

# flyingstart



**THE  
TALKING WALLS®**



**Name:** Deborah Wilson  
**Age:** 50 years  
**Business:** The Talking Walls UK Ltd  
**Service:** Cultural heritage software applications  
**Website:** [www.thetalkingwalls.co.uk](http://www.thetalkingwalls.co.uk)  
**University:** Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton

**Description of business:** The Talking Walls® is a multimedia template application that is able to be adapted to suit any heritage site, museum or historical building. It has been designed for users to visually explore and navigate where they are visiting either via a handheld device, and /or a kiosk / DVD. The Talking Walls® will enable visitors to learn about the history of a specific place / space by recreating specific 'timeslices' of architectural change and be able to see how this has developed over time. It is designed to enhance the interest and appeal, particularly of heritage sites, by including educative (curricular), cultural, artistic, social and historic dimensions in a visually-rich multimedia application.

**Why The Talking Walls:** The Talking Walls® is designed to be a learning experience for children doing history projects, and designed to entertain as well. It is envisaged that children and adults will walk around a property discovering more about the history and social impact of the place by using this application on a PDA or similar device. Often children visiting heritage sites with their parents are presented with adult information. The Talking Walls® enables them to access this information in a format specifically designed for their age group. Learning can continue at home by using the DVD (bought from the visitor centre / website) in conjunction with the web.

**At a glance....**

<b>Graduated:</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>To start trading:</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	<b>£43,000</b>

**Business achievements:**

- Received micro project funding for the Beaulieu Abbey pilot from May 2008 - May 2009.
- Interest from The British Museum, The National Trust, English Heritage, Beaulieu Abbey and local museums.

**Deborah Wilson on how FlyingStart has helped:** 'The FlyingStart programme helped with mentoring and business advice.'

## About the FlyingStart Programme

This 12-month business start-up programme for new entrepreneurs is delivered by the NCGE and supported by the UK Government's Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). An intensive three-day residential training course is followed by 12 months' specialist mentoring and support. The aim is to have 60% of all graduates trading within one year. FlyingStart ensures all new graduate businesses have a ready-made national and regional network, a dedicated mentor, appreciate the 'know-hows and know-whos' of practical business, and understand how to make money.