

THE NINEVEH CHARITABLE TRUST END OF PROJECT REPORT DECEMBER 2022

The Nineveh Charitable Trust graciously provided funding for our Smell the Roses Project. This project provided Deafblind people with the opportunity to learn about and enjoy the natural environment through a programme of countryside ranger led walks and the creation of tactile moss graffiti art works.

Budget

We were awarded £3000 and can confirm the budget has been fully spent.

Below is a short summary of what we achieved thanks to your support.

Summary of activities

Five County Ranger-Led walks were organized and supported by East Dunbartonshire Country Ranger service. These well-informed and interesting walks improved the participants' learning about nature, wildlife, wildflowers, landscape and geology of the local area. A Moss Graffiti mural was produced with our "Deafblind Scotland Right to Dream" strategy strapline. This was a very rewarding art activity for those involved in learning a new style of artwork and watching their efforts grow and develop into a prominent scene on the wall of our learning and development centre.

Progress towards outcomes

The Smell the Roses project outcomes were that deafblind participants: -

- Health/wellbeing improves
- Feel less isolated and bored
- Enjoyment and understanding of the natural environment increases

Moss Graffiti

We enlisted a craft tutor to support members with the production of the Moss Graffiti mural. The tutor has a long-standing relationship with DbS and has a wealth of knowledge and experience of deafblindness and working alongside deafblind people supporting them to achieve their potential. The tutor worked with members to create stencils of each letter and secure them onto the wall of our Learning and Development Centre. Members then created moss mulch which was painted to the stencils. The artwork was then watered twice weekly to promote the moss growth and the mural was revealed at our AGM in June 2022.



Country Ranger Walks

We held 5 County Ranger-Led walks supported by East Dunbartonshire Council Country Ranger service. The walks were held during May, June, August, September, and November, visiting Dumbreck Marsh Nature Reserve, Loch Ardinging, Strathkelvin Railway Path, Mugdock Country Park and Colzium Estate. The Country Ranger had also previously supported the work of Deafblind Scotland and through his knowledge was able to provide excellent audio descriptions of the local environment and bring to life the surrounding scenery for members. He taught them

about the woodland/grassland environments and encouraged them to touch different types of moss, weeds and flowers, upturned tree roots, promoting a tactile experience for some fully deafblind people taking part. For those members with residual hearing, being able to identify different bird sounds was a great achievement and hearing a cuckoo at Loch Ardinning was a highlight. After each walk members enjoyed coffee and cake and social interaction with their peers at a local café or DbS centre.



The country ranger-led walks have proved to be one of our most popular activities of 2022. Although the weather was not favourable for all five walks this did not put anyone off and even enhanced the walks as the smells from the rain on the ground were made more prominent.

Before and after each walk, participants completed an Activity Questionnaire. When asked '*On a scale of 1-10 prior to the walk "How isolated do you feel?"*' the average score was 5.4/10. We then asked, '*After attending your activity how would you rate your mood?"*' the scores received showed extremely positive feedback with 100% of forms completed rating 10/10. Comments in response to '*Has attending the activity improved your mood and if so, what helped?"*' included 'Fresh air/ meeting other deafblind people and chatting. Stuart (Country Ranger) very good chat, answered all my questions. Brings back memories, learned about plants and how they grow. Would like to find some thistles!'. Another respondent commented 'Fresh air and meeting other people'.

Both the country ranger-led walks and the moss graffiti project were promoted widely through Deafblind Scotland social media channels and proved popular with our social media audience with several followers posting positive comments.