



## Welcome

The Mining Art Gallery will provide a permanent home for the renowned Gemini Collection of Mining Art, which includes more than 420 works by prominent local artists such as Tom McGuinness and Norman Cornish.

Using this powerful imagery the site will help visitors to understand what it felt like to work in the coalmines and shed light on why some miners felt it necessary to paint the dark, clamorous, claustrophobic and arcane world, otherwise denied to the gaze of those above ground.

The Mining Art Gallery will also offer a wide range of opportunities to explore the history of mining and the impact it had, not just on those who worked there, but on County Durham as a whole.



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**Contact for Accessibility: Hannah Peaden**

## Getting here

**The Mining Art Gallery's address is:-**

Market Place  
Bishop Auckland  
County Durham  
DL14 7NP

### **Travel by public transport**

- You can get to Mining Art Gallery by bus and train.
- No.6/No.18/No.X21/No.56/No.104/No.113/No.85 stop directly across the street from the Mining Art Gallery. It is possible to cross this road from this departure point using dropped kerbs for a level route to the Gallery.

- Alternately the bus station for other routes can be found on the opposite side of the Newgate Centre. After departing from the Bus, walk through the Newgate Centre and then turn to your left, walking straight down Newgate Street to the Market Place. The Mining Art Gallery is located at the Auckland Castle end of the Market Place, next to St Anne's Church. The main Bus station is 0.3 miles / 0.48 km from Mining Art Gallery.
- The nearest train station is Bishop Auckland Train Station. The train station is 0.7 miles / 1.1 km from Mining Art Gallery. It is a straight walk up Newgate Street from the train station to the Market Place where the Mining Art Gallery is located.
- You can get a taxi with S & S Travel by calling 01388 615531. This taxi company has a wheelchair accessible vehicle. Other taxi companies are available.

### **Parking**

- On the opposite side of the Market Place there is a drop off zone that runs the length of the road
- The island between the two roads in the market place also contains a limited number of blue badge parking spaces.
- The nearest carpark is located on North Bondgate. There are further blue badge parking bays located in this carpark. There is level street access, from the car park to the gallery, the route from the car park to the Mining Art Gallery uses public pavements, and involves crossing the road twice. These crossings do have dropped kerbs.



### **The Gallery at a Glance**

The Mining Art Gallery is a period building that has been adapted. We have used our best endeavours to make this c1860's building as accessible as possible while still respecting and celebrating its unique character.

The lay out of the Gallery is given below:-

#### **Ground Floor**

- Gallery 1- The Art of Mining (Also Reception/ Gift Shop)
- Gallery 2 - Coal to Canvas
- Toilets
- Gallery 3 - A Dangerous Life
- Gallery 4 - Beneath the Surface
- Gallery 5 –Temporary Exhibition
- Gallery 6 – Audio Visual Room

#### **Upper Floor**

- Gallery 7 – Home and Family

- Gallery 8 – Community Spirit



### General /Customer Service

- We have a complimentary ticket policy for personal assistants.
- There is a disabled access toilet on the ground floor
- Visitor Experience Staff have completed Disability Awareness Training
- Visitor Experience Staff have complete Dementia Friends Training
- The welcome desk has a lowered section
- Alternate formats of written visitor information may be available on request, please let us know at least a week in advance if you have any specific requests.

### Evacuation

- Our lift must not be used during an emergency evacuation.
- We have an evacuation chair to assist visitors who are unable to use the stairs during an emergency evacuation. In order to provide assisted evacuation a visitor must consent to staff assisting them to move if required from a wheel chair to the evacuation chair. Please do not be offend if a staff member asks you if you would consent to evacuation by evacuation chair in an emergency.
- We are therefore only able to offer access to the upper galleries for one visitor at a time requiring assisted evacuation.

### Lift

- We have a lift in the Mining Art Gallery. The lift stops at all floors.
- The lift is platform lift. We ask visitors wishing to use the lift to speak to a member of staff before doing so, staff will then either escort or instruct in the use of the lift.
- The lift has an emergency call button.
- The lift is well lit.

### Accessible Toilets

- Our accessible toilet is on the ground floor.
- The external door to the toilet is accessed via a permanent ramp.
- There is an emergency call point in the toilet.
- There are handrails fitted.
- The direction of transfer is to the left.
- The toilet is well lit and the floor has a non-slip finish.
- Our accessible toilet contains a sanitary disposal unit.

- The height of the toilet is 450mm.



### **Gallery Access**

- The majority of galleries contain bench seating.
- There is a wheelchair accessible route (including a permanent ramp in Gallery 4).
- At its narrowest point the wheelchair accessible route is 750mm wide.
- There are multiple stairwells in the building, all are well lit. This includes a stone spiral staircase, however there is an alternative stairwell to/from Gallery 8 if visitors do not feel confident/able to use the spiral stairwell.
- The narrowest point in the building including the stairwells is 690mm.

### **Audio Visual**

- The audio visual room is at times in complete darkness.
- The AV installation changes from time to time and may include flashing images and loud noises.
- Please ask a member of staff for details of the AV content if you have any concerns.
- Entrance to audio visual room is 700mm at its narrowest.

### **Scooter/Wheelchair storage**

- You are welcome to use compact mobility scooters inside the building.
- Larger mobility scooters or wheelchairs that you do not wish to remain seated in while viewing the exhibition can be stored by us at your own risk.

### **Hearing**

- We have a hearing loop in Welcome Desk.
- AV installation includes subtitles.

### **Visual**

- Some parts of the venue have low lighting.
- The walls and the doors have high colour contrast.
- Large print booklets containing the content of the information panels on the walls of the galleries, can be found in some galleries.
- Hand held illuminated magnifiers are available on request at the front desk.
- Audio description tours are available with prior booking.