



NOW
NORTHWICH

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

27TH APRIL 2024

FREE INTERNATIONAL DANCE & STREET ARTS FESTIVAL

Accessibility and Inclusion at Now Northwich 2024

Cheshire's FREE International Dance and Street Arts Festival for all the family, Now Northwich, is taking place on Saturday 27th April 2024. Performances start at 12pm and will run throughout the afternoon and evening. Shows and experiences will be spread out across Northwich town centre and Barons Quay.

For 2024, Now Northwich producers Cheshire Dance want to ensure the event is as accessible as possible. To achieve this, we have:

- Been developing relationships with local disabled people's organisations and groups – and will continue to collaborate with them to provide relevant, inclusive, and enjoyable experiences.
- Made sure the festival is free for everyone to attend, with additional workshops and participatory experiences also free for everyone.
- Been continuously working with people that have lived experience of barriers and will continue to take steps forwards to welcome wider audience participation.

It is our aim to create a welcoming and inclusive environment and Now Northwich is committed to developing a festival that is safe and where diversity is embraced. Nevertheless, we understand that approaches to access and inclusion are ongoing strategies; they are always developing. If you have any suggestions or feedback that would help us in our endeavours, please contact us at nownorthwich@cheshiredance.org

In the meantime, please read the below to see how we are placing a priority on Access and Inclusion for 2024.

Easy Read Guide

An Easy Read Festival Guide telling you all about the event, access, and the shows for Now Northwich 2024 [will be available for download](#). Should you require any other information in this format, please get in touch at nownorthwich@cheshiredance.org

Access Support for Now Northwich 2024

As with previous years, for 2024 a team of Stewards (dressed in high viz jackets) will be available throughout the festival to offer help/ guidance. For example:

- Getting around the festival
- Finding a viewing point to watch a show
- Directions to the nearest toilet or quiet space
- Accessing first aiders
- Accessing security

Please also feel free to wear a Sunflower Lanyard. Our stewards will be looking out for those wearing lanyards and will be delighted to assist when required.

Finding your way around

This year's printed programmes have a small map showing the main performance locations. [A larger map](#), which can be downloaded onto your phone or printed, will be available the week before the festival. To find out what show is on and at what time, please consult the [printed programme](#). On the day of the festival, all shows will be announced 10 minutes before their start time on our [Facebook](#) page. At each performance site, you will also find a board stating the performances and show times. Any relevant trigger warnings will also be included on these boards.

Wheelchair Users

The route to all performances is wheelchair friendly. Please note, those with access challenges can request assistance from our Stewards should they require support. Our Stewards will be on-hand to show wheelchair users and those with reduced mobility to suitable viewing points at each performance area.

Wheelchair users will be able to find accessible toilets close by River Park.

Toilets / Changing Places

There will be onsite toilet facilities – including disabled toilets – located in Barons Quay around the side/back of the Odeon. For our friends with PMLD, there will also be a Mobiloo with an accessible toilet with adult-sized changing bench in River Park. Additional Changing Places facilities can be found at [Northwich Memorial Court -Brio Leisure Centre](#).

Assistance Dogs

Assistance Dogs (and all dogs) are welcome around the festival site. However, we remind all doggie parents to ensure they have everything they need to pick up after their pets.

Babies and Young Children

The National Childbirth Trust (Mid-Cheshire Branch) will be onsite with a baby changing and feeding facility. You will be able to find their facility close to River Park.

Makaton and Now Northwich

Various members of our team have received basic Makaton training and directional signage with key information in Makaton will be displayed around the town throughout the event.

Quiet Zone at Now Northwich

Those who wish to take a moment away from the hustle and bustle of the festival will be able to find a “Quiet Zone” at The Salvation Army on Tabley Street (close to Sainsbury’s car park). The Quiet Zone will be open between 12pm and 4pm. Disabled toilets can also be found at the Salvation Army.

Communications

In the run up to the festival, all information regarding the day, what’s on and where to find each show/participatory activity will be published on the Now Northwich [website](#). Printed programmes will be distributed to venues, shops, schools and offices across Northwich and the surrounding area. On the day of the festival, Now Northwich Stewards will also be handing out copies. Alternatively, copies of the programme and map can be accessed or [downloaded onto your phone](#). Please also keep an eye on the Now Northwich [Facebook](#) page, particularly on the day of the festival. Important news will be communicated via this channel.

Parking at Now Northwich

A full list of public parking zones in the area can be found [here](#).

Please note, accessible parking spaces can be found at -

- Barons Quay (ASDA) car park – CW9 5DJ
- Chester Way/Brockhurst Street (Memorial Hall) – CW9 5QJ
- Crum Hill (Victoria Club) – CW9 5JD
- Central Palace Drive (Iceland).

Parking charges may apply.

More information

If you have any other questions that you would like to ask in advance of the festival, please contact nownorthwich@cheshiredance.org or call 01606 861 770. You can also message us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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