

The Turning Tides Project and the Wellington Monument walk

The Turning Tides Project

The Turning Tides Project (TTTP) is a Community Interest Company that aims to make equal access to music, the arts and life a reality for people with 'learning disability' or 'autism' labels. TTTP takes a Social Model Approach

The Social Model of Disability

The Social Model of Disability is a way of understanding the lives of Disabled People. A 'Disabled Person' is someone that is excluded from aspects of day to day life because of something that is considered 'different' about how their mind or body or both work. What disables them is not their difference but society's failure to be #Inclusive. A Social Model Approach addresses this inequality by identifying and removing the barriers that prevent #Inclusion.

Within a Social Model Approach the responsibility for removing the barriers that create 'disability' belongs to everyone.

What we were asked to do

As part of 'Naturally Healthy Month', Active Devon asked TTTP to participate in the guided walk to the Wellington Monument on Sunday 7th June and to give feedback on its accessibility.

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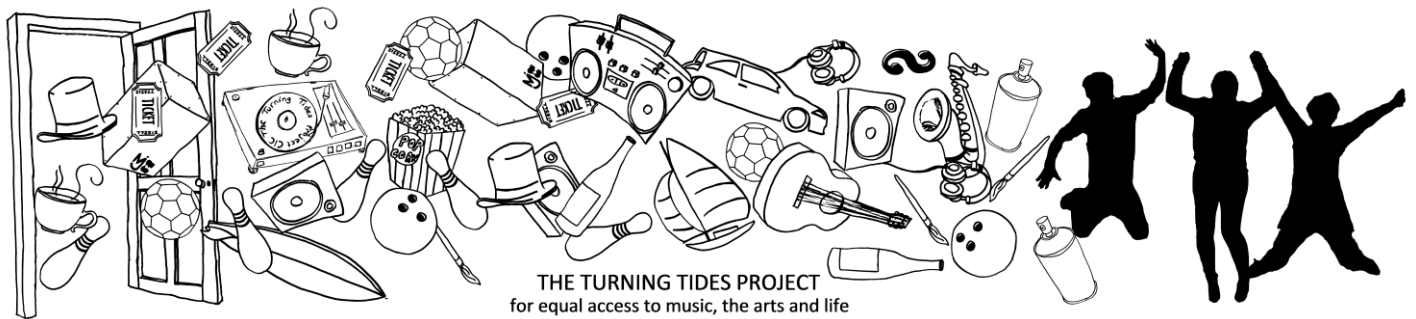


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What we found

☞ There was a sign in the car park. A TTP support worker read the sign out and explained what it meant.

☞ We were greeted by a member of The National Trust and The Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). They were very friendly and had a wealth of knowledge about the site. They answered our questions and described the walk before we started it. This made the walk clearer.

☞ On the notice board, there was a drawn aerial image of the walk with timings on it.

☞ There were no signs, direction marks or visual prompts when walking towards or around the monument. There was a notice board at the monument.

☞ The walk was accessible to wheelchair users and the shallow gradient of the hill would mean that it would be accessible to most walkers. However, we didn't see anywhere to sit or rest on the route.

1. What we would recommend

☞ Take a Small Talk Approach

(<http://www.theturningtidesproject.org.uk/small-talk-accessible-communication.html>)

'Small Talk' is TTP's multi-sensory approach to communication it includes use of written word, photographs, films, music, symbols and signing.

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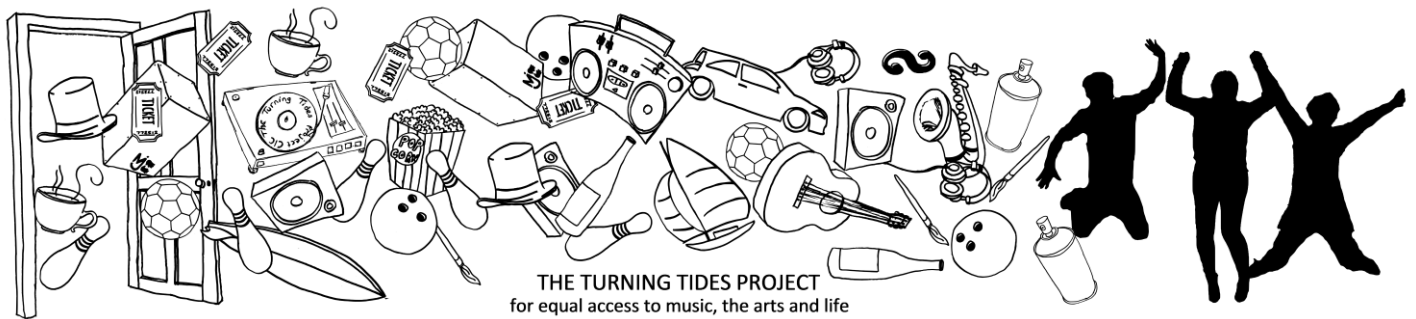


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🌀 A button to press which read out the information on the board or a QR code on the notice board linked to videos, google maps and spoken would make the information accessible to people who are not 'readers'.

🌀 An aerial photograph or a drawn map with photographs of prominent features would provide a more accessible route plan.

🌀 Direction signs or markings on the walk would reassure walkers that they were following the route. These could be interactive art installations that would encourage sensory engagement with the environment.

🌀 Use symbols and words on written signs.

🌀 Increase the capacity of staff to be #inclusive

2. Develop the skills, knowledge and confidence of staff to:

🌀 Understand sensory differences

🌀 Use signing to support the spoken word

🌀 Communicate using key words.

TTP provide training that is co-delivered by people with and without 'learning disabilities' or 'autism'

<http://www.theturningtidesproject.org.uk/training.html>

🌀 Work towards becoming a #Inclusive organisation

<http://www.theturningtidesproject.org.uk/inclusive.html>

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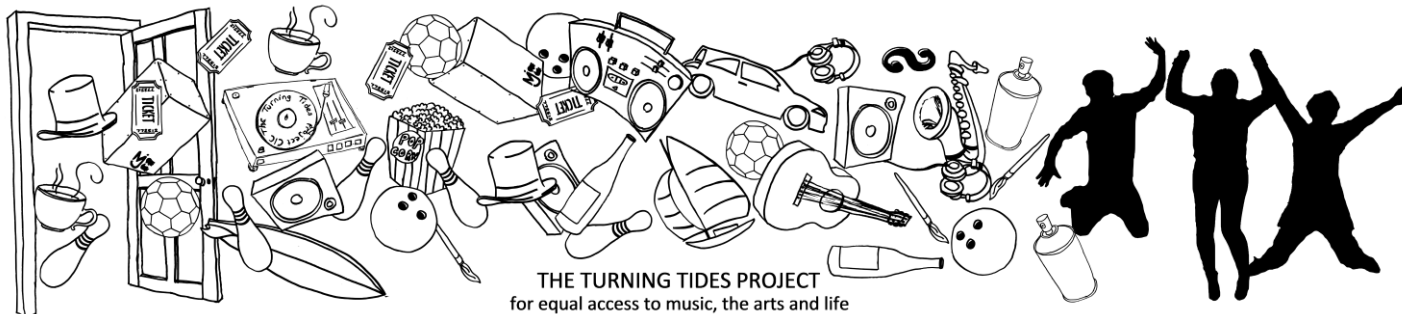


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THE TURNING TIDES PROJECT
for equal access to music, the arts and life

If you'd like our support or recommendations on how you can become #inclusive, or information on the services we can provide, then please get in touch, as we would love to work with you to achieve #inclusive.

One of TTTPs Wellington Monument Walkers said "It was good to exercise and be with my friends. It was good to do something different"

Thank you for inviting TTTP to feedback on the accessibility of this walk.

Stuart, Rebecca, Tom, Ben & Abi.
On behalf of The Turning Tides Project.
29/5/2017

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