

Turning Point 2023

A wonderful and heartwarming approach to learning about Public Art in Salisbury has been embraced by different groups throughout the city. Woodlands school children from Bemerton Heath raced towards sculptures in the cathedral grounds with enthusiasm and joy, made drawings of the artworks and declared that it had been 'the best day out!'. Community groups who met in their church or parish hall had animated conversations about what they had seen on their tour of public art. It was clear that for each group, the place that they met in was an important space where they were welcomed by friendly facilitators and felt warm and safe and where they were chatting, laughing and having fun.

The concept for this project was to work with participants to create a visual map of how people viewed public art and how they moved around the city to show important or significant places to each person through their own journey. However, it soon became obvious that the meeting rooms and the people in them were key places that held a special meaning and sense of warmth that everyone looked forward to being a part of. Getting to know these groups has revealed the importance of each and every one and the staff and volunteers who help to make them happen with enthusiasm and kindness. Using public art in Salisbury as a talking point explores the city with a fresh eye, and gives a voice to each group, and overwhelmingly, the activity of coming together, talking together and learning together has resulted in a feeling of happiness and anticipation for the next sessions. (Sue Martin – Lead Artist)





"A great chance for this newly formed group to share an experience together. Its great that the project looks at the City Centre but thinks about Harnham too." – Walk Volunteer - Harnham Walking Group









"We can't do the walking for this project but Sue has brought the art to us and had us think about how we are able to move around the city. What is accessible to use and what is not and how that could be changed" – Creative Carers



One of the members of this group (not pictured) was seen showing a friend the Turning Point sculpture outside the project sessions. Afterwards she said. *"I have honestly never noticed it before and I definitely wouldn't have had to confidence to talk about it but the thing is its about what I think of it and that's ok. I am looking at the city differently now. Maybe more positively?"*