

## Access Guide for Hullabaloo in the Park 2023



### Get in touch with us

If you would like to speak to someone about your access needs for the festival, you can email us at [info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk) or you call us on the following numbers:

- The Theatre Hullabaloo office on **01325 405680** between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday – please note the office will be closed between Tuesday 25 July and Tuesday 1 August 2023
- Box office (partnered with Darlington Hippodrome) on **01325 405405** Monday to Saturday 10am – 6pm
- Festival mobile – **07375 994765** between 10.30am and 4pm Wednesday 26 July – Sunday 30 July 2023

You can also text or send a Whatsapp message or voice note to the Festival mobile number above and we will reply between 10.30am and 4pm Wednesday 26 – Sunday 30 July.

### Dates the festival is running:

Wednesday 26 – Sunday 30 July 2023

### The overall festival times are below:

Wednesday 26 July	10am until 4pm
Thursday 27 July	10am until 4pm
Friday 28 July	10am until 4pm
Saturday 29 July	10.30am until 4.30pm
Sunday 30 July	10.30am until 6pm

### Festival Event Staff

All Festival Event Staff and Volunteers will be wearing Orange Tshirts. They can answer any questions you have and help you find activities.

## **Getting there**

South Park is in Darlington.

There are several entrances to the park, however there are two main entrances to the festival activity.

1. Parkside Entrance (use postcode DL1 5TG)
2. Victoria Embankment Entrance (use postcode DL1 5JS)

## **Information Point / Hullabaloo Hub**

There will be a Hullabaloo Hub near both entrances where you can get all of the information you need about the festival and to book your tickets. This will be a Theatre Hullabaloo branded white gazebo. Come and see us if you have any questions or need help.

There is a lost child point at both hubs.

## **Disabled parking**

Blue badge holders should follow the usual guidelines around parking, and it is the responsibility of the badge holder to park appropriately.

There are some disabled parking spaces at the Parkside Entrance to the park. As a blue badge holder, you may be entitled to park on the double yellow lines outside of all entrances to South Park providing there are no loading restrictions in that area, allowing you to park here for up to 3 hours when displaying the time clock and badge. Blue badge holders cannot park in loading/unloading bays.

## **Wheelchair access**

All of the performance spaces (“stages”) can be reached by a wheelchair via well maintained concrete paths all the way around the park. All information points and the Welfare Tent will be right on the concrete paths.

The accessible step-free routes (for wheelchairs and buggies) have been identified on the Festival Map but if you are unsure, just ask one of our lovely festival staff members and they can assist you. It may take longer to use the step-free routes around the park, so you may need to allow for a little extra time to arrive for a performance or activity.

There are some gentle slopes on the step free route shown on the map.

Although the paths leading to all stages are wheelchair accessible, the performance spaces themselves are all on grass. There will be plastic flooring on the Dragonfly Stage and near the Food Vendors and Family Picnic Area shown on the Festival Map so these spaces will be accessible to wheelchair users.

You can see images and videos of all performance spaces in this Google Drive Folder.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bfsLMactbgIUd2gjPZ1blpXCBUOEd7Cg?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bfsLMactbgIUd2gjPZ1blpXCBUOEd7Cg?usp=drive_link)

All activity on the Ladybird Stage is accessible to wheelchairs as it will be visible from all concrete paths in that area and there will be no need to move on to the grass for this stage.

### **Disabled toilets**

South Park and all of the permanent facilities within it are managed by Darlington Borough Council. This includes the toilets and café. There is one ungendered accessible toilet in this toilet block, and you may need a key from the café to access this.

In addition to the toilets provided by the council, there will be portaloos available for people attending the festival, including a wheelchair-accessible toilet. These toilets will be towards the Victoria Embankment entrance. See the map for more information.

### **Assistance dogs**

Assistance dogs are welcome across the whole festival. If you need any more information on potential triggers for an assistant dog (for example food, puppets, loud noises), please see a member of the festival staff team or contact us in advance by emailing [info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk) or calling us on 01325 405680.

### **First Aid**

There is a First Aid point at the Welfare tent shown on the map. The Welfare tent is near South park café.

If you feel unwell, ask the first aiders to help you.

### **Ear Defenders and Sensory Equipment**

We will have ear defenders and sensory equipment available to borrow from each hub.

## Distances between 'Stages'

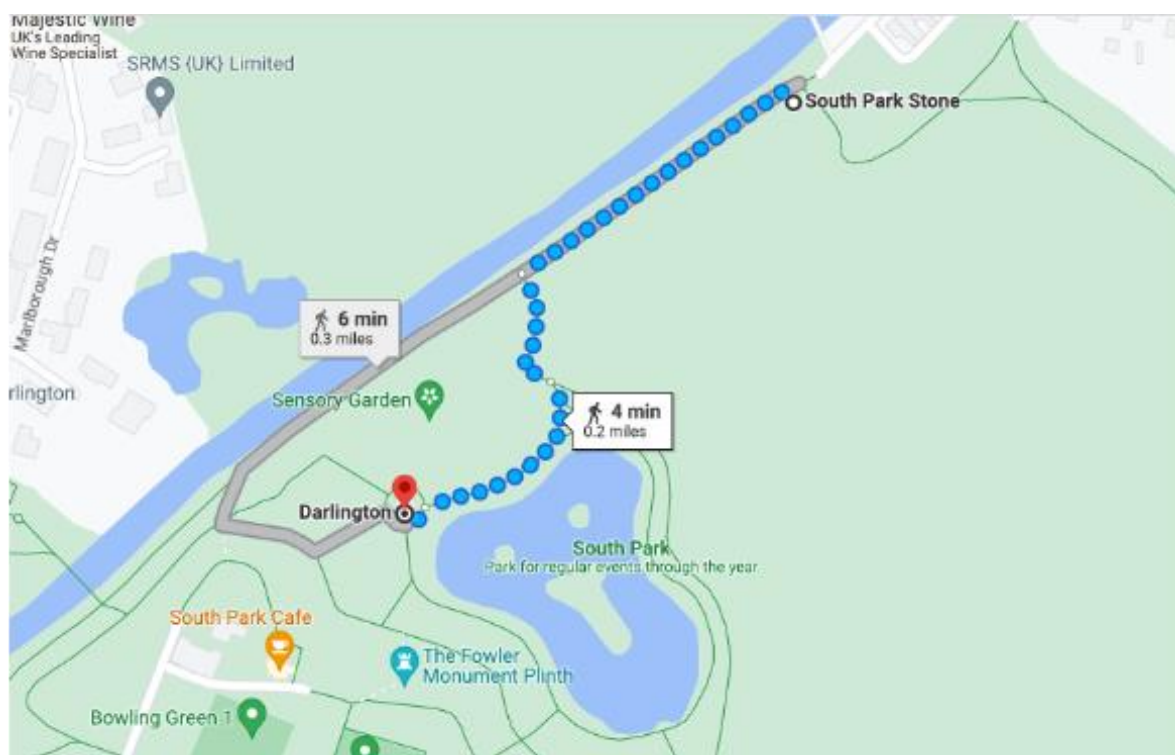
If you are attending a specific event, we recommend leaving at least 15 minutes to get to the activity/performance you have pre-booked for to allow enough time to find which space the activity is taking place in and for us to check your tickets (if the event is ticketed).

Below are the timings to get to from each entrance:

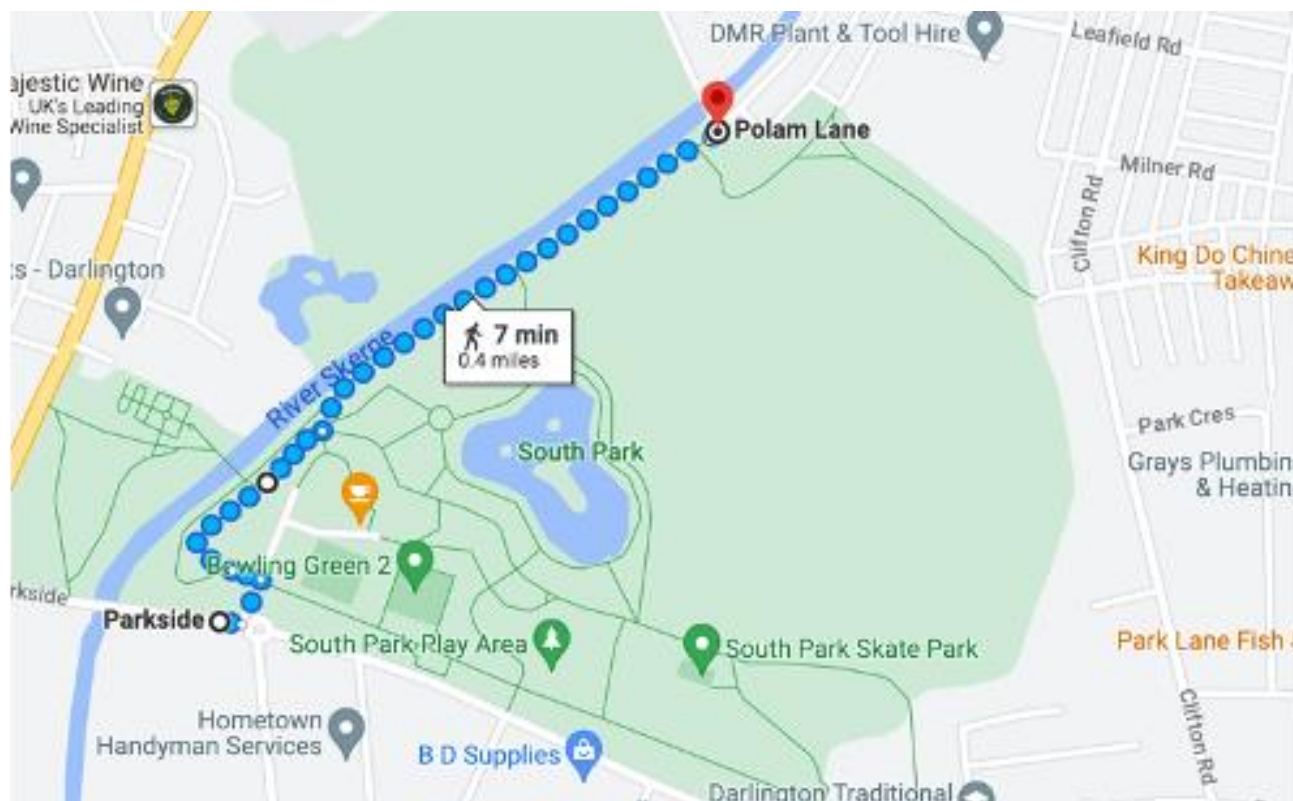
Parkside entrance to Ladybird stage in the centre of the festival: Approximately 4 minutes



Victoria Embankment to Ladybird stage in the centre of the festival: Approximately 4 minutes



Parkside entrance to Victoria Embankment entrance – whole length of festival/park: 7 minutes



Please note this is likely to take longer if you have children with you.

### Visual Stories and Easy Read documents

For Visual Stories and Easy Read documents scroll to the bottom of the pages below.

There is a Visual Story available for **Hidden Treasures**

<https://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/shows/hidden-treasures/>

There is an Easy Read document for **The Lost Feather**

<https://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/shows/the-lost-feather/>

There is an Easy read Synopsis for **Look Mum, No Hands!**

<https://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/free-shows/look-mum-no-hands/>

## **British Sign Language (BSL) Interpreted and non-verbal performances**

We have one show in this year's programme that has integrated BSL, meaning that the interpreter is also a performer so will be signing in the show rather than standing to one side. We hope this makes the experience more inclusive for everyone.

The show is **Hare & Tortoise**. More information can be found here:

[www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/shows/hare-and-tortoise/](http://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/shows/hare-and-tortoise/)

We have one staff member who speaks BSL at Level 2 based at one of our free drop in craft tables. They will be wearing a big badge to identify themselves.

There are also shows in the programme that are largely, if not fully, non-verbal, allowing D/deaf or hearing-impaired audiences to join the experience as well as those where English is not a first language.

These shows are:

### **Early Weaves**

Non-verbal show

[www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/shows/early-weaves](http://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/shows/early-weaves)

### **Look Mum, No Hands!**

Non-verbal show

[www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/free-shows/look-mum-no-hands](http://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/free-shows/look-mum-no-hands)

### **The Bug Hotel**

This show is mostly singing in various languages so will be suitable for audiences who have English as a second language.

<https://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/shows/the-bug-hotel/>

As mentioned above, there are some shows that have no or very little spoken word, so these would be suitable for non-English speaking audiences or audiences where English is not their first language.

## **Neurodiverse-friendly performances and activities**

Although we hope the festival will be accessible to all, we do have specific “neurodiverse friendly” performances and activities where families with additional needs might feel more comfortable.

The performance or activity will not have been changed from the standard version, but by identifying it as “neurodiverse friendly” we hope to provide an inclusive environment where parents and families feel comfortable in that space no matter what their needs. This is because, in theory, every family in that performance has experience with neurodiversity in some form and may be more familiar with the behaviours within these families e.g., more noise or movement.

Anyone is welcome to book tickets for any show or activity that they feel is suitable for them and their family. If they have a neurodiverse child, they do not have to attend the identified “neurodiverse friendly” performance show. Similarly, you do not have to have a neurodiverse person in your group to attend a “neurodiverse friendly” show.

We have three specific neurodiverse-friendly activities in the 2023 festival programme and these are:

**Egg & Spoon** - performance

[www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/shows/egg-and-spoon-2](http://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/shows/egg-and-spoon-2)

**Hare & Tortoise** - performance

[www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/shows/hare-and-tortoise/](http://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/shows/hare-and-tortoise/)

**Giant's Picnic**

[www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/shows/giants-picnic-ndf](http://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/shows/giants-picnic-ndf)

For the neurodiverse-friendly group sessions for our Giant's Picnic, we're offering a 45-minute slot on each of the days which enables up to 4 families (where at least 1 child in the family has a neurodiverse condition) to enjoy an adapted session.

The adaptations, in this case, are reduced numbers, a fixed 45-minute time slot and a specific staff member to support this session. Because this is a group session, it is likely to mean that the session includes groups of people who are familiar, so you can investigate the space in your own time.

In addition to the specific neurodiverse-friendly sessions listed above and marked on the website, we hope that families will find a range of activities at the festival to entertain them at an appropriate level.

We know from families that engage with us at The Hullabaloo that one of the barriers to attending activities with a neurodiverse child is often around having a specific time to arrive and participate in an activity. For this reason, we have identified bookable slots for some of our free activities to allow you to plan your visit. These sessions aren't neurodiverse-friendly specific shows but are activities to book into as one family group.

These activities are:

### **Hidden Treasures**

[www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/shows/hidden-treasures](http://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/shows/hidden-treasures)

### **Elswyth's Shed audio experience**

[www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/shows/elsweths-shed](http://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/shows/elsweths-shed)

### **Happy Hammer Hapa Zome**

[www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/shows/happy-hammer-hapa-zome-2](http://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/shows/happy-hammer-hapa-zome-2)

Tickets for all of the activities mentioned above can be booked as standard via the box office in person at Darlington Hippodrome, on the phone at 01325 405405 or online at [www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/hullabaloo-in-the-park](http://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/hullabaloo-in-the-park)

For the neurodiverse-friendly sessions in particular, we are able to offer the following:

- pre-show information is available to help you prepare for your visit. This will include more details about the show, for example, if puppets are used, if there is a flashing light sequence, and if there are any sudden loud noises. Where possible, we will also include a Visual Story for the show itself.
- you can peek into the performance space and meet the performers before the show begins (pop us an email at [info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk) to arrange this in advance).

If you want any further information on any of our shows to be able to decide if the show is suitable for your young person, then please get in touch with us at 01325 405680 or [info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk) and we can have a further discussion.



## **Tickets**

If you are attending a ticketed performance or activity, we recommend booking tickets in advance either at box office in person at Darlington Hippodrome, by calling 01325 405405 or visiting our website [www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/hullabaloo-in-the-park](http://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/hullabaloo-in-the-park)

There may be some tickets available to buy on the day. If you would like to know on the day which shows and activities have tickets available, go to the Parkside Hub and our box office staff will help.

If you have booked a ticket for an event, you do not need to present your ticket on arrival. Instead, we will have a list of names to check off as you arrive. So all you need is the name the tickets are booked under.

You do not need a ticket to attend the festival generally.

## **Waiting times and queues**

We understand that it can be difficult to wait and queue with your young people, so if you turn up to an activity that is busy and currently has no more room, the staff member there will be able to advise on the next available time. You will then be able to go away and enjoy other areas of the festival and return back at that given time, rather than standing in a queue. If you would prefer to wait, you may do so.

## **Companion tickets**

Companion tickets are for adults with a registered disability who wish to bring another adult to assist and support them in bringing their child(ren) to a performance. A disabled adult is entitled to one free companion ticket.

If you are a disabled adult and are entitled to a complimentary Companion ticket to enable you to bring your child to an activity or show at Hullabaloo in the Park, you can book this ticket with the box office.

Because these tickets are complimentary, they are not available to book online. Instead, these tickets must be booked by contacting our Box Office either in-person at Darlington Hippodrome or over the phone at 01325 405405.

### **Contact us**

If you'd like to contact and discuss your additional needs or the needs of someone in your group, email us at [info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk) or call the office on 01325 405680