

# Our Green Story

## Ards Arts Centre

Ards and  
North Down  
Borough Council

Recycling  
Community  
Investment  
Fund  
YOUR RECYCLING PAYS

Green  
Tourism



**Ards Arts Centre is the core of the Arts Service for Ards and North Down. From its beautifully restored Georgian Town Hall in the centre of Newtownards, an extensive programme of arts events, creative classes and workshops, exhibitions, community arts and performances of live music and theatre happen throughout the area.**

The Arts Centre itself comprises two galleries – the Georgian and Sunburst - for hosting exhibitions by professional local, national and international artists and community arts initiatives, along with 4 meeting rooms of various capacities. With a lift to the first floor, the Arts Centre is fully accessible on all areas on the ground and first floors of the building; there's an accessible toilet and an Audio Induction Loop System in Room 1.

**Older lighting has been largely replaced by modern LEDs and whenever upgrades are made in this Grade A Listed building an eye is kept on how to be improve its sustainability. Paper and plastics usage are continually reducing.**

While the Arts Service overall catered for over 58,000 visitors, the Arts Centre's role is to promote affordable and accessible entertainment and arts activity throughout the Borough. The Council's role extends to a programme of professional assistance for artists

and craftmakers, a community arts programme including Cuan Craic (Arts for Older People) and projects for people with dementia and other mental and physical disabilities.

The Arts Education Programme in the Centre offers creative classes across three terms throughout the year and the Kids Arts Schemes provide an activity programme across the Borough.

The small arts team at the Arts Centre are the creators and promoters of the annual Ards International Guitar Festival (with gigs, free fringe events, guitar clinics with industry professionals and exhibitions), Ards International Puppet Festival, Aspects Irish Literature Festival and the month long Creative Peninsula, which includes open studios, creative tours, exhibitions, workshops, demonstrations and more.

To find out more, call 028 9181 0803 or visit the website.

[ardsarts.com](http://ardsarts.com)  



Above: Photo Credit - Classical Guitar Society of Northern Ireland, image c/o Julianne Rouquette.

The Green Tourism programme was funded by the Council's Recycling Community Investment Fund - a scheme which is powered by the recycling efforts of local residents and businesses. Thanks to an increased amount of recycling by the local community, almost £15M has been saved in landfill costs since the programme's inception. These savings have allowed the Council to create the RCIF which supports new and existing environmentally friendly initiatives.