



My Visit to Mid-Antrim Museum at the Braid

Pre-Visit Guide Series

www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk



**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

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Welcome

The background of the page is a teal color. It features white line drawings of figures and structures. On the left, there is a figure that looks like a person with a long neck and a head. In the center, there is a large, complex structure that resembles a building or a piece of machinery. On the right, there is a tall, thin structure that looks like a tower or a chimney. There are also several black lines and blue dots scattered across the background.

Welcome to Mid-Antrim Museum at The Braid

Everyone feels different when visiting a place for the first time or trying something new. There are different sounds and smells, and you may not know what to expect. This guide will help you get ready for your trip.

It will:

- Tell you how to get to and enter Mid-Antrim Museum at The Braid.
- Introduce you to some of the people who work here.
- Explain how to find your way around.
- Show you some of the things that you can do when you visit.

Here are some of the staff you might meet on your visit. They are our Autism Champions. You can ask them, or any of the staff for help while you are with us. We are here to help.



Getting Here

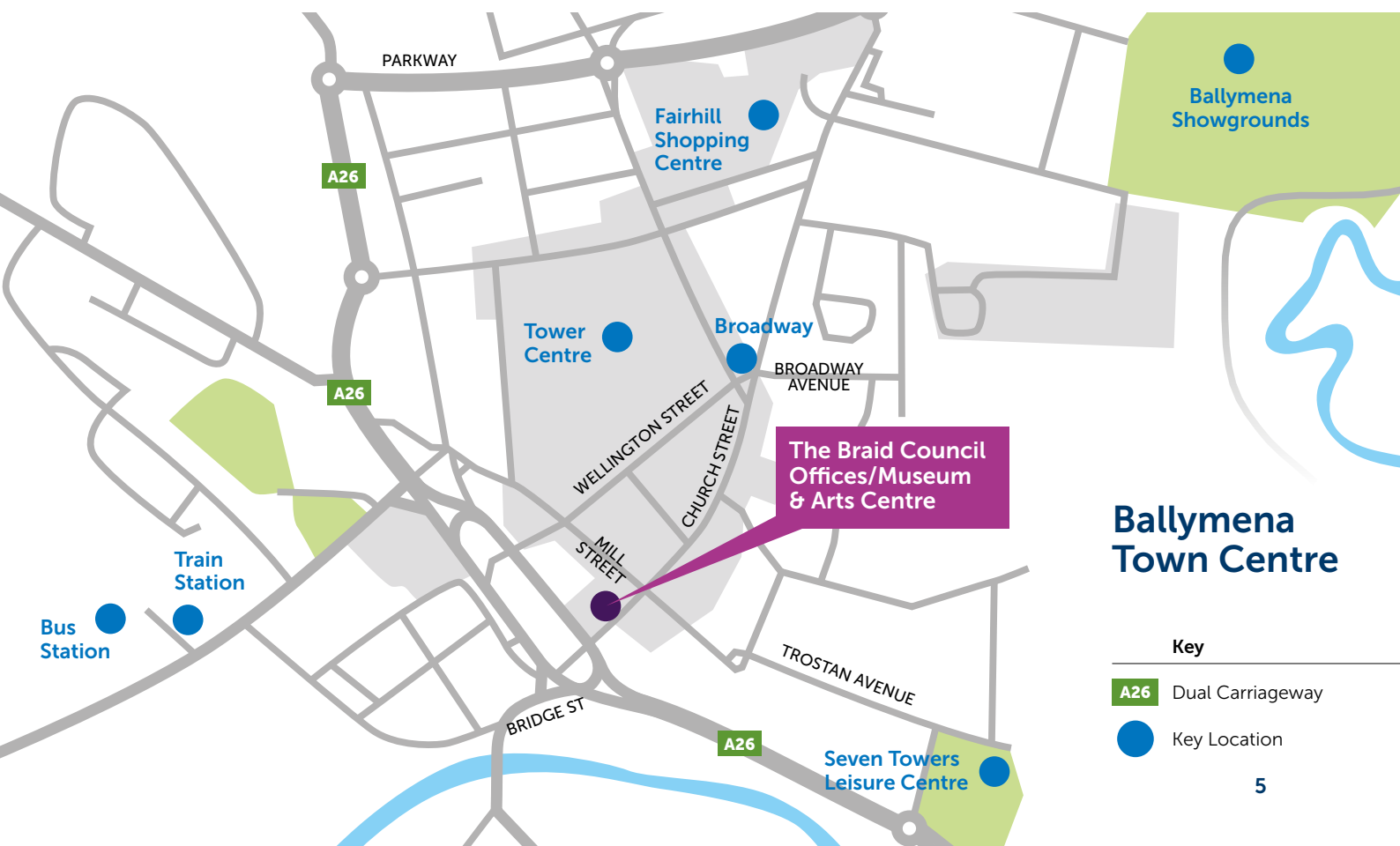
Mid Antrim Museum is in Ballymena town centre. It is situated at the junction of Linenhall Street and Bridge Street, beside Ballymena Town Hall.

If you are visiting by car you can park at the main Church Street car park which is directly opposite the Braid centre. You will need to cross the road at the traffic lights.

You can get to the museum by bus or by train. You can walk from the bus stop or from the train station to get to the museum.

The Braid is a 10-minute walk from Ballymena Railway Station and Bus Depot:

- Upon leaving the station, turn left along Galgorm Road.
- At the end of the Galgorm Road at the major road junction, cross the Galgorm Road, then the North Road.
- Follow the North Road until it ends.
- Turn right and cross the Linenhall Road.
- The entrance to The Braid is found along Bridge Street.



Arriving Here

This is the entrance that will take you into Mid Antrim Museum. It is on Bridge Street. It is glass fronted and has sliding doors which open by themselves.

When you enter, you will be on the ground level, with the toilets on the right as you walk in. This is also where our baby changing facilities are found.

On the left you will find reception where the staff will be happy to help with any questions you may have.



Finding Your Way Around

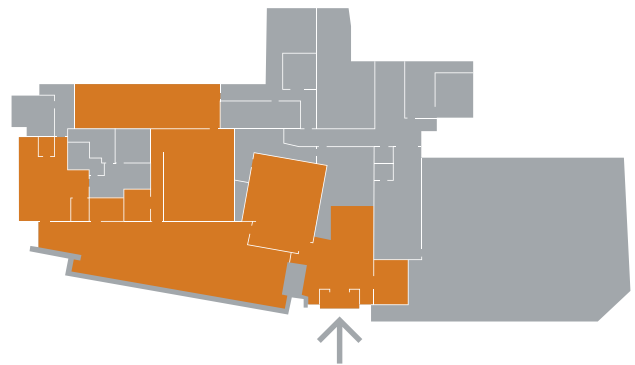
There are three floors in the building.
The museum is on the second and third floors.

This is colour-coded on the map below, and throughout this guide.

There are staircases, ramps and lifts to help you get around the various parts of the building. There is plenty of signage and staff will always be happy to help you find your way.

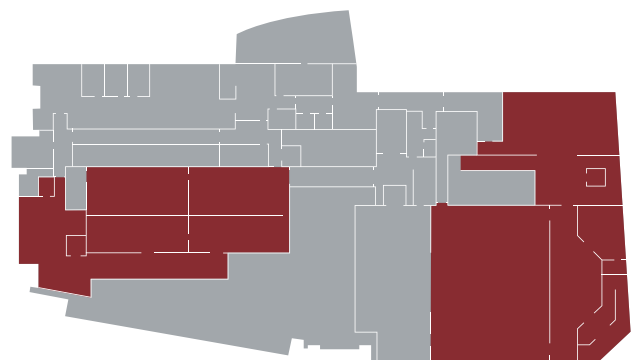
Upper Ground Floor (UG)

- Reception
- Learning Zone
- Studio Theatre
- Atrium
- Toilets
- Lifts



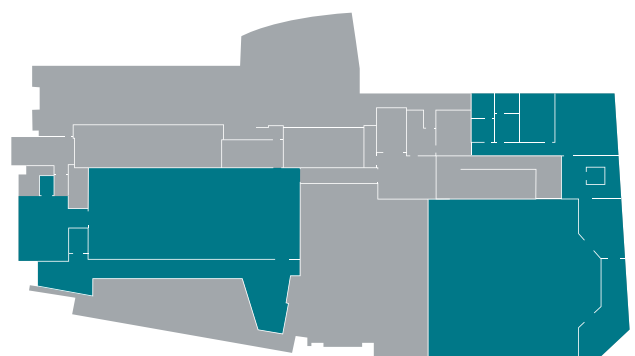
Level Two (L2)

- Temporary Gallery
- Lifts

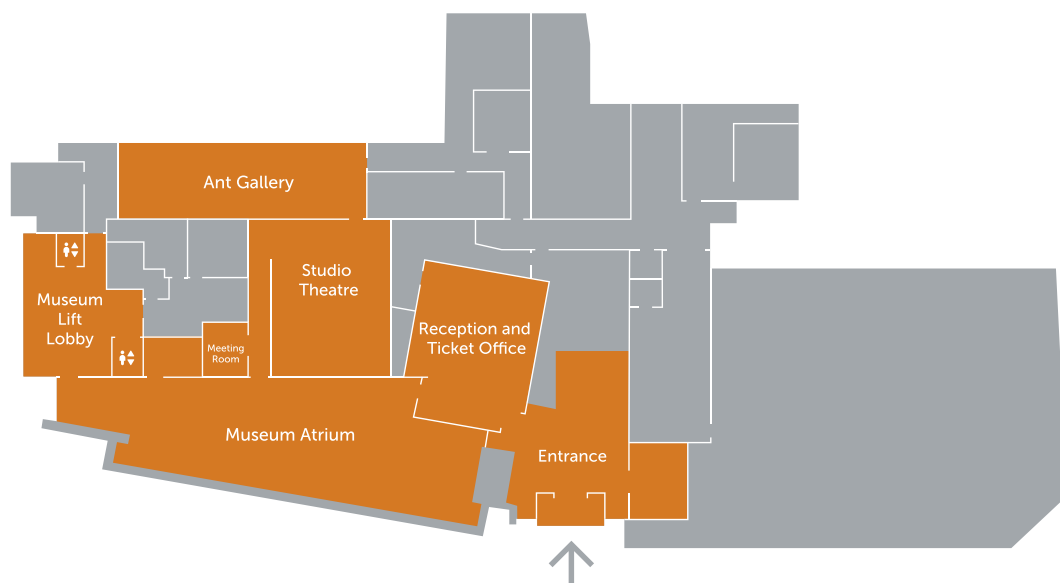


Level Three (L3)

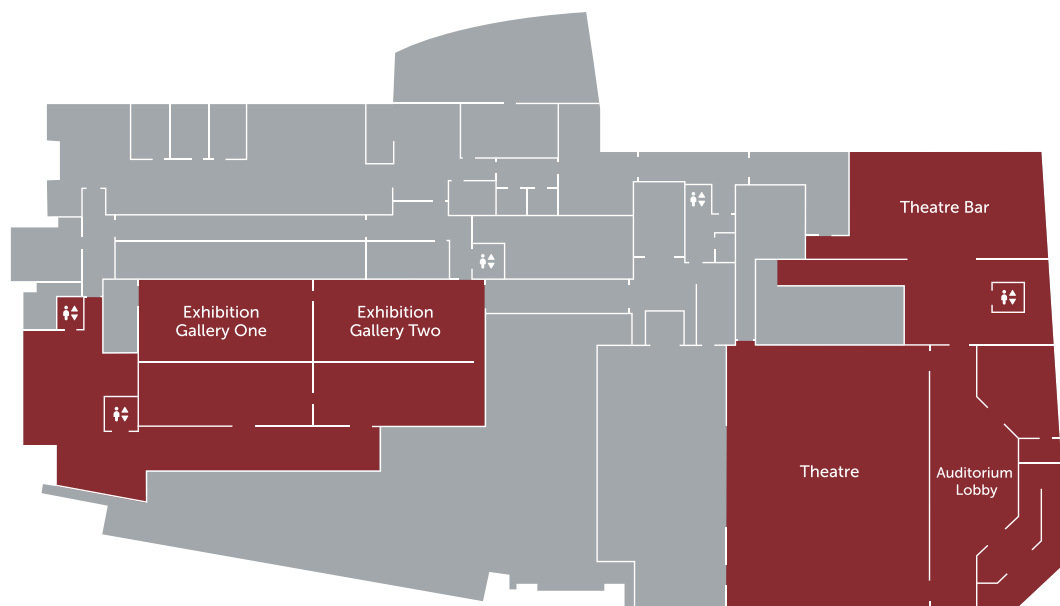
- Permanent History Gallery



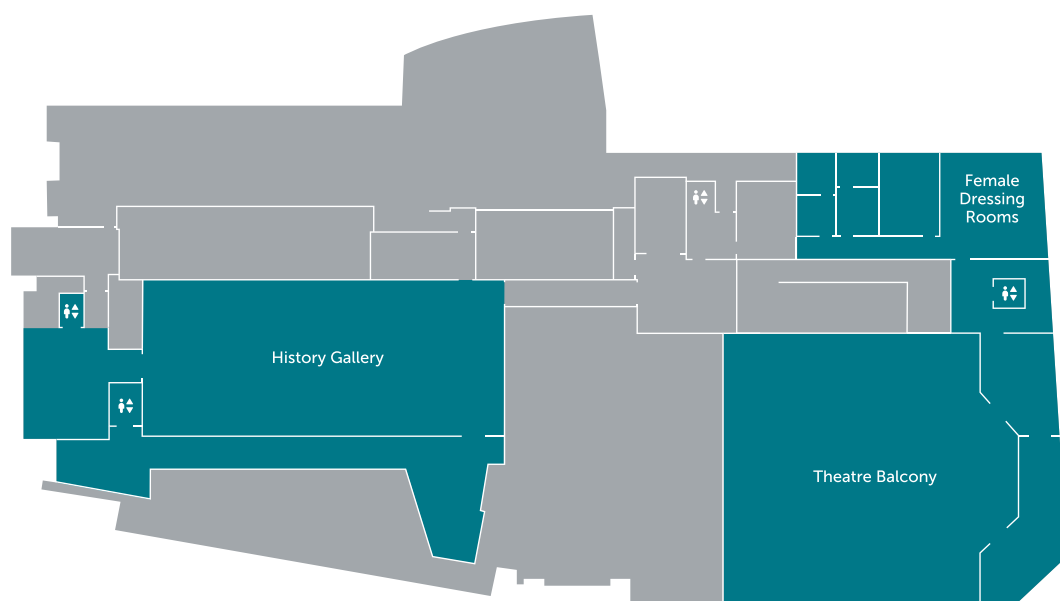
UG



L2



L3



Finding Your Way Around The Reception Area

In this area is a reception desk and a small shop. When you enter, staff will greet you at the reception desk.

The museum is free, and you do not need a ticket. You might need to check in or buy a ticket for a special activity. At busy times, there may be queue. Our staff are friendly and can help you with your visit. They can point you in the right direction for where you want to go.

From the reception area, you will go to a different area of the building, depending on what you would like to see.



Finding Your Way Around The Atrium

To get to the museum you will turn left from reception into The Atrium. This is a large glass fronted area which looks out onto the street.

The Atrium

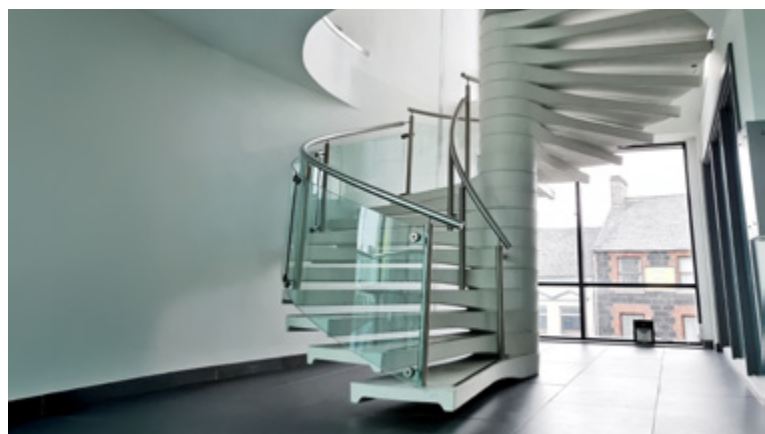
The ceiling is very high and there is some special artwork which hangs from the ceiling. There is a large blue wall which features pictures of objects in the museum collection.

Follow the blue river on the floor to the lifts, stairs and further toilets.



The Stairwell

At the end of the atrium there is a spiral staircase which will take you to level two or to level three where the permanent museum is found. The stairs can get narrow and could be slippery so you might prefer to use the lift.



Foyer Lift & Toilets

If you turn right at the end of the atrium, this will lead you to lifts which can then take you to levels two and three. There are plenty of useful signs throughout the building to help you get around. There are more toilets next to the ground floor lifts including accessible toilets.

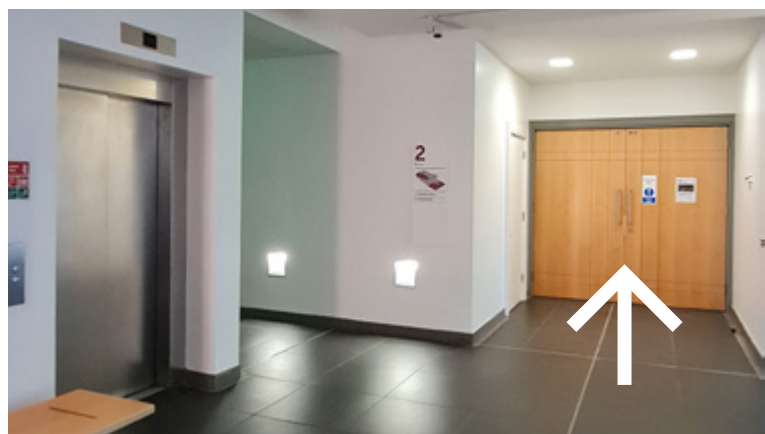


Finding Your Way Around Temporary Gallery

When you arrive on level two, whether by taking the stairs or the lift, you will find yourself in a lobby.

Gallery Entrance

The entrance to the gallery will be on your left if you are coming out of the lift and on your right if you are using the stairs. All our doors have push plates which open the doors automatically.



Inside the Gallery

Inside you might see art, photography, or a display about the history of the area. Sometimes there is a television screen on the wall which has a video and sound playing. This video will have something to do with the exhibition.

The exhibitions here change every couple of months.



Finding Your Way Around Permanent History Gallery

To get to level three you can use either the stairs or lifts. When you get to the top of the stairs or out of the lift, you will see a special display in the lobby.

We keep this room a bit darker to help to protect the objects on display, but you will still be able to see them. The entrance to the museum will be on your left if you are coming out of the lift and on your right if you are using the stairs.

Most of the objects on display in the museum are behind glass. They will have a number beside them, and printed information which tells you about the objects. The cases go forward in time from the early medieval period until World War One.



Finding Your Way Around Permanent History Gallery

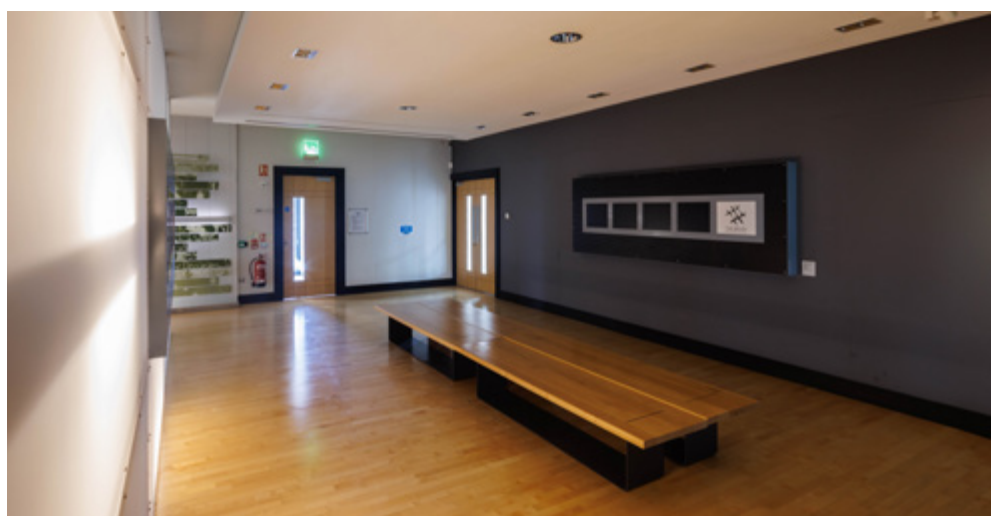
Timeline

On the left wall of the history gallery, you will see a timeline of notable events; locally, nationally and internationally.



Ballymena History Film

You might hear a voice talking in the museum. It is a film about Ballymena's history. You can stand to listen to the film if you would like to.



Activities

Inside the history gallery you will also find two activity areas: brass rubbing and a game about linen production. Have a go if you want to.



Finding Your Way Around Permanent History Gallery

Mezzanine

To leave the museum:

- Walk to the end of the room and there will be a door on your right. This will lead you out onto a corridor.
- Turn right and this corridor will lead you to the lifts and stairs.
- You can also use the door you entered through.



Quiet Areas

You will hear some noise in the museum gallery. If at any point you require a quiet space, please ask a member of staff at reception to show you where to go.



Opening Hours

Opening Hours

Monday	10am-4pm
Tuesday	10am-4pm
Wednesday	10am-4pm
Thursday	10am-4pm
Friday	10am-4pm
Saturday	10am-4pm
Sunday	Closed

Exceptional Closures

- Bank holidays
- Public holidays

Contact Details

The Braid Ballymena Town Hall
Museum & Arts Centre
1-29 Bridge Street
Ballymena
BT43 5EJ

Tel: 028 2563 5077

Fax: 028 2563 5058

braidmuseum@midandeantrim.gov.uk



Useful Information

Booked Visits

For booked visits we will supply the following information in advance:

- Details of timings/timetable for the activity.
- Who will meet you on arrival at The Braid / staff member contact details.
- Who the facilitator is and what the activity involves.
- Which room you will be using.
If you need a space for lunch, staff will arrange this with you in advance.
- Where there is a quiet space available during the workshop.
- Opportunity to supply any other requests which we may have to consider, eg. noise levels.

Fire Alarms

If a fire alarm sounds, please make your way to the nearest fire exit. Staff will be there to help you to the meeting point. Do not use the lift.

Websites

A virtual visit

www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/museums

What's on

www.shapedbyseaandstone.com/whats-on

Social media

www.facebook.com/MEABoroughCouncil



Useful Information

Thank you for reading our guide. We are looking forward to seeing you soon.

All staff will be able to help you while in the building, or using any of the facilities if needed.

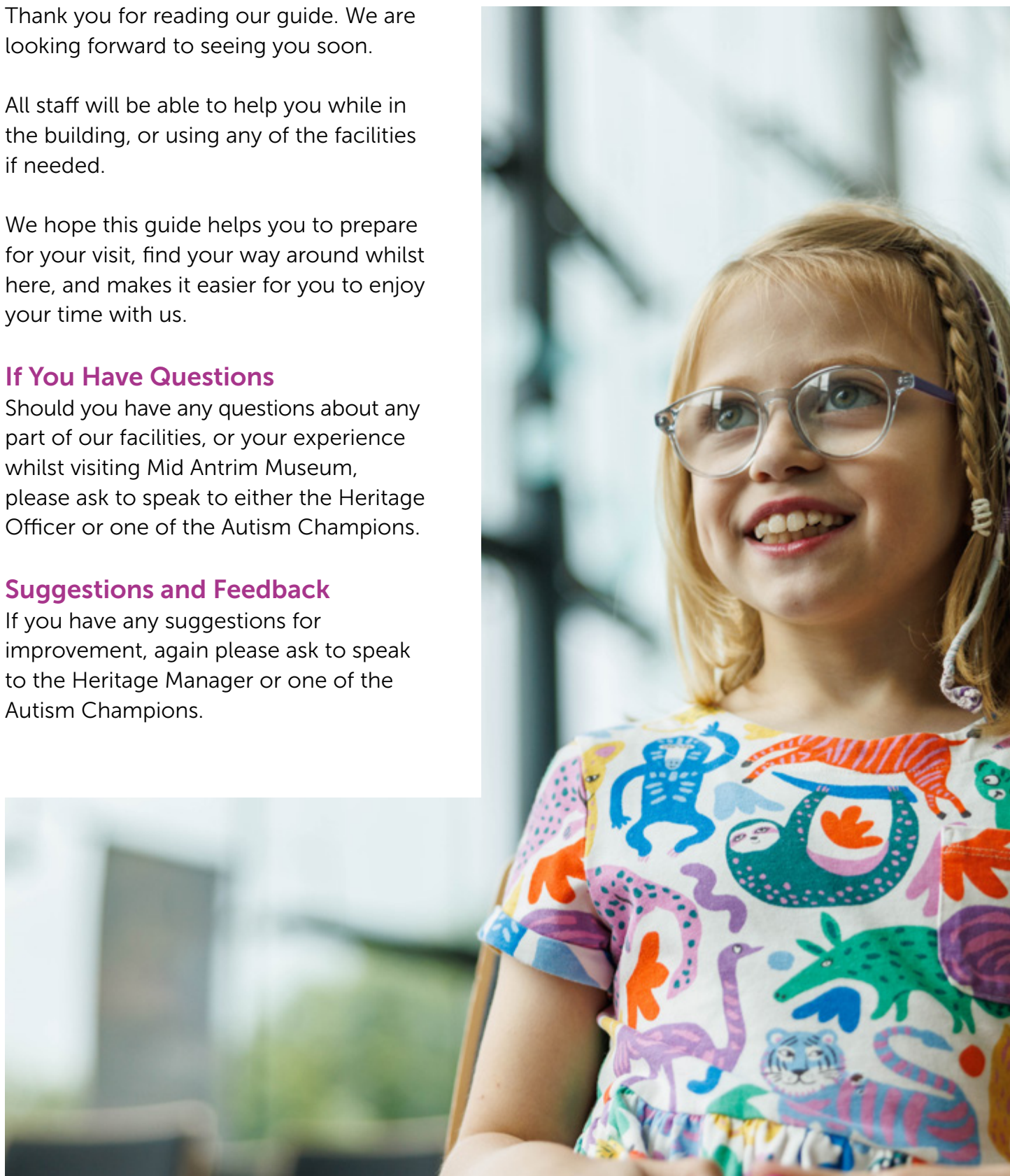
We hope this guide helps you to prepare for your visit, find your way around whilst here, and makes it easier for you to enjoy your time with us.

If You Have Questions

Should you have any questions about any part of our facilities, or your experience whilst visiting Mid Antrim Museum, please ask to speak to either the Heritage Officer or one of the Autism Champions.

Suggestions and Feedback

If you have any suggestions for improvement, again please ask to speak to the Heritage Manager or one of the Autism Champions.





**The Braid Ballymena Town Hall
Museum & Arts Centre**

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