

'Together Again: Sharing New Cultural Experiences' published 07/02/2023

0:02

This is my best backpack, this is my

0:05

favourite backpack, it's a very helpful

0:07

very useful backpack, I take this

0:09

backpack everywhere I go. In it I

0:12

keep really important things

0:14

um like a pen and a notepad because I

0:17

have an idea for a story and I want to

0:19

write it down. Or I keep

0:21

um pencils colouring pencils and paper in

0:23

case I want to draw a picture. Who likes

0:25

to draw pictures? No grown-ups ever

0:28

put their hands up! Come on, everybody can

0:32

Draw, everyone! So I keep colouring pencils

0:36

and paper...

0:37

Here I am at the Museum of Somerset

0:40

um one of the primary venues for

0:42

visitors coming from the project. A busy

0:45

Museum in the centre of a county town,

0:47

full of youngsters, old people, all sorts

0:50

of people are visiting our Museum today.

0:52

I'm here at the Museum of Somerset with

0:55

a special installation based on my new

0:57
book The Museum of Marvellous Things
0:59
which is all about the magic of
1:01
imagination and creativity which I think
1:04
is absolutely vital to everybody it's so
1:06
much fun to to make things to realize
1:10
that there are no wrongs or no rights
1:12
it's just whatever you want to do with
1:14
creativity and it's something that you
1:15
can do together as a family. So this is
1:19
well this is my troll and its name is
1:25
Green because obviously I've got the
1:27
Green theme and I and I really like the
1:30
feathery top since it made some nice
1:32
detail.
1:34
So our project has been to try and get
1:36
new audiences to visit our various sites
1:39
around the town of Taunton. We appreciate
1:42
that people have suffered a lot during
1:44
the Covid pandemic and the initial idea
1:47
of the project was to bring people in
1:49
who are still struggling financially
1:51
struggling with getting out and about
1:53
mixing again, but we soon realized over
1:56
the six months of creating the project

1:58
that there were there were new there
2:00
were new challenges for people in the
2:02
country. The economic crisis had cut in
2:05
really sharply and we've got visitors
2:08
from um from abroad the Ukrainian
2:10
refugees here. So the project has sort of
2:12
developed and met people who are in most
2:16
need at this particular time. We're
2:18
currently in a noisy room at the moment
2:20
doing arts and crafts so this morning
2:22
we've been making paper puppets and
2:25
doing a puppet show. They've had lots of
2:27
fun they've not stopped smiling
2:29
um just doing lots of family things and
2:30
spending time together. We didn't pay to
2:33
come here, we had a donation through the
2:35
food bank because obviously the cost of
2:37
living going up so having it even if we
2:40
had to pay for it it was affordable and
2:42
having it cheaper and affordable for
2:44
families to do it means they get to come
2:46
out and we get to do fun things.
2:50
Oh what a wonderful day let's play! Hello!
2:54
Oh no!

2:57

Ahhhhh!

2:58

So what I like to do is show people that

3:00

you can do an awful lot with not very

3:02

much. So maybe found objects things

3:04

you've got around the house, pebbles that

3:06

you find in the park feathers paper

3:07

anything and using your imagination you

3:10

can turn ordinary everyday objects into

3:13

wonderful things. It's cheap it's often

3:16

free and the impact is wonderful then

3:18

you've got something you can treasure

3:20

forever something that you've made

3:22

you've created and you can put on

3:24

display show your friends do all sorts

3:26

of things with it.

3:27

So when I went to the Museum, I dressed

3:30

up as a Roman and it was really fun

3:33

because I thought it was like going back

3:35

in time, which would be one of my

3:38

favourite superpowers if I had it. You can

3:41

get free vouchers to Taunton Museum

3:44

which is around in the area and you can

3:48

find old ancient swords that the people

3:51

used to make there's a wooden one you

3:55
can find little eggs from rare birds
3:59
you can
4:01
find a castle which is around this area
4:04
is Taunton Castle.
4:06
When I went to the museum I was actually
4:09
very surprised how it was like really
4:12
full of interesting facts like about
4:16
Stone Age hammers,
4:18
ammonites. You can also find eggs you can
4:22
find old bicycles the one with the
4:26
bigger little wheels. So one of the
4:28
important parts of our project was
4:30
trying to reach people out in the local
4:32
community who would really benefit from
4:34
a Heritage experience and that's not
4:36
only the lovely things that we have on
4:38
offer galleries exhibitions tours events
4:41
but it's also the well-being benefits of
4:43
visiting a museum it's the fact that
4:45
people can have a safe space it's the
4:47
fact that people can meet other people
4:49
they can meet friends they can get
4:50
together they can socialise and they can
4:53
experience some sort of knowledge of

4:55
belonging of becoming um part of their
4:58
local community and understanding what
5:00
their history is all about. We have an
5:03
amazing Museum that is only you know
5:06
about 15-20 minutes away from home but
5:09
it is ideal because it covers everything
5:11
and I do actually say yes please do
5:15
bring your children
5:16
because they will love it and it's also
5:18
handy for everybody to all come together
5:20
and learn as one great big massive group
5:24
and it is perfect to have for the
5:28
community as well as the home education
5:30
factor as well.
5:32
Pause, pause, pause, pause, can I go to the play area? I
5:35
don't think that's supposed to be in
5:37
with me talk-
5:41
Okay yes go.
5:45
As you can tell
5:47
very unpredictable children but all the
5:51
same love them to bits love the museum
5:53
he loves the museum and when they did
5:57
have the Romans there he did have the
6:00
um the sword and he was fighting against

6:03
one of their one of the staff obviously
6:06
that was dressed up in the Roman gear
6:07
which was really quite nice and
6:09
entertaining at the same time so yes
6:12
it's all joyous for the museum to be
6:14
here and for everybody to participate
6:17
in all the events all of the courses as
6:21
well as taking an interest of all the
6:23
artifacts that is actually available at
6:25
the Museum itself.
6:27
So our local partners have been people
6:30
who are already working with people in
6:32
the community who are struggling. We've
6:34
been able to get and been kindly invited
6:37
to organisations such as Taunton Food
6:39
Bank we've been involved with a lot of
6:41
community groups in the town and we've
6:44
been involved with a lot of church
6:45
groups as well. So we've been expanding
6:48
our partners working with them so we can
6:50
actually reach people right on the
6:52
ground and distribute some opportunities.
6:54
So the people who really needed it and
6:56
the important thing is that we've been

6:57
able to meet those people face to face
6:59
and we've been able to explain to them
7:02
what we have on offer and how it can how
7:04
it can just enrich their lives. Okay so
7:06
today is my first day at the Museum of
7:10
Somerset
7:11
um today I've bought a pony a donkey two
7:14
goats and two rabbits. So we have found
7:18
over the years that being around animals
7:20
goats donkeys and ponies is very calming
7:23
for your soul. So here we are at Taunton
7:26
food bank this is one of the partners
7:28
that we've been working with on the
7:30
Together Again project they've been kind
7:31
enough to invite us in right from the
7:33
start six months ago and when people
7:35
coming in getting their food getting
7:37
ready to pack it away we've then had an
7:39
opportunity to offer them some of the
7:41
cultural experiences that we have on
7:42
Offer. We've been offering training to
7:44
our front of house staff the people that
7:47
really meet the people on a day-to-day
7:49
basis we've had some great training

7:51
offered and it's been there to guide our
7:54
staff into how to deal with new
7:57
audiences how to deal with people that
7:59
you wouldn't normally have coming
8:00
through our doors at a museum or a
8:03
Heritage Center and that's been really
8:05
important and it's been quite emotive
8:06
training and quite thoughtful training.
8:08
I'm here at the Museum of Somerset this
8:11
morning and we're taking part in a free
8:13
craft activity it's great fun for adults
8:17
and children everything's included you
8:21
get to take it home at the end you get
8:22
to film your little video at the theatre
8:25
and you get to meet the author so it's
8:28
great value and then we're also
8:29
afterwards we're going to do the trail
8:31
around the museum which was only a pound
8:33
which again is great value and low cost
8:36
we think everyone can afford that and
8:39
everyone can take part. So we have this
8:41
amazing system of roller racking so all
8:44
these shelves and things can be slid up
8:47
tightened together

8:49
so that you can fit in an enormous
8:51
amount of things in a very small space
8:52
really useful these are absolutely
8:55
Fantastic. They're also useful because
8:57
they keep things tight and together keep
9:00
the dust out keep the light out
9:01
everything else so they're brilliant. I
9:03
really enjoyed it. Loved it in fact. Lived
9:06
in Taunton all my life and this is the
9:08
first time I've seen this.
9:10
Really informative. I just loved all the
9:12
pictures on the wall actually
9:15
they were really interesting and to see
9:18
how much work is done in the background
9:20
as well and how much they've got which
9:22
we've never seen. So we've been working with
9:25
Exeter University to measure the success
9:27
of the project we've been using lots of
9:29
methods of recording people's
9:31
experiences that we've managed to invite
9:34
to our museums and we've been looking at
9:37
some of the practitioners that have been
9:39
taking part delivering to the to those
9:41
audiences how it's been for them working

9:43
with potentially new audiences that they
9:45
wouldn't normally work with and we're
9:47
going to really look quite carefully at
9:49
that data how people have had the good
9:51
experience how people have you know been
9:54
able to interact with our staff and
9:56
we're going to try and build that in to
9:58
our offer in the future.
10:00
Today this is my puppet.
10:08
A social prescribing project, a pilot like
10:10
this is really important and we've been
10:13
trying out lots of different methods
10:15
lots of different ways of trying to
10:16
reach people lots of different marketing
10:19
ways and that is really important that
10:21
we try and work on the successes and the
10:24
failures of this project as well so that
10:26
we can embed a really strong social
10:29
prescribing agenda into everything we do
10:31
in the future so I'm looking forward to
10:33
seeing how the project goes looking at
10:35
the evaluation and seeing what we can do
10:38
next year.
10:43
Loves museums.

10:47

[Music]

10:50

Loves visiting the museums.

10:53

One day he gets invited to visit this

10:55

museum

10:58

He goes

11:00

Yes! He very quickly realizes that the

11:04

Museum of Marvellous Things isn't like any

11:06

other Museum he's ever been to before.

11:10

Old Norbert Morris gets very confused

11:12

and we might get a bit confused doing

11:15

this strange show because it's quite

11:17

unusual this year.

English

All

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