

# Digital Explorations



**NPHT**  
NATIONAL PARALYMPIC  
HERITAGE TRUST

***Madalyn Baskerville***  
Project Manager

And

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Project Participant and  
Community Curator



ROTHSCHILD  
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Made possible with  
**Heritage  
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**Sharing Stories  
Sporting Heritage**

# Aims of the Project

- To share Paralympic stories through the voice of people with disabilities in accessible formats.
- Widen access to our collection through 3D digital capture – creation of Virtual Museum
  - 50 % of people do not visit museums in person!
- Training and employment of disabled people
  - 4% of museum sector workforce define as D/deaf or disabled (19% of disabled people are working age)



# Targeted recruitment and training

- Worked with local disability and employment charities to set up the volunteer placements – 17 participants.
- Over 20 expert training sessions. In-house training in heritage skills like curation/telling stories for museums
- 6 participants took up short-term employment with the trust – 2 now continuing on 3 year contracts



# Creating the Virtual 3D object museum

- Curated by people with a lived experience of disability
- The team researched and wrote the object information with their own reflections – some very personal meanings
- They wrote and recorded the audio described tour



# SEND Students Sharing their Stories

- Worked with 8 students from Pebble Brook SEND School
- Opportunity for young people to interpret our collection and items that had meaning to them personally that were scanned and curated online.



# Personal Journeys of our Students

Learned to be more **confident in myself** and my abilities.

...finding ways to **overcome our disabilities** and **focus on solutions** and not just the problem

I've also enjoyed **spending time and working with the others in the group**. I have struggled to get on with and meet people in my generation. The **chats during lunch and elsewhere have been fun**

The project has given me **faith and hope** that I can follow my dreams.

It's been a **real sanity saver...** It helped me **move on** from a loss of confidence due to **being made redundant** and the **difficulties during COVID**.



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## Community Curator What I did?

*Simon Stiel*

Digital Explorations Project  
Assistant





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Welcome to the Digital Explorations Museum

Welcome to our 3D objects museum celebrating the inspirational story of the history of the Paralympic movement and athletes by a dedicated team. We are delighted to announce the Digital Explorations Museum. The digital exploration is a project of the London Paralympic Heritage Trust collections.

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Guttmann & The Early Games Gallery

Innovation & Rehabilitation Gallery

Paralympic Games Stories Gallery

London 2012 Gallery

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**Simon**

I have a history and heritage degree from Queen Mary, University of London. I've worked in both the for profit and charity sectors - the city working towards participating in business, management, marketing and cycling.

I learned about the project via Rachel Machin after my previous job was under-rewarded. I'm engaged in heritage and history and I was a child and really enjoyed the London 2012 Paralympic Games which changed my view. Before I had been ambivalent about the Paralympics. All these factors combined made me project a great opportunity for me. The role also takes the working experience for me and a little bit of research with Ben and Rachel of Open Lab, the New Associated School of Journalism and a professional photographer.

When we were able to go on those meetings I had to make myself to be able to work with the audience. I'd admit to being nervous. When I got over my initial skills and well I struggle with practical tasks as I have done in the past. Working with Ben and Rachel was great, get someone to counsel that I could do it and do work that I was doing. Having said that, I have learned that I can do more things than I realize. I don't think I was meant to be more confident in myself and my abilities. I've enjoyed it all.



Click here to start the audio





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Guttman & The Early  
Games Gallery

Innovative  
Rehabilitation



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Guttman & The Early Games Gallery

Stuart Mandeville  
1984 Jacket

360°



360°



## Bust of Professor Sir Ludwig Guttmann

Object description by: Mrs. Paul Egerton

This life size bust of Professor Sir Ludwig Guttmann (1889-1980) was unveiled in the London ICC (now known as the ICC) in 1981 and is displayed in the ICC in the name 'The Spinal Cord Centre'. The bust is made of white marble and is mounted on a wooden base. The bust is made of white marble and is mounted on a wooden base. The bust is made of white marble and is mounted on a wooden base.

A white bust of Professor Sir Ludwig Guttmann (1889-1980) is mounted on a small wooden base. The bust is made of white marble and is mounted on a wooden base. The bust is made of white marble and is mounted on a wooden base.

There is also a life size statue of Guttmann outside the National Spinal Cord Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Information by: Mrs. Paul Egerton

This bust is made of white marble and is mounted on a small wooden base. The bust is made of white marble and is mounted on a wooden base. The bust is made of white marble and is mounted on a wooden base.

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© The Trustees of the ICC





*Object scanned by Jess. Text by Simon:*

This clay bust of Professor Sir Ludwig Guttmann (1899-1980) was unveiled before the London 2012 Paralympic Games and is donated from the Trust in his name, 'The Poppa Guttmann Trust', which was set up to commemorate Guttmann's work and legacy. 'Poppa' was the nickname that Guttmann was given by his patient Beryl Bell at Stoke Mandeville, as she saw him as a father-figure during her treatment there.

It depicts Guttmann in a suit and tie and during his elder years. 'Professor Sir Ludwig Guttmann 1899-1980' is written on a small bronze plaque underneath with his nickname 'Poppa' written there too.

There is also a life-sized statue of Guttmann outside the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

*Reflections by Katie:*

This is my favourite object because it honours the person who started the Paralympic Games by getting disabled people doing activities to help them get on with their lives.

*Reflections by Daniel:*

I like this because Professor Sir Ludwig Guttmann started the Paralympics. Though when he started them, they were mainly for people with physical disabilities, it has grown and now they include many types of disabilities, including intellectual disabilities. As a person with a learning disability this means a lot to me.



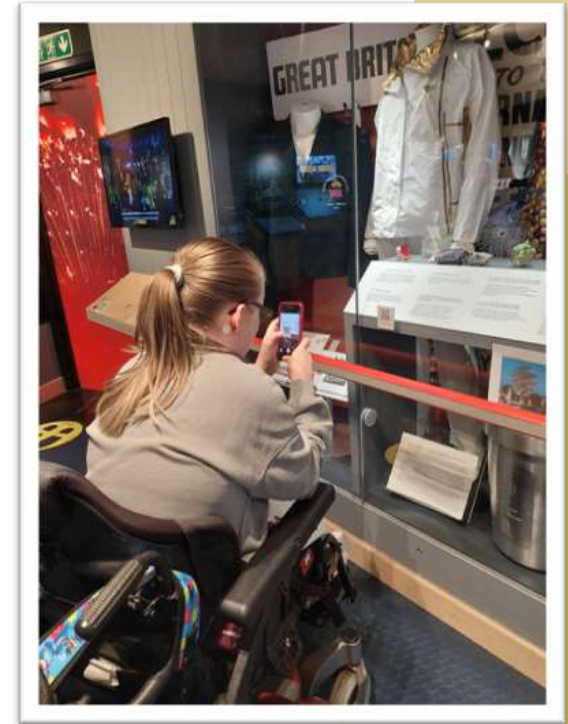
[Click here to start the audio](#)





# Lessons learnt and conclusion

- Finding new ways of storytelling to reach out to people with a range of disabilities is crucial
- With a collection based on disability it is essential to have people with lived experience of disability involved in its interpretation
- Interpretation is a form of engagement in its own right and people see objects in different ways depending on who they are (disability, nationality, life experiences)
- To see personal stories shared, encourages other people's personal meaning-making
- It can be more enriching and also challenging – expect the unexpected!



Thank you

*Madalyn Baskerville and Simon Stiel*

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