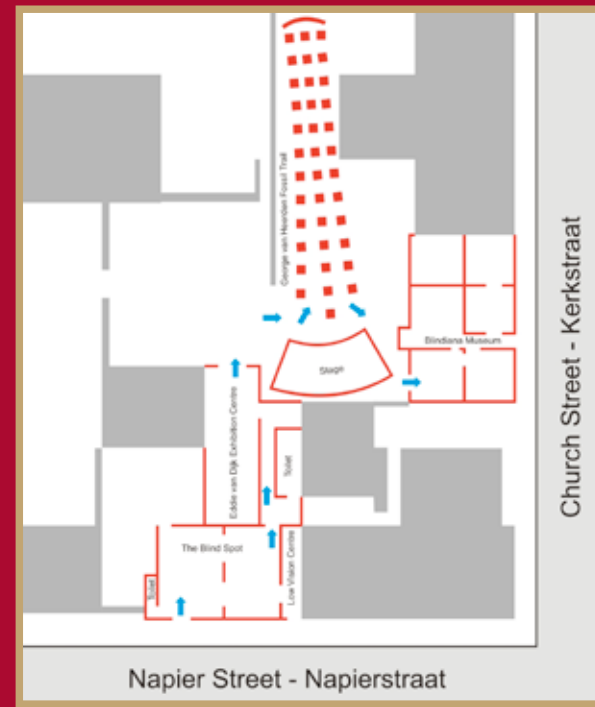


Opening of the Information Centre Worcester

16 March 2011



 Disabled friendly environment



Thank you to all our sponsors.
A special word of thanks to the National Lotteries Distribution Trust Fund for their major role in financially assisting this project



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The Information Centre consists of the following:

- **Eddie van Dijk** exhibition centre
- **George van Heerden** fossil trail
- **Blindiana Museum** – a museum for the blind about the blind
- **The Blind Spot** – a disabled friendly reception area and theatre

The project materialized with the assistance of the following voluntary specialists:



Dr Eddie van Dijk –
(donor of the fossils)
– Paleontologist



Late George van Heerden
(designer/creator of the
fossil trail)- developer



Alexander Agenbacht
– (creator and donor
of the geological
exhibition)- Geologist



Dr Jurie van den Heever
– (adviser) Paleontologist



Johan Venter – artist



Johan Maree
– museum expert

assisted by a team from the Institute for the Blind, Pioneer Printers, Pioneer School and persons with visual impairments



Eddie van Dijk Exhibition Centre

This exceptional exhibition was made possible through fossils donated by Dr van Dijk. The project materialized Dr van Dijk's dream of a tactile exhibition for persons with visual impairment. Its uniqueness addresses the specific needs of persons with visual impairment and other disabilities. Visitors will be able to



handle and touch the exhibits at their own pace and time. This is a first in Africa.

Alexander Agenbacht, with the support of the Council for Geoscience, donated most of the geological specimens and arranged this informative geological exhibition which will stimulate and interest visitors in the history of the formation of the earth. As this resource also forms part of the school curriculum, many learners will benefit through this excellent learning environment



George van Heerden fossil trail

The late George van Heerden was the creator of this tactile fossil trail. With his love and passion for nature and history, he approached a team of experts with a project plan and facilitated the project till his passing in 2008. His wife, Anlo however, continued to manage and coordinate the project. The open air exhibition makes it an exceptional experience and the concrete exhibits serve as an excellent source of tactile information to blind and deafblind people who have no other access to this unique resource. The fossil trail is situated in a safe environment wherein blind and deafblind people as well as pupils and tourists can experience the exhibits at their own pace with trained guides. The fossil trail is an important concrete learning environment. Most of the fossils in this exhibition were donated by Dr Eddie van Dijk.



Blindiana Museum

The "Instituut vir Doofstommen en Blinden" learners was founded in 1881 due to the needs of a deaf boy, identified by a Dutch reformed minister, Rev C. Rabie. Admission of more deaf, blind and deafblind learners followed. Blindiana museum originated through the need to preserve the historical progress of the academic and vocational training of these learners. The development of braille, braille music, boarding facilities, medical and therapeutic services, orientation and mobility as well as the development of the industrial department can be experienced in this museum. Blindiana museum covers the astonishing history and development of services to persons with visual impairment between 1881 and 1981. It will serve as a source of information to future generations. Our sincere gratitude to John McGregor for his special interest in preserving the exhibits.

The Blind Spot

The intimate Blind Spot Theatre is a unique disabled friendly reception, training and entertainment venue where guests can relax and enjoy refreshments while delighting in live entertainment. The Blind Spot aims to provide training to the disabled in a supported environment and to welcome guests visiting the Institute for the Blind. During the day guests can enjoy an entertaining and informative programme presented by our visually impaired residents and during the evening The Blind Spot Theatre comes alive with an atmosphere of candles, wine, light cuisine and a special guest performer. The Blind Spot is also available to guests interested in entertaining friends in an intimate manner – please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

