



At the End of History

Showing stories of disabled people in Dover from the past



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In our museum



We are the Dover Museum. We have lots of things on show that are all about Dover in the past.



The things that we put on show are called **objects**.



Sometimes we show a special group of objects that go together. We call this a **display**.



The display might show things like:

- Important things that have happened in Dover

and

- Famous people who are from Dover.



About At the End of History



Our new display is called **At the End of History**.



This display is pretending that we are in a war.



In this war some objects have been broken and people have stolen objects from the museums.



They stole the things that they think are most important and worth the most amount of money.



Disability objects might be seen as less important so they are not stolen.

These are things that tell disabled people's stories.



This display shows you what it would be like if just disability objects are left.



It will help you to think about what museums would be like if they only have disability objects to put on show.

And it helps you to think about things like:



- If the only objects museums have left are disability objects, does that make them more important?

and

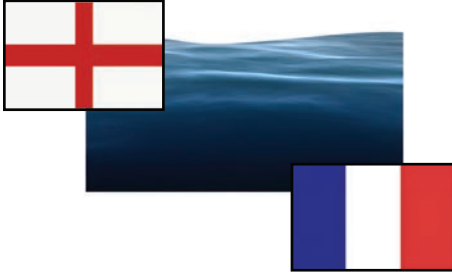


- Do stories about disability change how people think about and see the world?

Hard work and skill

Swimming across the English Channel

The English Channel is the sea between England and France.



Lots of people want to try to swim across the Channel. They often swim to and from Dover.



It is really hard to swim across the English Channel. It takes a long time and the sea is very cold.



People often swim across the sea as part of a team. Each person just swims part of the way.



Less than 2 thousand people have swum all the way across by themselves.

Disabled swimmers



Some disabled people have swum across the English Channel.



People often celebrate disabled sports people.



But they celebrate the person for doing well with a disability, not just that they are good at sport.



This can make other disabled people feel bad about themselves.

It can make people feel that they should do well with a disability too.

Gertrude Ederle



1924

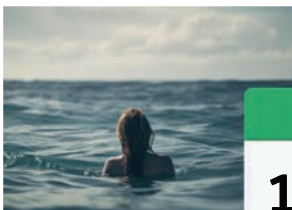


Gertrude Ederle was a deaf swimmer.

Gertrude was really good at swimming. In 1924 she won 3 medals in the **Olympic Games**.



The **Olympic Games** is a big sports competition that happens every 4 years.



1926

In 1926, Gertrude swam across the English Channel.



1st

She was the 1st woman to do this.



It took Gertrude 14 and a half hours.

This was the quickest anyone had ever swum across the English Channel.

In this area, you can see some things that are to do with Gertrude. You can see:

- 3 medals.



- 2 photographs.



- A magazine from 1926. It shows a picture of Gertrude before she swam across the English Channel





You can also watch a short film about Gertrude.



The film does not have any sound.

Bill Stein's trophies



These are 2 **trophies** that belonged to a swimmer called William Stein.



A **trophy** is a special cup that is given as an award for doing well in something.



William Stein was a disabled Scottish swimmer. He was called Bill for short.

Bill tried to swim across the English Channel in 1978.



He found it really hard.



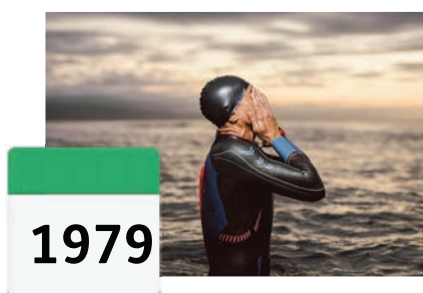
It was a really windy day and there were lots of big waves in the sea.



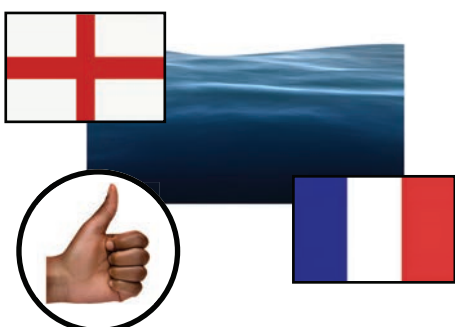
This stopped Bill from swimming all the way across.



He was given a trophy for his hard work.



Bill tried to swim across the sea again in 1979.



This time he did swim all the way across.



It took him just over 16 hours.



Bill was given another trophy.
This is a special trophy that is given
to disabled swimmers.



Bill was the 1st person to win this
trophy.

Bill Stein's trunks



These are a pair of Bill's swimming trunks.



Bill wore them when he swam across the English Channel.



The trunks show how everyday things can be used to tell disabled people's stories.

Chances that disabled people have in life



Some disabled people have better chances to do well in life than others.

This might be because of things like:



- Having a lot of money.



- Having support from friends, family and doctors.



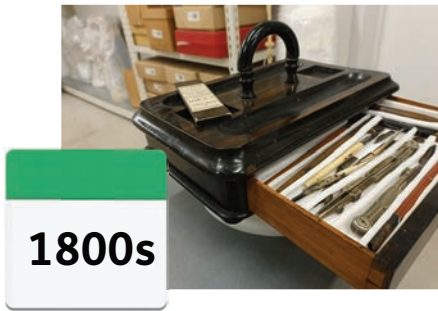
- Their race or background.



In this area, we tell the stories of 2 disabled people.

1 person had good chances in life and 1 person did not.

Old writing set



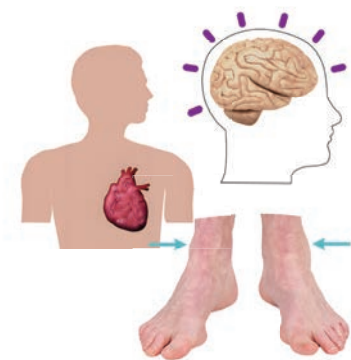
This is a writing set from the 1800s. It has things like pens, pencils and a pot for ink in it.



Anne Pratt was an artist and writer who lived in the 1800s.



Anne was often poorly as a child.



She had an illness that causes problems with your heart, **joints**, skin and brain.



Your **joints** are the parts of your body that can move. Things like your knees or elbows.



Anne was very good at drawing.
Her family supported her to do well
at it.



Anne's brothers and sisters brought
her flowers to draw when she could
not get outside.



1800s

In the 1800s, children did not have
to go to school.



Anne's family paid for Anne to go
to school to get better at drawing.

Set of books written by Anne Pratt



These books were written by Anne.



Anne wrote about how pretty and important plants and flowers are. She drew lots of pictures to go in her books.



Lots of people liked Anne's books.



But **scientists** started writing about plants and flowers too.

A **scientist** is someone who helps us to learn things about the world.



The scientists were all men. They wrote about things like what plants are made of and how they grow.



Over time, people wanted to read more books by the scientists.



This meant less people read Anne's books.

Brown Bess musket



This is an old gun from the 1800s called a **Brown bess musket**.



James Bushell was a man who lived in the 1800s. He did not have a lot of money.



To get more money, James became a **smuggler**.

A **smuggler** is someone who takes things or people into or out of a country **illegally**.



Illegally means it is against the law.



In the past, people could earn a lot of money by smuggling.



James was part of a smuggling gang called the Aldington Gang.



The gang smuggled alcohol into England. Things like gin, wine and rum.



In 1826, the **navy** tried to stop the gang from smuggling.



The **navy** is the army that fights at sea. Part of their job is to stop smuggling.



The navy fought the gang on Dover beach.



In those days, people used to fight using guns.



The gang shot and killed a navy officer in the fight.



Later in the year, the gang fought the navy again.

James was shot. He was badly injured and had to have one of his legs cut off.



This meant James could not smuggle anymore.



The navy would have used guns like this brown bess musket when they were fighting

Our journey's end

About pilgrimages

A **pilgrimage** is an important journey that people make for their religion or beliefs.



People who go on a pilgrimage are called **pilgrims**.



In the 1300s, lots of pilgrims came into and out of Dover.



They were going to visit churches and graves in England. Or they were stopping in Dover on their way to another country like France or Spain.



The graves were of important religious people.



At that time, some people thought disability was an illness that could be treated.



Christians built special hospitals to care for and treat disabled people.



They built a special hospital called Maison Dieu in Dover.



Some disabled people went on a pilgrimage to try to fix their disability.



Disabled people took themselves on amazing journeys and they still go on amazing journeys today.

Pilgrim's badge



Pilgrim's badges were badges that were sold to people who went on pilgrimages.



It helped them to remember their journey.



This was a bit like buying a badge from the museum gift shop today.



The badges were all different. They showed things like churches and graves that people went to see.



The badges help you to think about things like:

- What different pilgrims believed in and what was important to them

and



- If disabled people had a favourite church or grave to go and see.

Painting of Bartholomew's Fair



This is a painting by an artist called Benjamin Robert Haydon.



The painting shows a fair called **Bartholomew Fair**.

Bartholomew Fair is a celebration that happens on 24th August in London.



Fairs at the time were owned by kings or queens. They could only happen if the king or queen said so.



King Henry was king in the 1100s. He made a rule that said that the Bartholomew Fair could happen.



Money from the fair was used to build a **priory**.

A **priory** is a special place where a group of religious men called monks live and work together.



The painting shows lots of people going to the fair.



At the bottom of the painting you can see a man who is disabled and a person with dwarfism.

About us



This is a big picture called a **collage**. It is made up of lots of words and sentences.



These things were all said by the people who planned this display.



We have made this display together with a group of disabled people from Dover and Folkestone.

This is called **co production**.



The group helped us to decide what to put in the display.



The words in this picture show things that the group said about the objects.

Virtual reality experience



Virtual reality is something you can experience. You see and hear things that make you think you are in a different place.

It might look very real. But it is not real.



Virtual reality is called **VR** for short.

What happens in VR experience



You will need to put on a VR **headset**.

A **headset** is something you put over your eyes, like a mask. The headset has a screen in it.



You will need to hold a controller in your hand as well.



The screen makes it look like you are in a boat. It makes you feel like you are really there instead of just watching it on a screen.



You will see lots of locked boxes and keys all around you.



You can use the keys to unlock the boxes.



You move the keys by moving your hand controller.



When you unlock a box, you will find out about someone from Dover in the past.



You will hear and see things about their lives.



This will help you to understand what life was like in the past.



And it will make you think about what your life is like now.



If you want to do the VR experience, you have to book it on this website:
www.bookwhen.com/dovermuseum
#focus=ev-st0a-20251020103000



The website is not in easy read.



If you do not want to book the VR experience you can still see what happens.

There is a screen next to the VR experience. It shows you what the person doing the VR will see.



The VR was made together by:

- BRiGHTBLACK. They make VR experiences.
- Karl Mercer. Karl works here at the Dover museum.
- The people working with Karl on the display.
- Harsha Balasubramanian and Ria Patel. They gave Karl advice about what to put in the VR.



About some of the pictures we have used



Some of the extra pictures in this call out are owned by other people.

Here are the websites that the pictures are from.



On page 18

www.wellcomecollection.org/works/fnpdpvzy/images?id=b982vzxs



On page 19

www.data.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/id/image/media-218804



On page 20

www.wellcomecollection.org/works/hgrjarxg/images?id=gt3wqurx