

Wigtown Festival Company



Access Guide

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Introduction

Founded in 2007, Wigtown Festival Company is an award-winning literary charity (limited by guarantee) which runs the annual Wigtown Book Festival. It also delivers an annual programme of literature development activities in the Dumfries & Galloway (D&G) region of south-west Scotland.

We develop new audiences, help writers fulfil their potential, support the region's literature sector, and create opportunities for young people to enjoy and learn through writing and storytelling. Our organisation is based in Scotland's National Book Town, Wigtown, a remote rural community of just under 900 people.

We aspire to make Dumfries and Galloway a better place to be a writer and a reader – a place where literature changes lives. The Company is based at 26 South Main Street, Wigtown, DG8 9EH.

Wigtown Festival Company firmly believes in enabling access for all and continues to work towards providing greater access facilities. This statement offers advice on access currently available.

Wigtown is rural and predominantly surrounded by countryside. The closest city is Glasgow which is 94 miles North. Wigtown is situated on a hill with a gradual approach – the situation of each venue varies and is described later in this statement.

Wigtown Festival Company has a policy to ensure that all venues, as far as reasonably possible, are accessible to everyone. The specific facilities are detailed under each venue. There may be occasions when disabled access is not possible e.g. for a site specific event such as a nature walk, or literary event at an historic venue. In these circumstances, visitors would be made aware of this.

Venues

Wigtown Book Festival takes place across several venues in and around Wigtown.

Primarily these are:

1. (Annandale Distillery) Festival Marquee, The Gardens, Central Square, Wigtown, DG8 9EH
2. The County Buildings, DG8 9JH
(**Main Hall/Nature Room/Festival Cafe/Library/The Tasting Room**),
3. The McNeillie Tent, Behind 7 South Main Street, Wigtown, DG8 9EH
4. The Merse, Lochancroft Lane, DG8 9JA
5. Festival Box Office, 26 South Main Street, DG8 9EH
6. Festival Bookshop, 11 North Main Street, DG8 9HN
7. The Hall, Wigtown Primary School, New Road, DG8 9JE
8. The Dining Room, Wigtown Primary School, New Road, DG8 9JE
9. Sacred Heart Church, Wigtown Square, 6 Chapel Court, DG8 9ET
10. Louis McGuffie Memorial Gardens, Central Square, Wigtown, DG8 9EH
11. New Chapter Books, South Main Street, Wigtown, DG8 9EH
12. The Open Book, Wigtown, DG8 9HQ
13. ReadingLasses Bookshop & Cafe, (including Sauna by the Square), 17 South Main Street, Wigtown, DG8 9EH
14. YA Central, 12 North Main Street, Wigtown, DG8 9HL

The accessibility information for each venue is listed below

1. (Annandale Distillery) Festival Marquee, The Gardens, DG8 9EH

The Festival Marquee is situated in the Gardens in the central square in Wigtown. Access to the marquee is via pavements which have lowered kerbs. Rubber matting allows for access across the grass to the marquee entrance. Inside the marquee, there is a wooden floor. There are no steps into the marquee. The marquee set up includes two large screens, visible from all rows. The marquee also has a loop system for people with hearing impairments. Seats can be reserved for those with disabilities – please advise on booking.

2. County Buildings, Wigtown, DG8 9JH

(Main Hall/Festival Cafe/The Nature Room/Library/The Hub)

The County Buildings is situated within Wigtown Square. From the pavement, there are two shallow steps or a ramp to the right of the front door, accessible through a red gate, which is normally tied open. There is a further shallow step into the building, or a ramp leading inside the front door (95cm). **Male and Female Toilets** are located to back left of the foyer and to the right once through the door and an **Easy Access Toilet** through the second alcove on the right, beyond the Library. The building is fitted with a **Lift** (93cm/143cm) which is situated through a door to the back left of the foyer and then immediately to the left. The lift enables access to the first floor – Main Hall, Festival Cafe and **Easy Access Toilet** – and also to the second floor – The Nature Room. All doors within the building are double doors which enable wheelchair access. Similarly, all rooms offer wheelchair access internally. In the event of an emergency when the lift cannot be accessed, the building is fitted with three **Evac Chairs** which the staff within the building are trained to use. The Main Hall is fitted with a **loop system** and has a large screen, visible from all rows.

3. The McNeillie Tent, Behind The Old Bank Bookshop, Wigtown, DG8 9EH

The McNeillie Tent is located behind The Old Bank Bookshop, accessed via entrance at the between The Old Bank Book Shop and No 6 Studio. Access to the marquee via pavements which have lowered kerbs and a concrete path. Rubber mats will be in place across the grass to the entrance of the marquee - this will be accessible for a wheelchair. Inside the marquee, there is a wooden floor. There are no steps into the marquee. Seats can be reserved for those with disabilities – please advise on booking.

4. The Merse, Lochancroft Lane, DG8 9JA

The Merse is located on Lochancroft Lane in between New Road and Jubilee Terrace. There is access from Lochancroft Lane into a car park area. There is a concrete ramp at the front of the building through the main door which provides disabled access. The floor in the building is wooden.

5. The Festival Box Office and Number 26

Wigtown Festival Company offices are within 26 South Main Street. It is accessible through the shop through the main door on South Main Street, and through the side entrance which is accessible through the pend. This door is not always open, but a member of staff in the Festival Bookshop or Box Office if required. The box office is situated on the ground floor at the front of the Festival Bookshop. The interior of the shop is wheelchair accessible.

The box office where tickets are available in advance of the festival and during the event is on the ground floor of Wigtown Festival Company premises at 26 South Main Street, through the shop.

Seating is available in the Box Office and Shop on request. The floor is laminate in the shop and box office, the entire area is well lit with spot lights.

The counter in the box office is staggered at two heights allowing easy access for wheelchair users to purchase tickets and make enquiries.

All venues offer clear signage regarding events, payment methods and directions to other venues. The box office does not have a loop system, but all visitors are attended to on a one-to-one basis. The box office can also offer a pen and pad to assist those who cannot verbally express their enquiries and for a volunteer who cannot express their responses to visitors who are deaf or hard of hearing. A wheelchair, zimmer and tri-wheel walker are both available for loan from the box office, on request.

6. The Festival Bookshop, 11 North Main Street, DG8 9HN

The Festival Bookshop is situated on the ground floor of 11 North Main Street which is accessed via 3 steps from the front door at number 11 North Main Street or via a metal ramp from the side door which is accessed from New Road. The Festival Bookshop is easily accessible for wheelchair users.

7. The Hall (Children's Festival), Wigtown Primary, New Road, DG8 9JE

The Hall is situated on the ground floor of the school. There is a ramp at the main entrance and there are double doors leading into the school. The Hall is situated opposite the main entrance and has double doors for entry. The accessible toilet is accessed via the top playground. See details below. Parking is available in the school playground. Door widths for this venue Main external door 88cm, The Hall internal door 125cm

8. The Dining Room (Children's Festival), Wigtown Primary, New Road, DG8 9JE

The Dining Room is wheelchair accessible by entering the top playground via the pavement at the far end of the school. Entrance to the Dining Room is by using the entrance to the school Nursery. Once the building has been entered, the Dining Room is through a door on the right. There is an accessible toilet situated next to the Nursery room entry door. Parking is available in the school playground. Middle playground external door 90cm
Middle level internal door 75cm
Dining Room access door 88cm

9. Sacred Heart Church, 6 Chapel Court, DG8 9ET

There is step-free access from the road outside into the church grounds. The main entrance to Sacred Heart Church (1m) has easy access. Sacred Heart is just around the corner from the lorry park, which contains disabled parking spaces. There is no induction loop system.

10. Louis McGuffie Memorial Gardens, Town Square, DG8 9EH

The Gardens are situated in the central square in Wigtown, beside the Festival Marquee. Access to the garden is via pavements which have lowered kerbs and gated access wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair or pushchair. Portaloo toilets are located here.

11. New Chapter Books, 25 South Main Street, DG8 9EH

New Chapter Books is situated on South Main Street opposite the town square. Access via lower kerbs is available to the left of the shop and additional accessible parking is available in the Lorry Park at the end of South Main Street opposite the County Buildings. There is one small step to access the shop.

12. The Open Book, 2 High Street, DG8 9HQ

The Open Book is situated on High Street opposite Wigtown Emporium. Access via lowered kerbs is available beside the entrance to the shop and additional accessible parking is available in the Lorry Park at the end of South Main Street opposite the County Buildings. There is a small lip at the doorway of approximately 3 cm.

13. YA Central, 12 North Main Street, Wigtown, DG8 9HL

YA Central is located at 12 North Main Street - access is via a door in front of the building. There are two shallow steps to enter the building. Access via pavement with lowered kerbs.

Emergency Procedure

In the event of an emergency (fire/evacuation/flooding etc.) staff and volunteers will be on hand to assist in aiding the safe egress of all members of the public to a designated safe zone. In the case of the County Buildings, if required, Evac Chair trained staff will be on site to help in the event that it is not appropriate to use the lift facilities.

Public Toilets

Public toilets are available within the County Buildings which are open during building hours. The Easy Access toilets described here all have clear space for a wheelchair and have grab rails to the left and the right of the WC. The horizontal rail to the right is a pull down rail to enable maximum space for access to the WC. Easy Access toilets are fitted with a red alarm cord. Toilets are well lit with ceiling spotlights. The floor is non-slip laminate. All sinks are fitted with lever taps. There is also access to a disabled toilet at Number 11 North Main Street - access via a metal ramp from the side door which is accessed from New Road. If the door is locked there is a bell which can be used to alert staff.

Additional public toilets are available at the junction between North Main Street and High Vennel, beside the cash machine, these have a shallow step in. These are open 24 hours. Toilets, by way of 2 portaloos, can also be found in the Gardens adjacent to the Festival Marquee.

Car Parking and Arrival

Car parking is available around the town square in Wigtown, is free and is well lit by streetlights. There are two Blue Badge parking bays on South Main Street, where there is a lowered kerb to the pavement. 6 spaces opposite the County Buildings are designated for Blue Badge holders and electric vehicle charging points (including 1 accessible EV charging space) can be found in the Lorry park to the right of The Old Bank Bookshop during the festival which has a flat, tarmacked surface.

Visitors can be dropped off outside the County Buildings, on South Main Street or North Main Street. From here, they can access all venues in the County Buildings. The road here is closed to traffic and therefore there is no kerb. Drop off is not available outside the Festival Marquee and Festival Bookshop during busy periods on weekends due to a street market, however, support is available from the box office, where a wheelchair and/or volunteer are available to assist visitors to the Festival Marquee and Festival Bookshop.

Additional Needs & Concessions

Assistance dogs are welcome in all venues.

Loop Systems for D/deaf Visitors

The Festival Marquee, County Buildings Main Hall and The Print Room are equipped with induction loop technology for d/Deaf people. There are also specific events where there will be a designated BSL - these are identified on our online programme.

Visually Impaired

If you require a large print programme, please contact the office, they will be printed on request. Information regarding large print titles and audio books relating to festival events can be acquired from the Wigtown Festival Company's shop at 26 South Main Street. Signage is being upgraded as replacements are required, to ensure that colours, fonts and sizes are in line with guidelines for clear print material.

Carer Tickets

Free tickets are available for all carers where an individual is unable to attend an event independently. These can only be booked directly through the box office – in person, or by telephoning 01988 403222. Access requirements will be taken at time of booking and appropriate arrangements made based on the information provided. Unfortunately carer concessions are not available for tastings, lunches and dinners.

Under-26 Concessions

All tickets to the YA programme at Wigtown Book Festival are free for under-26s - these can be ordered online. Tickets to any other event (excluding tastings/breakfasts/lunches/dinners) are also available free of charge for under-26s by contacting the Festival box office.

Hidden Disabilities

Not all disabilities are visible – some are not immediately obvious. They include autism, chronic pain, and learning difficulties as well as mental health conditions, mobility, speech impairments, and sensory loss such as speech, sight loss, hearing loss, or deafness. They also include respiratory conditions as well as chronic conditions such as diabetes, chronic pain, and sleep disorders when these significantly impact day-to-day life. Although you may not be able to see these invisible impairments and conditions, they're still there.

People living with these often face barriers in their daily lives including a lack of understanding and negative attitudes. So some choose to wear the Sunflower lanyard to discreetly identify that they may need support, help, or just a little more time in shops, transport, or public spaces.” - www.hiddendisabilitiesstore.com

Orange lanyards will be available in the Box Office for anyone with a non-visible disability. Our volunteers will be trained to recognise the hidden disability sunflower. If you have any specific needs or any further questions, please contact the Box Office at **01988 403222**.

Travel & Accommodation

Getting Here

By road:

From the South - follow M6 onto the M74, leave the M74 at Gretna (junction 22) and follow the signs for A75 Stranraer (drive time approx. 1.5 hours). At Newton Stewart roundabout, pick up the signs for Wigtown, 1st exit on the left.

From the North -

From Glasgow - follow the A77 to Ayr. From Ayr take the signs for A713 Castle Douglas. At New Galloway pick up the A712 'Queens Way' to Newton Stewart then onto Wigtown. *Alternatively, from Ayr, you can follow the A77 to Girvan, then A714 to Newton Stewart via Barrhill.*

From Edinburgh - follow the M8 to Glasgow and then pick up the A77 (as per directions from Glasgow). *Alternatively, head south on the A702 to Abington and onto the M74, exit at Moffat (junction 15) and follow the A701 to Dumfries. Follow the signs A75 Stranraer, at Newton Stewart roundabout, pick up the signs for Wigtown, 1st exit on the left.*

Local accessible taxi -

Maca's Taxis - 07710 587656

McLeans Taxis - 01671402925

Swift Taxis - 07927843602 Wheelchair accessible.

Andrew Brawls - 07810872688

By bus / coach:

From the South - the National Express coach service travels across the region on a daily basis with a pick up and drop off at Newton Stewart (6 miles from Wigtown). To find out more about timetable information visit www.dumgal.gov.uk/timetables

From the North – for further information and time tables visit www.travelinescotland.com or call 0870 6082608

In the Region -

Local Council services operate on a daily basis, with regular bus services across the region from Dumfries. For further timetable info visit www.dumgal.gov.uk/timetables or call TravelLine 0870 6082608.

By rail:

From the South - Scotrail services operate on a daily basis from Carlisle to Dumfries. Click on www.scotrail.co.uk or call 0870 606 2031 for further information.

From the North - Scotrail services operate on a daily basis from Glasgow to Stranraer via Ayr stopping at Barrhill to connect by bus to Wigtown. (Note there are no transport links between the station and the village of Barrhill to connect to the bus and is about a 1 mile walk downhill from the station. Information regarding the bus frequency can be found at www.travelinescotland.com/lts/#/timetables or call 0870 6082608

Click on www.scotrail.co.uk or call 0870 606 2031 for further information regarding the train timetables to Barrhill.

By ferry:

From Ireland - a number of services operate from Larne/Belfast to Cairnryan. For the most up to date information, click on the links below:

Stena Line (up to 6 crossings daily) Travel time 2hr 15 min For further information and booking visit www.stenaline.co.uk or call 08447 70 70 70

AFerry – Online booking site. www.aferry.co.uk or call 0844 5765503

Larne to Cairnryan:

P&O (up to 7 crossings daily) Travel time 2hr For further information visit www.poirishsea.com or call 0870 24 24 777

By air:

Prestwick, our local airport, operates regular Ryanair flights from Dublin as well as package holidays from popular resorts. The airport has its own bus and train stations with connections via Ayr. For all information please see gpia.co.uk or ryanair.com.

The nearest airport servicing flights from London and other major European cities is Glasgow Airport, (www.glasgowairport.com) which has transport links into central Glasgow where onward connections can be made.

Accommodation

To view the accessible accommodation listings for the area, please visit the Visit Scotland website [here](#).

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01988 402036 or email mail@wigtownbookfestival.com.

Contact Information

Address: Wigtown Festival Company, 26 South Main Street, Wigtown, DG8 9EH.

Telephone: 01988 402036 or 01988 403222

Email: mail@wigtownbookfestival.com

Website: www.wigtownbookfestival.com

Grid reference: NX 43371 55406

Hours of operation:

1 August - 25 September:

9am – 5pm Monday to Friday

10am – 4pm Saturday

26 September - 5 October (Festival Times): 9am – 6pm daily