Out and About
A resource to support Citizenship and Race Equality
Durham Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service
This booklet owes its creation to queries schools and other groups sometimes brought to the Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service about places to visit to support their cultural diversity work. The places described here encompass houses of worship of different faiths, interesting shopping areas, centres which deal with specific aspects of the lives of ethnic/religious groups and organisations which can provide cultural, artistic and educational material. It is by no means a comprehensive document and I would hope to add and update the information. If you, the user of the booklet, discover any changes in arrangements or venues please let me know and I will make the necessary corrections (nicole.quayle@durham.gov.uk). It is also a file which schools can add to as they explore this field themselves. I have, however, visited most of the places included and met with the relevant people. It was a great pleasure to make the visits and a delight to discover how warmly groups of children and adults are welcomed to the houses of worship etc. Such visits greatly enhance the work carried out in the classroom and give children a wonderful introduction to the fascinating diversity of faith, food, culture and belief which now makes up multi-cultural Britain.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who gave me their time and the benefit of their knowledge as well as access to places which are sacred, important and special to their community.

A special mention must go to Phil Andre whose help, advice and wealth of knowledge has been invaluable and which has been given so unstintingly. Without the help of these friends and colleagues nothing could have been accomplished.

Nicole Quayle
Durham Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service
(Part of Durham County Council’s Learning Support Service, Children and Young People’s Services).
January 2009
Appleby Fair usually takes place in the first week of June from midweek to midweek. The main days are Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Sunday is known as 'Tourist Sunday'.

Appleby Horse Fair was set up by charter under the reign of James II in 1685 and has been an annual event ever since. Originally it was a venue for the trading of all types of livestock and general merchandise. The field where the fair is held was once called Gallows Hill but is now known as Fair Hill. Appleby Horse Fair is a very important event for Gypsies and Travellers - deals are done, horses are bought and sold, marriages are made and events are discussed for years afterwards. It is a wonderful chance to experience the family orientated ambience of an ethnic group who are by their nature fairly private.

During Appleby Fair week there is usually an exhibition of photos and history in the town and sometimes lectures and talks.

Contact the Cumbrian Tourist Information Board or Cumbria Traveller Education Service 01228 606 955.

If a visit cannot be arranged, a range of DVDs of the event are available from the Cumbrian Tourist Board.
Opening times

The centre runs a large number of classes and study groups. Information about these are on the website. Schools can visit between 10am-4pm by arrangement or the resident teacher can visit a school.

Fee/donation

The centre charges £15 per hour and Gen. Chodor, a Buddhist monk, would usually take the visits. Refreshments may be provided.

About

The talk/discussion can cover a theme or area of interest if requested.

Special features

Although the Atisha Buddhist Centre looks like a terraced house from outside, it is a beautiful setting for meditation inside. The shrine room has statues of the Buddha and a large tanka (wall hanging). There is an atmosphere of great serenity which Chodor also pervades.

Further information

- On-street parking.
- Visitors are requested to remove headgear and shoes in the shrine room.
- Photography permitted.
- Toilets are available.
A shop is attached to the centre which is open from 10am - 6pm. During this time anyone can enter the shrine room for meditation.

Tuesday - Thursday 6pm - 6.45pm – chanted prayers and meditation. Buddhist teachings are explored in different ways.

School visits are by arrangement. An informed person is always available to guide the group. The resident teacher, Gen Kelsang Sherab, can visit schools to talk about all aspects of Buddhism and its relevance to current issues.

Donation desirable to support running costs of centre.

The shop sells fair-trade items, environmentally friendly products, whole foods and Buddhist literature.

Gen. Sherab connects very well with young people of all ages.

There is an atmosphere of peace and serenity in the centre and in the demeanour of Sherab and others. The Compassion Centre belongs to the whole community. It is for everyone and is completely inclusive.

Photography is permitted.

On street parking. Coaches or mini-buses can drop off a party. The nearby social club has a car park.

Toilets available.
Buddhism

The centre can also arrange for someone to visit a school to talk about Buddhism (charge £30).

About

Buddhism is based on the teachings of Gautama Buddha, sometimes known simply as "The Buddha", who lived in or around the fifth century BCE in the north-eastern region of ancient India. Buddhists recognise him as an enlightened teacher who shared his insights to help human beings end their suffering by understanding the true nature of existence.

Fee/donation

£40 - maximum of 35 children on a school visit. The visit would be tailored to the requirements of the group.

Visits to be arranged on an individual basis.

Opening times

Office - Mon, Tues, Thurs 2:30pm - 5pm

Visits to be arranged on an individual basis.

Further information

There is a very attractive shrine room used for meditation with statues of the Buddha, altars (wall hanging) and simple articles used in worship.

Visits to be arranged on an individual basis.

Toilets are available.

Photography is allowed.

Contact Person:

Kate German
Tel: 0191 261 1722
Palace Green, Durham.
Open to groups from 9.45 all year - restrictions on Sundays, Christmas and Easter etc.

There is a charge for all group visits. Please contact the Education Service for current rates.

- Magnificent Norman Cathedral which houses the shrine of St. Cuthbert and the tomb of the Venerable Bede.
- Guided tours, hands-on workshops and activities.
- Resource packs available for teachers.
- Free preliminary visit for teachers.

- Packed lunches can be eaten in the cloisters or CEDRIC (Cathedral Education and Resources Centre).
- Café facilities available.
- Toilets are available.
Sunderland Minster, also known as the Church of St. Michael, All Angels and St Benedict, dates back from the 13th Century and there may have been a church on this site before this time. The Minster is very much the hub of the community, with daily activities from Rainbows and Guides to clubs for retired people. There is also a Fair Trade shop.

- Many features of interest but in particular paintings and windows by Burne Jones and William Morris which would also enhance work on the art curriculum.

Opening Times

9am - 3pm. Guides are available.

Special features

Further information

- Photography permitted.
- Every Thursday there is a working morning based on the curriculum for children.
- Toilets are available.
**Escape to Safety**

**About**

‘Escape to Safety’ is an interactive multimedia installation, built into a 12.5m box-trailer. It is suitable for Key Stage 3 and above. It simulates the process which an asylum-seeker to Britain undergoes. The interactive nature of the installation means that all participants have a powerful personal experience. The project workers also deliver excellent workshops involving their own first hand experiences of being asylum-seekers and why people are forced to seek asylum. This would be a resource which ideally would be shared by several schools or a Community of Learning cluster.

**Fees**

- Trailer for one week in school including classroom activities with students.
- Project worker in school for 5 days including preparation: £1500.
- Trailer hire for 1 week: £1700
- Total £3200
- Two schools to share the trailer: £1950

**Additional Training**

- One hour workshop/lesson or assembly: £100
- Half-day workshop for students: £200
- One day workshop for students: £30
- Enrichment day with one hour CPD: £450
- Enrichment day with two hour CPD: £600
- Five days workshop/lessons in school: £1500

**Further Info**

Specific subject modules are offered in Geography, Citizenship/MLF, English, Music, Global politics/Race/Education and Trade.
Opening times
Mornings 10 - 12.30am
Aarti (prayer) 10.30am
Evening 7-9pm
Aarti 8pm
The centre is not open for school visits on Monday. 10—12am is the best time but visits can be arranged at other times.

Fee/donation
£21 to cover maintenance costs.

About
An informed member of the community (usually Mr Nath, a retired Headteacher), is available to speak to visitors. It is possible to see worship taking place. Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education members, teachers and other groups are offered in-depth courses and it is advisable to undertake some training before a visit. The centre also offers a weekday lunch club for elderly people and many cultural events are organised.

Special features
The throne room of the gods is a very beautiful area. The marble used is taken from the same quarry as that used for the Taj Mahal and is of a very high quality. Forty tons were used and the arches were carved by master craftsmen in India and then shipped to the UK.

Krishna and Radha are the central figures and there is a separate shrine to Siva and Parvati.

Further information
- Private car park.
- Dress should be modest.
- Photography permitted but not during worship.
- Toilets are available.
Hinduism

Opening times

Sunday 3pm - 7pm
Other times by arrangement.

Fee/donation

Visits are arranged with Kirtida and the charge is £1.50 - £3.00 per head, depending on the programme. There is an option of a vegetarian lunch at £3.50—£5.00 per head.

About

The Iskon Centre is a Hindu temple situated in an ethnically diverse area. It was converted from an existing building. An excellent and varied programme is offered. The centre will cater for all key stages, from nursery to sixth form. Adults can also take courses to enhance their knowledge of Hinduism. Teachers can opt to learn about Hindu customs and religious beliefs as well as the artistic and cultural side of Hinduism—making flower garlands, divas, playing musical instruments etc.

Further information

- Toilets are available.
- Photography is permitted
- Visitors are asked to remove their shoes.

Visit: www.iskon.org.uk
The Hindu Mandir
West Road (at the corner of Baxter Avenue)
Newcastle
NE4 9QB

Contact Person: The Pandit
0191 2733364

Hinduism

Opening Times
Monday - Saturday 8am - 12pm.
Sunday 9am - 3pm

About
The Mandir is situated in an ethnically diverse area with interesting shops nearby.
The interior of the temple is colourful with a large throne room of the gods.
There are frequent school visits and a knowledgeable member of the community is on hand to talk to the children. There is a short prayer cycle at 11am which the children may observe.

Further information
- Photography is allowed by arrangement with the Pandit.
- Parking on the street nearby or in the sports centre car park.
- Toilets are available.
- Visitors are requested to remove their shoes.
Islam

Opening times

Monday - Friday 8am - 8pm
Visits by arrangement. These are usually organised to coincide with the prayer cycle so that visitors can observe Islamic worship.

Fee/donation

Optional

Special features

Based in the Newcastle University complex the University Mosque is undistinguished from the outside. You can easily spot it by the wooden shoe racks placed just outside the door. But the ordinary exterior masks a fascinating house of worship. Here you can witness a wide variety of Muslims from many different countries coming together to worship. A particularly warm welcome is extended to all groups of any age who are interested in seeing the side of Islam which is often not portrayed in the media.

Refreshments are offered and the children and adults are given an informative tour with plenty of time to ask questions.

Further information

- Photography permitted by arrangement but no photos of worshippers to be taken without consent.
- Everyone is asked to remove their shoes.
- Toilets are available.
- Parking available within the University area.
### Al-Azhar Mosque
**Laygate**  
**South Shields**  
**NE33 5RX**  
**Tel:** 07887804567

**Contact Person:** Yusef Abdullah  
**email:** a3yusef@aol.com

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**Islam**

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<th>Opening times</th>
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<td>For details tel: 07887804567 or 0191 4540738 (mornings, not Fridays)</td>
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<th>Special Features</th>
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<td>The Al-Azhar mosque is particularly worthwhile to visit as it marks its origin with the community of Yemeni seamen dating from the 1890s and could be combined with some interesting local history work.</td>
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<td>The current mosque is purpose built and dates from 1974.</td>
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<td>There is an Islamic school attached to the mosque.</td>
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<td>Muhammad Ali, former heavyweight boxing champion of the world visited in 1977 and received a marriage blessing in the mosque.</td>
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<td>The population which the mosque serves is very diverse. The Yemeni population is an ageing one but their descendants still worship there. The congregation now includes Pakistanis, Bangla Deshis and Muslims from all parts of the world who attend the South Shields naval college.</td>
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<td>The worshippers are predominantly Sunni but Shias are also welcomed.</td>
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<td>- Females are asked to cover their heads and dress modestly. School trips and parties of adults are welcomed. The visit takes about an hour and the guide will talk to the visitors about Islam and answer questions.</td>
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<td>- Toilets are available.</td>
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The Jewish Synagogue
(Modern Orthodox)
Gosforth
NE3 4BH

Contact Person:
Deanna Van Der Velde
0191 2851253

Opening times

Monday - Thursday 10am - 3pm
School visits can be arranged at mutually convenient times. Deanna Van Der Velde is a member of the religious community and has a dedicated educational role. Her tour of the synagogue is excellent and she is happy to provide information and answer questions.

Any group wishing to attend a service must contact the synagogue to arrange this.

Fee/donation

Optional but donations are welcome.

About

There is a beautiful (temporary) mural in the entrance hall representing the 7 festivals with 613 photos of famous Jews to match the 613 commandments from the Torah. An amazing display cabinet near the main entrance contains valuable/important artefacts from the distant past.

Further information

- Parking is available in the grounds of the synagogue.
- No photography is permitted.
- Males are required to cover their heads but check whether this is necessary for pupils.
- Services are conducted in Hebrew.
- Toilets are available.
Newcastle Reform Synagogue
The Croft
Kenton Road
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne
NE3 4RF

Contact:
0191 284 8621
website: www.nertamid.org.uk

Judaism

Opening times

The synagogue is open for services on Friday night and Saturday morning but please inform the Rabbi if you wish to attend a service. A knowledgeable member of the synagogue or the Rabbi is available to conduct school visits by arrangement.

Fees

Not obligatory but donations welcome.

About

The Reform Judaism movement differs from Orthodox Judaism in various ways. Though they are part of the same tradition, services are usually shorter and use English as well as Hebrew. Men and women sit together and women play an active role in services.

The Newcastle Reform Synagogue is a modern building with it’s own parking.

Other information

- Photography is permitted but not during services.
- Men and women are required to cover their heads but suitable head covering is available for visitors.
- Toilets are available.
Multi-Cultural Areas in Newcastle

**Brighton Grove and Stanhope Street**

This area contains lively and diverse street shops which cater for the thriving Asian community. There are food shops, jewellers, a travel agent specialising in Haj trips and a wonderful sweet shop selling South Asian delicacies. The Coptic Church of St. George and St Athanasius is in Brighton Grove. Although it is usually closed, except for Sunday services, it is architecturally attractive.

**West Road**

West Road also has a wonderful selection of shops selling saris, salwar kameez and bangles. If a visit to the Mandir or Mosque is planned it would be well worth factoring in time to visit the shops as well. It is also fascinating to note the fusion of cultures (note the Halal Chippy!)

**George Street**

The Wing Hong Cash and Carry in George Street is well worth a visit. The shop is used widely by the local Chinese population and restaurants in particular. The children/visitors will enjoy the diversity of the goods on sale as well as the notices in Chinese script etc.

**Stowell Street**

The entrance to this Chinese area is marked by a large colourful gateway. The street is a conglomeration of restaurants, buffets and a large supermarket selling foodstuffs and cultural artefacts. There is also a Chinese Community Centre.
The mosque is a Sunni mosque founded in 1988. As well as being a place for worship there are also other services offered. Employment and business support is available and the centre provides IT training, running courses in the European Computer Driving Licence. These have been grant maintained to date. Courses and support are open to all but largely serve the local ethnic communities.

A supplementary school is set up which provides homework and exam support for all children.

An Arabic school also takes place in the centre.

- School visits are by arrangement. Teachers are asked to indicate the age of the pupils.
- Pupils are asked to dress appropriately.
- Best time to visit 9.30—11.30 am.
- Photography permitted.
- Toilets are available.
- Private car park.

There is an electronic notice board which shows the times of prayer in a digital format.
Sikh Gurdwara
Louisa Street
Darlington
DL1 4ED

Contact Person: The Granthi
or Bob Birk
07828228416 or
01325 250050

Opening times
8am to 8pm everyday

Fee/donation
Optional, but small donations of food are appreciated.

About
School groups and others are welcomed. Groups of thirty or less are preferred but more can be accommodated.

A knowledgeable representative is available to discuss Sikhism.

“There is only one God, creator of all, he who engages in goodness and purity is practising the truest of all religions.”

Further information
- On-street parking is available.
- Meals or snacks are provided as hospitality is an important part of the Sikh religion.
- Photography is permitted by arrangement.
- Everyone is required to cover their heads and remove their shoes.
- Toilets are available.
Gurdawara Su Guru
Harkishan Sahib Ji
23 Lorne Street
Middlesbrough
TS1 5QY

Contact:
Gurneth Singh (Vice President)
Tel: 07928094882
01642 250125

Sikhism

Opening times

Open 7 days a week from 8am - 10pm.

Fee/donation

Optional

Special features

The Gurdawara has been on this site since 1990, Music, Kirtan and Punjabi lessons are all available at the temple. A warm welcome and delicious food is offered to all.

- School visits by arrangement. Schools are welcomed during big festivals.
- A knowledgeable person from the Sikh community is available for the visit and children are given demonstrations such as how to put on a turban.
- Toilets are available.
- Photography permitted.
- Visitors are asked to remove their shoes. males and females are required to cover their heads but scarves are available in the Gurdawara.
- On-street parking.
Sikhism

Opening times

Monday 6am - 7pm
Tuesday 6am - 10pm
Wednesday 6am - 7pm
Thursday 6am - 7pm
Friday 5am - 7pm
Sunday 5am - 7pm

Visits welcomed by arrangement.

Fee/donation

Neither expected nor required but the Gurdwara has an open house policy and refreshments are offered to all who visit. They appreciate donations of food, tea bags, milk, sugar etc.

About

- There is a very welcoming atmosphere throughout and it’s worthwhile visiting the kitchen/dining area where people are often busy preparing meals.

- Refreshments are offered.

- Knowledgeable community members will talk to a group by arrangement. Cloud Singh and Jaswinder Singh are particularly helpful.

- Everyone is required to cover their heads and remove their shoes.

Further information

- There is a free car park opposite the temple.

- Toilets are available.
The Hoppings

Opening Times

Variable (it has been postponed when the weather is bad), but usually the middle of June for two weeks - consult Newcastle listings to check.

Special features

In the 14th Century the Town Moor, a site of 89 acres, was granted to the town of Newcastle. The name ‘The Hoppings’ derives from the ‘hoppings’ or dancing which occurred at old fairs. The funfair has existed for 120 years and there are over 200 stalls and many exciting rides which cater for all ages. The fair is so large it is a community in itself. During the two weeks of the fair there is a school for the children of the Show People.

Further information

- Colour and excitement from attractions drawn from all over the country.
- Long history - the original attractions were steam driven.
- Gypsy Travellers have a definite presence as fortune tellers. They tend to operate in a specific area at the side of the main fairground.
Other Useful Contacts

**The Islamic Diversity Equality Centre**

136 West Road, Fenham, Newcastle, NE4 9QA.
This is an organisation which seeks to provide information, advice and guidance about Islam.
Tel: 0191 2733099 or 0191 2733009
www.islamnewcastle.co.uk

**The Bangladeshi Community Centre, Sunderland**

30 Tatham Street, Sunderland, SR1 2QD
www.sunderland-coi.org.uk
The Bangladeshi Population is 1% of Sunderland’s total population. The centre offers advice on educational courses, on setting up a business and ICT training and facilities. At the centre you can do many things ranging from making your own Salwar Kameez, to attending lectures by the University of the Third Age.

**The North East Cultural Diversity Arts Forum**

This organisation (NECDAF) is based in Gateshead.
Tel: 0191 477311.
There is an excellent website which provides information about speakers/groups etc. on cultural diversity issues.
www.necdaf.org.uk
Lunch arrangements can prove difficult on an all-day visit to Newcastle so here are just a few ideas:

- If the weather is fine it is possible to use the outside seating area near the Northern Stage, which is part of the University complex.

- The Blackfriars restaurant, situated in the old monastery behind Stowell Street has a picnic area and the owners may be willing to have a group inside if the weather is poor, but please arrange this in advance.

- Smaller groups might try the Fairouz Express Lebanese Restaurant in Leazes Lane (near Eldon Garden). Interesting food and drink is available and in the summer people can sometimes be seen smoking hookahs at the tables outside.

- The Persian Bite on Stanhope Street provides very good Iranian meals.

- For snacks, try the Russian tea rooms in Newgate shopping centre or the Polski Café in Newgate Street. Both have shops attached.

BON APPETIT!