions)

Arts Exhibitions take place in the Lower Foyer Level, and is only accessible by steps, (there is no wheelchair access).

Exhibitions in Harlequin Bar are accessible by small lift through large swing doors to left of Box Office.

Disabled parking is available on Level 3 of the multi-storey carpark adjacent to the theatre. The level walkway leads directly to the theatre. Disabled toilet facilities are located in Box A.

**Swindon Street Festival** Takes place in Swindon's Town Centre and includes: a community parade, music and dance and street theatre.

Please ring Artscape between 10am-4pm Mon-Fri for information on nearest accessible toilets and parking on 01793 466522.

## Opening Times

Wyvern Theatre 01793 524481

Lower Foyer Mon - Sat 10.00am - 6.00pm

Harlequin Bar 11.00am - 2.00pm

Admission Free

**Arts Centre Box Office** 01793 614837

Mon - Fri 12noon - 5.00pm Sat 10.00am - 1.00pm

Admission Free



# SWINDON LIBRARIES



## Learn! Enjoy! Discover!

Swindon Libraries aim to provide opportunities and access for everyone to learn, enjoy and discover.

Library staff are working towards making their facilities and services more accessible for disabled people. Staff offer a friendly and welcoming service and personal help where needed. The range of our facilities can be viewed at our website where individual libraries E.mail addresses and opening times can be viewed.

[www.swindon.gov.uk/librarylocations.htm](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/librarylocations.htm)

Below is a list of all Swindon Borough Libraries and their contact numbers. Please ring before your visit if you require information about access and facilities provides.

### **Swindon Central Library,**

Regent Circus.

Lending Library

01793 463238

Reference Library

01793 463240

### **Chiseldon Library**

7, New Road, Chiseldon.

Contact: 01793 740728

### **Covingham Library**

St Paul's Drive, Covingham.

Contact: 01793 520185

### **Even Swindon Library**

Even Swindon Infants School,  
Hughes Street.

Contact: 01793 486103

**Gorse Hill Library**

Community Centre,  
Chapel Street.

Contact: 01793 532678

**Highworth Library**

Eastrop, Highworth.

Contact: 01793 463500

**Liden Library**

Barrington Close, Liden.

Contact: 01793 463504

**Moredon & Rodbourne**

**Cheney Library**

Church Walk North,  
Off Moredon Road.

Contact: 01793 464490

**Old Town Library**

Victoria Road.

Contact: 01793 616289

**Park Library**

Cavendish Square, Park.

Contact: 01793 463501

**Penhill Library**

Penhill Drive.

Contact: 01793 726943

**Pinehurst Library**

The Circle, Pinehurst.

Contact: 01793 616271

**Upper Stratton Library**

Beechcroft Road, Upper Stratton.

Contact: 01793 464495

**Walcot Library**

Somerville Road, Walcot.

Contact: 01793 616287

**West Swindon Library**

Link Centre, Whitehill Way.

Contact: 01793 465555

**Wroughton Library**

Ellendune Centre, Wharf  
Road, Wroughton.

Contact: 01793 464496

**Mobile Libraries**

Contact: 01793 465555

**Home Library**

For people unable to visit  
a library

Contact: 01793 463505

E-mail: [lidenlibrary@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:lidenlibrary@swindon.gov.uk)

## STEAM - MUSEUM OF THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY



Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2TA

Tel: 01793 466646

Fax: 01793 466615

E-mail:

[steampostbox@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:steampostbox@swindon.gov.uk)

Web: [steam-museum.org.uk](http://steam-museum.org.uk)

Textphone: 01793 466618

The Museum exists to arouse your curiosity - helping you to discover, understand and enjoy 'our story' - the story of one of the most famous railways in the world and the men and women who made it possible. We want to enrich the quality of life for all.

### Getting Around and Facilities

The Museum's exhibitions are laid out on the ground floor, with lift access to all viewing balconies and the Wall of Names Gallery, and trouble-free access for pushchairs. Level access is provided onto the footplate of the Train Driving Simulator and Dean Goods 0-6-0 tender locomotive No 2516. There are handrailed steps into the pit underneath Caerphilly Castle No. 4073.

The Shop and Café are fully accessible. Seating is provided throughout the Museum. We are pleased to be able to provide the following facilities and services:

- An experience of sights, sounds, smells and touch
- Free admission to carers or helpers assisting a disabled visitor(s)
- Free loan of a wheelchair, or motorised scooter

# STEAM

- Fully accessible toilets, fitted with call point
- Personal guiding scheme for unaccompanied disabled visitors (booking required)
- Subtitled video and large print information panels throughout the Museum
- Low level counters at the Ticket Desk
- Induction Loop system at the Ticket Desk
- Easy to read signage
- Room for lectures and conferences has infra-red hearing enhancement receivers and Soundfield loud speakers for use with radio microphones
- Guide, hearing and companion dogs welcome (dog bowls available)
- Automatic front doors
- Accessible toilet with adjustable height adult plinth

## Parking

Parking is available in the McArthur Glen Designer Outlet Centre car parks - hourly charges apply. Parking for blue badge holders is free.

Free parking for disabled visitors is available within 25metres of the Museum. Disabled visitors can be dropped-off directly outside the Museum's entrance. Please telephone for directions.

## Opening Hours

The Museum is open daily, all year (Easter-Oct)

Summer Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm Sun, 11am-5.30pm

Winter closing 5.00pm

Closed: Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day



## Swindon Arts Centre



Devizes Road, Old Town,  
Swindon SN1 4BJ Tel: 01793 466565

Swindon Arts Centre offers a range of activities, including theatre shows, comedy, jazz, folk, blues, film, lectures, art classes and courses, exhibitions and more.

In 2002 the Centre benefited from a programme of works which provided a new entrance and disabled access.

### Facilities

Access to the building is via an open courtyard. The nearest disabled parking spaces are in Britannia Place Car Park, approximately 150 metres away.

The Box Office has split-level counters for ease of use and is fitted with a hearing loop microphone system.

An accessible toilet facility is available on the ground floor.

There are Infra-red receivers for people with or without a hearing aid to book for use in the theatre - please pre-book.

# SWINDON ARTS CENTRE

Access to the auditorium is via the public lift, and there are up to four wheelchair spaces available for each performance at the front of the theatre, which are bookable in advance.

Backstage facilities are accessible via the Stage Door on the side of the building, and then by the backstage lift. The stage, Green Room, and dressing rooms, one of which contains an accessible toilet and shower facility, can all be reached this way.

The exhibition galleries, cafe and art studio/meeting room are all accessible. The lighting/projection room is not wheelchair accessible.

## Opening Hours

Courses, Classes & Meeting Facilities: Monday - Saturday from 10.00 am.

**Box Office:** Monday - Friday 12.00 noon - 5.00 pm, Saturday 10.00 am - 1.00 pm and for a limited time on performance evenings.

**Cafe:** Opening times vary - call 01793 614837 for information.



# Swindon Museum and Art Gallery



Bath Road, Swindon SN1 4BA  
01793 466556

Swindon Museum and Art Gallery is located in an adapted Victorian building with a mid twentieth century extension. The building has a grade II listed status.

**Swindon Museum** houses collections and displays of local geology, archaeology and social history, plus a new Egyptian exhibition and a crocodile.

**The Art Gallery** is home to the Swindon Collection of Twentieth Century British Art.

We provide a varied programme of events, trails, talks and activities plus an education programme which is becoming increasingly popular with local schools.

**Admission is FREE**

## Facilities

There is one disabled parking space and dropping-off place directly outside the museum - please phone in advance to book the parking space.

The nearest alternative car park which has a disabled bay is in Prospect Place, off Victoria Road approx 2 mins walk away.

# SWINDON MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

The Art Gallery has infra-red hearing enhancement with southfield loudspeakers. There are personal receivers for hearing impaired people to wear (with or without a hearing aid), in classes and presentations where microphones are used.

The temporary exhibition room is accessible to wheelchair users, as is one other room on the ground floor of the museum.

Access to the Museum on 1st floor is by 11 stairs  
Access to the 1st floor Art Gallery is by 11 steps.

There is no wheelchair accessible toilet within the building (there is an accessible public toilet across Victoria Road, 50 meters away).

A reference copy of the Swindon Collection catalogue is available on request.

## Swindon Museum and Art Gallery Opening Times

Mondays to Saturdays 10am - 5pm

Sundays 2pm - 5pm Closed Bank Holidays

If you would like more information or think you may need help to attend a particular activity or event, please contact us in advance and we will be happy to help you.

**There is no wheelchair access to the Art Gallery.  
There is very limited access to the Museum collections.**



## Richard Jefferies Museum



**Marlborough Road,  
Coate, Swindon  
(next to Sun Inn)  
01793 466556**

The birthplace of Victorian writer and journalist Richard Jefferies, this Grade II listed building houses a museum dedicated to this author.

The displays are in the process of being improved. A new resource area on the ground floor of the building opened in September 2002.

**Admission is FREE**

### **Facilities**

The nearest car park is unsurfaced and is located at Coate Country Park, approx 5 mins walk from the Museum.

The accessible Sun Inn bus and coach stop 10 metres from the Museum gate (no signal or dropped kerb crossing to bus stop opposite) can be used for setting down.

# RICHARD JEFFERIES MUSEUM

## **Ground floor toilet**

Ground floor is accessible to wheelchair users.

The first and second floors are reached by very narrow and uneven stairs (no lift).

## **Richard Jefferies Museum Opening Hours**

Open from the first Sunday in May and every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month until middle of September 2pm - 5pm.

If you would like more information please contact us in advance of your visit and we will be happy to help you.

A Study Area is now open, which gives a summary of the life and work of Richard Jefferies and Alfred Williams.



# The Wyvern Theatre



Theatre Square,  
Swindon SN1 1QN  
Box Office 01793 524481,  
Admin 01793 525534

This award winning theatre was designed by Casson & Condor and was opened by H.M. the Queen in 1971. The Wyvern is named after a mythical beast, allied to the dragon and the griffin, which was once the emblem of the Kings of Wessex. The Wyvern Theatre is a multi-purpose building, intending to be used by all people of all ages. The Theatre has a mixed-programme policy, with the emphasis placed on 'something for everyone'.

## **Concessions**

These are applicable on many of our performances but must be applied at the time of booking.

The Wyvern Theatre has places for five people who use wheelchairs. Box A, entered from the main foyer, has a narrow ramp access not suiting larger wheelchairs, and its own standing user toilet.

We have three permanent wheelchair places with level access from a side entrance at the front of the auditorium. Additional spaces in the front row for individuals and parties of young people using wheelchairs are available on request

# THE WYVERN THEATRE

There is free admission for a carer or assistant. Wheelchair users may attend without an assistant if they wish.

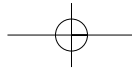
There is an infra-red Sennheiser hearing enhancement system in the theatre for people with hearing impairment. Users pay a £1 deposit, refunded by theatre staff after the performance, on return of the equipment.

Pick up a personal receiver at the box office on arrival. You can pre-order your headset or neck loop when booking your tickets and use the talking sign device in the foyer to check your receiver before you enter the auditorium. There is an induction loop fitted at the box office.

One of the annual pantomime performances each year is signed.

## **Getting there**

The closest parking for people using the theatre side entrance to reach front of auditorium wheelchair place, are accessible Blue Badge user bays in the ground floor of the Wyvern multi-storey car park. From here, cross Islington Street to the green entrance in the wall of the theatre, and use the entryphone to call staff to welcome you inside.

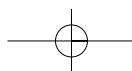
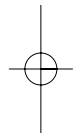


There are four Blue Badge bays on Level 3 of the Wyvern multi-storey car park, 50 meters from the entrance foyer across a level access to the first floor Harlequin lounge bar.

The lower foyer bars where interval coffees and refreshments are served, are accessible by stairs only. You can arrange with staff before hand for refreshments to be brought to your seat.

Guide and registered assistance dogs are welcomed in all parts of the theatre and bars.

Theatre staff will be pleased to assist, answer any queries and make your visit as easy and enjoyable as possible.  
Phone 01793 524481.



## Talking Newspaper....



Swindon has had its own TALKING NEWSPAPER service for 20 years. It is a registered charity and is maintained by voluntary donations.

### What is it?

A weekly, 90-minute audio tape of news and magazine items sent out by post to anyone who has problems with conventional reading.

### How do I play it?

On any ordinary cassette player. If you don't have one, we can loan one free of charge.

### Any costs involved?

No. It's a FREE SERVICE to over 200 local people each week. This service is provided by a team of volunteers from studios based in Victoria Road, Swindon.

We also supply optional informational tapes produced by us or other organisations such as Swindon Borough Council and Age Concern to help keep you in touch locally.

We are delighted to produce the audio version of this first Access Guide for the Swindon area.

### How to contact us:

By PHONE: 01793-522511

E-MAIL: [Stan@swindontalkingnews.org.uk](mailto:Stan@swindontalkingnews.org.uk)

Address: Craven House, Victoria Road, Swindon

Visit our web site: [www.swindontalkingnews.org.uk](http://www.swindontalkingnews.org.uk)



Means there are staff who can escort people with a visual impairment



Means there is microphone equipment for use by people whose hearing aid has a "T" switch



Means there is equipment to enhance microphone sound through infra-red headset and neckloop receivers



Means route or facility with full accessibility



Means powered scooter can be borrowed



Means manual wheelchair can be borrowed



Means staff assistance arrangement



Means sign interpreted performances are given

Guide , Hearing and Assistance dogs are welcome at all Borough Council venues. Ask the venue for help in choosing a seat or for other staff assistance.

# **Swindon Coalition of Disabled People**

**Suite 7, Pembroke Centre  
Cheney Manor, Swindon  
Wiltshire, SN2 2PQ**

The Coalition of Disabled People is a registered charity managed by an elected committee of Trustees who are disabled people. We work towards the empowerment of disabled people to enable us to control for ourselves the decisions and choices available to us.

We are a partner on Swindon Borough Council's Equality Forum - and participate in their Best Value and Social Inclusion policy-making process. We are also members of a number of associations and partnerships including the British Council of Disabled People, Swindon Information Federation and Swindon Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Disabled people should enjoy the same rights as everyone, to go to the same places and do the same things. We are delighted to support the first Swindon Access Guide.

To find out about free membership and receive our free quarterly magazine...

Phone/Fax: 01793 430045

Typetalk: 18001 01793 430045

e-mail: office@scodp.co.uk

or visit our website: [www.scodp.co.uk](http://www.scodp.co.uk)





## Swindon Borough Council Cultural Services

Making the arts, libraries and heritage sites in Swindon  
accessible to all

Swindon Dance  
cre8 studios  
Lydiard House  
STEAM  
Museum & Art Gallery  
Richard Jefferies Museum  
Libraries  
Arts Centre  
Artscape  
Wyvern Theatre

[www.swindon.gov.uk](http://www.swindon.gov.uk)

**Please tell us if you require this brochure in any other  
language or format by contacting Customer Services  
on 01793 463725**

