



Getting AT Ready Festival

Guide

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Welcome to Getting AT Ready 2022!

Hooray!

We finally made it!

After a two year break we're back and with the biggest Getting AT Ready ever!

The last few years have seen a significant change in the delivery of education and support for disabled students so let's take a couple of days to take the time to reflect but also make plans for the future.

Day 1

Lessons from Lockdown

Looking back.

What have we learnt over the last few years? What's going to stick and what needs to go?

Day 2

Universal Design for Learning

Looking forward.

A ubiquitous topic that we're bringing back to basics. Where do you start? How do you inspire?

With an ambitious agenda we had to make Getting AT Ready a two-day event and we hope you're in the festival mood! All the usual great content is there but we wanted to keep things more relaxed this year, so feel free to wander around the stages, and attend whatever you fancy. In between take the time to catch up with people and as always enjoy the food!

The full schedule and a map is available at the entrance.

Thank you for coming!

Carolynne & Ruth

Sight and Sound Technology

Exhibitors

Upstairs and Downstairs Foyers

The exhibitors will be running workshops throughout the festival. Check out the schedule leaflet for more information.

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Collect tokens from the exhibitors to be entered into the prize draws.

There will be a draw at the end of each day.

Good luck!

Innovation area

Upstairs Foyer

Handpicked selection of Assistive Technology exhibitors with something new to share



scholarcy



Wellbeing area

Downstairs Foyer

Take a break, relax, be mindful

Backstage

Hosted by:

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Room 8, Upstairs

During the day MindView Masterclasses

Lucky VIP? Head here for the drinks reception on Day 1

The Main Stage

Auditorium

Day 1

Headline Act

Lessons from Lockdown Keynote

George Rhodes

Director of All Able, Digital Accessibility Lead at University of Westminster

We all have pandemic stories. Some good, most bad. The last few years have been characterised by collective struggles against forces airborne and unseen but have been made even more challenging for many who already had more than their fair share of barriers.

The pandemic for many people with disabilities has delivered further discrimination, isolation or hardship, but occasionally a step forward to a more inclusive society.

George Rhodes, Director of All Able kickstarts us Getting AT Ready with a heart on his sleeve account of his experiences both professional and personal during the pandemic and how he is leveraging his experiences of the past 2 years to target his fight for a more accessible and inclusive world.

This keynote will take listeners on a roller coaster of topics, from discrimination in the supermarkets, loneliness and a change to working conditions, through inaccessible government action, and essential services for everyone but those with access needs, to that slim silver lining opening new opportunities for finding the right talent, building flexible and accessible education and new arguments for inclusive practices.



George is an experienced and award winning public sector professional having worked with Central and Local Government, Universities, Colleges, Schools, NHS, Police Forces, Fire & Rescue Services and more to deliver value for money, effective and secure IT services.

For several years George's focus has been on the delivery of accessible and inclusive services for all citizens. Known for his extensive knowledge on UK accessibility legislation, he is the author of the [original accessibility statement monitoring](#) in Europe and his work on both statements and disproportionate burden misuse has been discussed by the European Commission as an exemplar for delivering accessibility for public services.

His years of involvement with academia have seen George guest lecturing about accessibility as part of computer science curriculums and help set best practice for accessibility in educational materials. Now taking on new challenges in the education sector, George is working with the British Computing Society to develop the Digital Accessibility Specialist Degree Apprenticeship Curriculum.

Alongside his Co-Founder Ben Watson, George has led a multi award winning [county wide initiative](#) to improve accessibility of public sector organisations.

George is a well-versed speaker having delivered talks across a wide variety of events, conferences and lectures both at home and internationally. In his spare time George studies for a PhD to develop improvements for tactile maps used in navigation.

Day 2

Headline Act

Universal Design for Learning Keynote

Ben Scott

Customer Research Manager, Present Pal

Getting UDL Ready: How to kickstart your own UDL journey

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a framework that optimises learning and teaching for all learners - but how do you get started on your own UDL journey? In this session, Ben Scott, Present Pal's Customer Research Manager, will take us through an overview of what UDL is, the guidelines that underpin the framework, and examples of tools that align with the UDL principles. Ben will draw upon his research on the experiences of neurodiverse learners in modern learning environments, as well as the experiences of students who receive the Disabled Students' Allowance, to demonstrate how UDL can be applied in the real world. At the end of the session, you will have an understanding of where to get started on your own UDL journey and what resources from the UDL community around the world can be used to support you.



Ben Scott, MA (Hons), MBPsS, Customer Research Manager at Present Pal is a Psychology graduate from the University of St Andrews. Ben has previously conducted

research on the accessibility of digital mindfulness exercises and has spoken at the 2021 and 2022 UDL-IRN Summit and the HEIR conference. Ben is currently working on a number of collaborative projects with higher education institutions both in the UK and the US, exploring the challenges neurodiverse students face with communication-based learning activities.

The Clyde Stage

Room 1 Upstairs

Day 1 & 2

Alex Cleater, Snook

The Invention Sessions

At this 'invention stand' the goal is to invent a tool to support and enhance the learning experience for your chosen pupil. You will be given a choice of real-life situations that pupils struggle with in the classroom to use as your starting point. You will be given 15 minutes and plenty of arts supplies to create your invention! You can work in groups up to 3 people and sign up throughout the day. All levels of craft ability welcome and support is there to give you some advice and guidance if wanted.



'Alex Cleater is a Principal User Researcher and Accessibility Specialist at Snook, a Service Design agency. Alex is an accessibility advocate and embeds inclusive practices into client work and education. She has applied inclusive design and accessible approaches in Public, Private and Third sector organisations.'

Snook is a design studio built to make the world more human. Our purpose is to design viable, sustainable and fair services with people's real needs at their heart. By connecting deep, strategic thinking to design we can tackle the most complex challenges. And by engaging with everyone from the boardroom to the waiting room we can effect positive change together.'

Day 2

Georgia Mann, All Able

The Social Session

The importance of social media has soared over the last few years with it quickly becoming the easiest way to share information to your audience on both your personal and professional platforms. While the platforms themselves have some catching up to do to become fully accessible, there's a lot we can do as content creators to make what we produce accessible to everyone. From checking your colour contrast, to writing alternative text, to even knowing what the platforms allow you to do (spoiler; they are all different), this workshop will show you how to apply the principles of accessibility straight onto your social media. We will cover the basics in creating accessible content while still allowing creativity to flourish. We will also take the time to look at how to navigate the in-built accessibility tools across several social media platforms including Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook and TikTok.



Georgia graduated from the University of Greenwich with a Masters in Literary London, following on from a first-class English Literature BA. She then worked in communications for Student Services at the University of Kent and quickly became their accessibility champion, largely focussing on creating and delivering training on accessible social media. Georgia worked closely on the Kent Digital Accessibility Conference and is passionate about furthering the cause of accessibility in marketing, communications and social media.

The Kelpies Stage

Room 2 upstairs

Day 1

Frank Rennie, UHI and Tom Farrelly, MTU Distributed Learning Love In

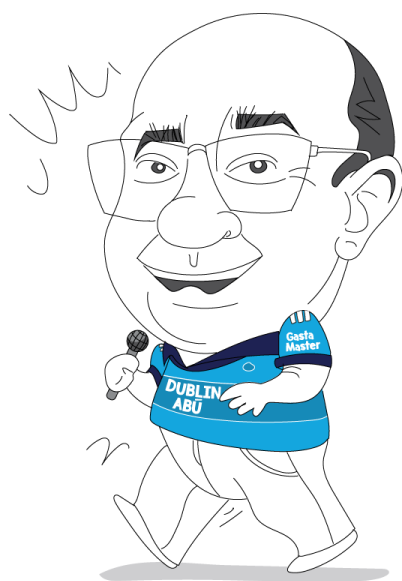
In Session 1 sit back and listen as Frank and Tom draw on their years of experience in the education sector trying to get to the bottom of why we've struggled with distributed learning when it quite clearly brings so many advantages. Then join Frank for session 2 and a live Q&A. He loves to be challenged so bring your most pointy questions – What is so wrong with the word 'remote' anyway?!

Hosted by George Rhodes of AllAble we're sure this is going to be a thought-provoking set.



Frank Rennie is Professor of Sustainable Rural Development at the University of the Highlands and Islands in Scotland and Assistant Principal at Lews Castle College UHI. His particular research interests are new approaches to online education and networking for sustainable rural development, See <http://www.lews.uhi.ac.uk/frennie> and <https://uhey.wordpress.com/> or @frankrennie

Contact: frank.rennie@uhi.ac.uk



Tom started his working life as a Fitter & Turner; serving his apprenticeship in CIE Rail. In fact worked at it on and off for 15 years, before making the leap to Social Science in his early 30s. He has been a lecturer on Social Care and Nursing programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level since 2002. Since 2005 Tom has become more and more involved in Technology Enhanced Learning in support of his teaching and learning strategy, and currently divides his time between research, teaching and academic development. Tom has extensive experience in the development of blended delivery courses and modules and supporting teaching staff in developing digital literacy skills in support of their teaching and learning. In the past he has acted as an external examiner for Limerick Institute of Technology, Dublin City University, Technological University Dublin, Notre Dame University Australia and the University of Western Australia.

@tomfarrelly

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/tom-farrelly-farrelly-6259362a/>

Day 2

Ben Watson, All Able & UCL 'The Ultimate List': Crowdsourcing Inclusion

Ben will cover a range of topics around the theme of understanding the entire student journey and how, as a sector, we can crowdsource our way to a more inclusive environment for everyone post-pandemic.

Ben will share examples of student journey mapping projects he has been involved with and discuss how this can be used to frame an auditing approach and raise institutional awareness of inclusive design by ensuring that no part of the student journey is out of range.

We will also look at the institutional opportunities that accessible resources present in terms of serving up information in a variety of formats for the benefit of everyone and will invite participants to join our new venture to crowdsource the ultimate list of free and open-source assistive technologies and guides on how to use them.



Ben, a former law librarian and qualified teacher, has a passion for inclusive design that has led him into researching and implementing approaches to inclusive information and technology provision for education.

He has experience of working with all UK education sectors (primary, secondary, further and higher education) and many years experience of working to improve both the physical and digital accessibility of education organisations.

In 2015 he initiated the [OPERA \(Opportunity, Productivity, Engagement, Reducing barriers, Achievement\) project](#). This project reconsidered approaches to learning and teaching, digital systems and assistive technologies and catalysed a shift towards anticipatory reasonable adjustments and inclusive practice by design. This work has been hugely influential and was recognised in 2018 with Times Higher Education Award for Outstanding Support for Students.

Ben is also one of the founding chairs of the Further and Higher Education Digital Accessibility Working Group (FHEDAWG) which has worked directly with the Government Digital Service to develop guidance for the Higher and Further Education sectors to best meet obligations under the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018.

Ben holds two Masters degrees associated with education and learning development, and is undertaking a PhD at the University of Kent looking at the provision of accessible information in education and developing mechanisms for measuring its impact.

The Centrum Stage

Room 3 upstairs

Day 1

Stuart Lawler, Podcast host

RBNR Fireside Chat

Get a cup of tea, pull up a chair and join Stuart and friends by a cozy fire as they chat, reminisce and ruminate over the last few years. Previous guests from the podcast 'Remote But Not Restricted' Gary and Zenaib provide insights from their experiences during locked-down learning and explore the impact this may have had on their work and study now and in the future.



Stuart Lawler is Head of Digital Content at Sight and Sound Technology. He also heads up the company's Irish operation. He has more than 20 years' experience working in the assistive technology industry, with most of that being spent at the National Council for the Blind of Ireland (NCBI), where he held the position of Head of Technology Innovation.

An avid user of Braille, Stuart is passionate about equal access for education and works closely to assist and support children, their parents and professionals in the field.

Day 2

Rohan Slaughter, University of Dundee

UDL Headbangers

In this session Rohan will talk about the challenges of delivering Universal Design for Learning. We all know it's a fantastic concept but there must be a reason (or several) why it's not universally adopted. Rohan will face these reasons head on.



Rohan has been working to support technology in the education sector for more than 20 years. Rohan has an IT, assistive technology, and education management background. Between 2015 and 2020 Rohan worked for Jisc, the EdTech not-for-profit that provides support to colleges and universities. Rohan was previously employed at Beaumont College as assistant principal and formerly as the head of technology. Rohan is a member of the Natspec technology strategy group and is currently vice chair of the Karten Network board.

Rohan joined the University of Dundee as a senior lecturer in Assistive Technology at the end of 2020. Rohan is working to support the development and delivery of an MSc in Educational Assistive Technology that aims to professionalise the assistive technologist role and to provide professional development pathways for people who wish to support the assessment, provisioning and ongoing support of Assistive Technology. The first cohort started in January 2021 with a second cohort commencing work in January 2022.

The Equilibrium Stage

Room 4 upstairs

Day 2

Will Marshall, AT Trainer

‘We’ll let Will explain...’

During the session, we will discuss:

- What a trainer does – what do assessors expect?
- How we do it – delivery methods, time scales, and keeping the student interested.
- How we continue to improve – CPD, research, student feedback.
- What is the point of it all? Setting students up for the workplace.

I look forward to seeing everyone there!!



About me:

Name: William James Hardy Marshall

Age: A tired 36 y/o

Height: Of nonsense

Weight: Wife, two kids, one evil cat

Sign: BSL level 1... and Leo

Job role: Customer Trainer with Sight & Sound Technology

Background: Born and raised in the windswept west coast of the Shire, little William Marshall spends his days working with students across the country, from his little shed. He has spent the last 3 years in that shed. He likes it...honest.

I have been part of Team Scotland for 3 years as a Customer Trainer. My interest in Assistive Technology was piqued while working as an Admin Assistant with City of Glasgow College (then Metropolitan College) around 12 years ago. Since then, I have become an avid user of AT software, not only for training students, but to help me focus, organise, and complete tasks. This has made it a far easier job to train others because I understand the merits of AT in the workplace as well as in education.



Getting AT Ready is an event run by Sight and Sound Technology.

Sight and Sound Technology are an assistive technology supplier with offices in Glasgow, Dublin and Northampton.

We have been supporting students in receipt of the Disabled Student Allowance (DSA) for over 40 years.

We believe in providing total student-centric support, be that directly or through the Disability Service.

If you would like to speak to someone about using Sight and Sound Technology as your DSA supplier please contact our Head of Education, Carolyn Smith:

carolyn.smith@sightandsound.co.uk

Thank you so much for attending Getting AT Ready 2022!