

# coalition

June 2019

The GMCDP Archive Edition



**Our history: disabled people's campaigns**

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Did you know ... there are 166 saved versions of GMCDP’s website saved from 2005 to 2019 on the Internet Archive – <a href="http://www.archive.org">www.archive.org</a>	

## **Coalition, the magazine of the Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People.**

Coalition is:

- A place for sharing different ideas (debate).
- A place for people to say what they think.
- For all topics about disabled people.

Coalition does not have anything in it that we know will upset people (is offensive).

Coalition does not have anything in it that we know puts people down (demeaning).

Everything in Coalition is agreed by the GMCDP Magazine Working Group.

What people say (opinions) in this magazine are not always the same as what GMCDP believes.

Get in touch:

If you want to give us something to put in the magazine;

If you want to have a copy of Coalition.

The Editor, GMCDP,  
Unit 4 Windrush Millennium Centre,  
70 Alexandra Road, Moss Side,  
Manchester. M16 7WD

Tel: 0161 636 7534 Text: 07 508 537 561

Email: [info@gmcdp.com](mailto:info@gmcdp.com)

## **Join GMCDP!**

Membership is free for a short time.

Contact us to join.

Contact us to carry on your membership.

### **Copyright.**

(Copyright is saying who published something like a magazine.)

We usually say it is OK for disabled people who want to let other people see (reproduce) items for campaigning or education reasons.

But you must ask us first (permission)

You can ask the editor by getting in touch with the GMCDP office.

If you want to put the item in another magazine, report, newsletter or book (publication) please use the words here.

"Coalition (issue no. and date), the magazine of the Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People."

### **Acknowledgements**

**Guest Editor:** Linda Marsh

**Layout:** Tony Baldwinson

**Additional Support:** Brian Hilton, Caron Blake, Brett Savage, Maggie Griffiths

# **What the Editor Has To Say (Editorial Comment)**

This Coalition is not like our usual magazine. It is linked to the launch of the GMCDP Archive.

It is not all different to the usual magazine. Our favourite sarcastic, funny commentator Scorpio is back. He is looking back at the past 30 years of Scorpio.

Crippen has created a cartoon for us again.

Beth Astridge from National Archives looks at disabled people in archives in the UK. This will, hopefully, make us think more about 'getting archiving.'

We need to make sure that proof of our lives, campaigning and hard work is kept for people to find out about.

Archivist, Larysa Bolton, gives us information about how to start creating an archive.

Tony Baldwinson writes about his own experience. He is an 'amateur' archivist. The word 'amateur' only means Tony is not paid for the archives he has collected. It does not mean his work is not good.

Larysa Bolton has written another article. She writes about how archivists can look more at people and less at the items archives have in them. Thinking about reaching out to communities so that items that could be an archive are not lost.

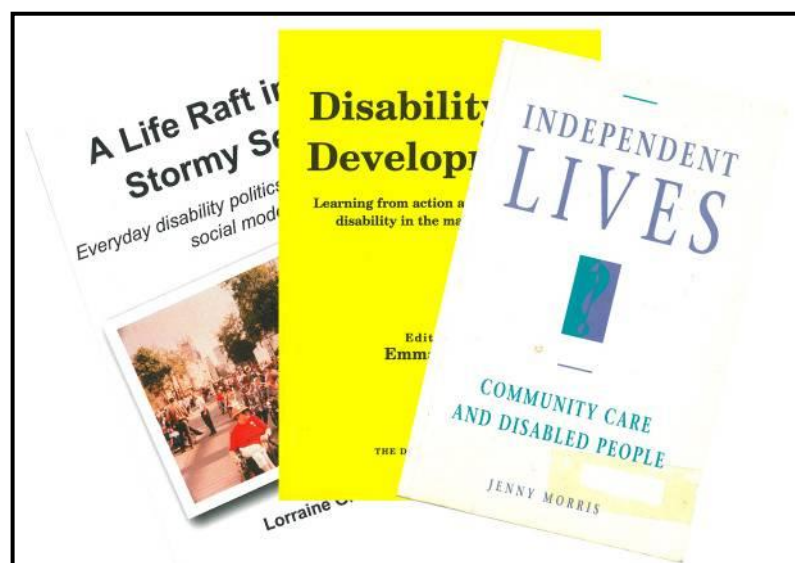
I write a reply to Larysa's article. I am editor of this magazine and Archive Worker at GMCDP.

We have an article about the GMCDP Archive. In this magazine we cannot show all the exciting and fascinating material in this collection. This is only a little bit of what we have. We hope it will make you want to look at more.

There are pictures of items from the Archive.

So ... read on and enjoy!

Linda Marsh, Editor





## **The Sting! Scorpio**

This article makes us think.  
Scorpio looks back on what was in past articles.

Scorpio was first in Coalition Magazine in 1988.  
It has been in most Coalitions since then  
The person who wrote Scorpio had started work  
for Manchester City Council.  
They found information other disabled people  
did not know.

It is hard to imagine today how little  
information disabled people could find.  
No internet, very few newsletters or magazines  
for disabled people's and almost nothing in the  
newspapers or on TV or radio.

The Council had journals for workers about  
disabled people using services.  
The council wrote reports for its workers.

The person who wrote Scorpio did not use their  
real name at the time they were writing. This  
was to protect them.  
There have been 3 Scorpios over the last 30  
years. Mark for 5 years, Ian for 5 years and me  
for the rest of the time.

Scorpio has looked at lots of different topics  
over the years.

Some topics have been written about a few times.

- What governments and local authorities say about disabled people.
- Charities.
- Access barriers.
- The Disabled People's Movement.
- And funny stories.

The Disabled People's Archive at Manchester's Central Library has all Coalition Magazines.

Here are a few things from the last 30 years.



## **Government Failure**

From Thatcher to May (via Major, Blair, Brown and Cameron's ConDem Coalition) very little has changed for many disabled people.

We are still the poorest, worst educated and least employed group of people in society.

And we have the lowest life-expectancy. Life expectancy is how long a person may live.

These have not been changed by:

- The Disability Discrimination Act, Equality and Human Rights Act.
- Groups of people talking and thinking about topics (Commissions and committees).
- New ideas to make change (initiatives), for example: 2-ticks and disability confident.



- Asking people questions about themselves (Assessments).
- Asking people what they think about things (consultations).
- Looking at what is happening (studies) and writing about it (reports).

No government chose to use the knowledge of disabled people and our groups.

Governments have ignored disabled people's groups.

Governments have made things difficult for disabled people.

Governments have made disabled people's groups close by stopping giving money to them.

Some local authorities supported disabled people's groups.

Some local authorities worked to help more disabled people get paid work.

Some local authorities made streets and buildings easier for disabled people to get around (more accessible).

These local authorities stopped supporting disabled people.

Local authorities felt they had 'done disability'. It was time to think about other things.

A lot of the things that got better in the 1980s and 1990s have got worse in the last 10 years.

Who would believe that in 1988 the Department of Health and Social Security made sure that disabled people received the benefits they should have?

Who would believe that Manchester City Council said it wanted Manchester to be the most Accessible city of Europe?



### **Parasite Charities - What's in a name?**

(Parasites are living things that live by feeding off other living things).

3 of the many disability charities that have changed their names in the last 30 years are:

- The Cripple's Help Society was first the Donkey Rescue Society. After this it changed to be Disabled Living.
- The Spastic Society changed its name to Scope.
- Leonard Cheshire changed its name from Leonard Cheshire Homes.

What hasn't changed is that most are still run by non-disabled people.

Many of the disability charities stopped having residential homes and schools where people say they have been abused.

They have not said 'sorry'. They have not said they have learned lessons from mistakes. They have changed their name and have a new logo. (A logo is a pattern of shapes and words that is used on booklets, letters and other papers.).

They have stopped getting money for giving services to disabled people.

They now get paid for telling the government, businesses, universities and others what disabled people need.

The charities have once again stolen our voice. But this time they have stolen our money.

Disabled people's groups have been closing. The charities have been growing.



## **Access – still denied**

Scorpio has written about trains, trams, taxis, buses and planes a lot over the years.

Laws have changed. People have won court cases. There have been campaigns to change how people think (attitudes).

It is still not easy for some disabled people to travel.

How transport is designed is better. Some things stopping disabled people (barriers) have been taken away.

Ignorance and selfishness are worse.

It may have been cold and uncomfortable in the old guards carriage. But cases and prams were moved out of the way to make space for wheelchair users.

Access to pavements and other public places has been changed for the better.

There are dropped kerbs.

Street clutter and obstacles have been taken away.

There are ramps.

There are road crossings controlled by traffic lights. There is tactile paving.

Soon after we started to enjoy our independence new ideas came along.

"Shared-use" was the new idea. "Shared" between pedestrians and cyclists. But not easy for many disabled people to use. These were like the early cycle ways that ran through the middle of pavements in Manchester.



## **It's a funny old world**

My favourite funny story lasted over 20 years.

In America a blind man took his State to court. His State would not give him a permit to have a gun.

This is a right under the American Constitution. The Constitution is a list of rights for all Americans.

He said his right to have a gun was being stopped because he was not being given a permit.

He took this through all the courts in America. It went to the Supreme Court.

He was given a permit by the Supreme Court. His permit was taken away after he caused a few gun-shot injuries.

His State said this was because of alcoholism, not because of his visual impairment.



## **Disagreements (Controversy)**

Over the years Scorpio has had some complaints.

Scorpio has had 3 threats to take him to court (writs).

Number 1.

This was from Trinity Mirror. It was about an article in the Dear Marje agony-aunt column. Marje said it was ok for a man to have an affair. This was because his "overweight wife" was "too disabled to lead a normal, contented married life."

Marje wrote: "don't forget that poor disabled creature at home, clearly unable to control her need to gorge – as much a cripple as anyone you'll see in a wheelchair".

Scorpio said this was against how the National Union of Journalists say people should write (guidelines).

Scorpio said the article should be taken out of the newspaper (withdrawn).

Scorpio used words the newspaper did not like.

Number 2.

Bob Monkhouse was a little annoyed by Scorpio's criticism of him trying to stop his learning impaired son from getting married.

Number 3.

Leonard Cheshire Foundation was not happy with what Scorpio wrote about the man Leonard Cheshire and the charity.

There was a lot of angry offended talk (bluster) but they did not try to take Scorpio to court (no writs were served).

## **The Future?**

One thing has not changed over the last 30 years. We need to act collectively. That means working together.

Our greatest success came from talking about things with each other.

Our greatest success came from working to do everything we could to make sure everyone could join in (be inclusive)

"We" and "our" are far more important than "I" or "me".

We should not allow people to think they are better than others (Elitism).

We should not allow people to push themselves forward before others (ego-tripping).

We mustn't allow some groups of people to think they are more important than others (hierarchy).

We mustn't let people say one impairment is more important than another.

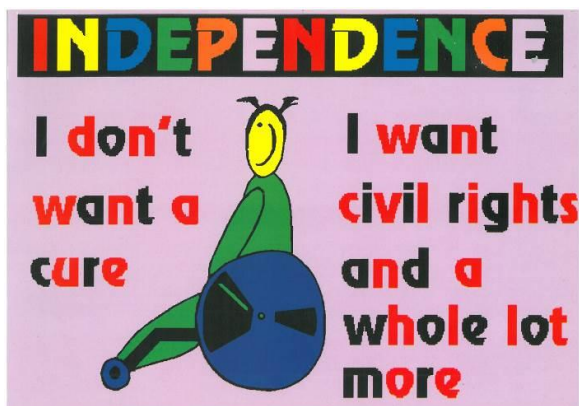
Above all we should learn from our history.

We should try not to spend time re-inventing the wheel. That means thinking of how to do something when it has already been done before successfully.

Mistakes were made in the past. We must not ignore these.

Ten years ago Scorpio wrote,  
"As long as there is inequality, injustice and people prepared to exploit disabled people there will be a need for Scorpio."

Till next time, "watch yer boots." (...for the scorpion)





# Disability Archives in the UK

Beth Astridge is from the National Archives. Here Beth tells us how disabled people are shown in archives.

There are many archives in the UK that help people find out about the history of disability.

Some are:

- Government records about disabled people.
- The records of charities and other groups that support disabled people.
- Medical archives about medical conditions.

The National Archives has a guide to finding disability archives. It is at:  
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/disability-history/>

It is more unusual to find archives that show disabled people's lives in the UK.

In the past archives have been put together by government, doctors, schools, charities and committees.

Not by disabled people themselves.

Many archive services are working to change this.

Some archives are looking for collections from disabled people.

Some archives are working with local disabled people to find archive material.

Archives are working to make their collections easier for disabled people to visit and use.

### **Recent projects**

Here are a few archives that show disabled people's lives.

#### **Change Minds – Norfolk.**

This archive project is for people in North Norfolk. It is for people who live with mental health conditions.

The project helps people to look at 2 case books from the 19<sup>th</sup> century Norfolk County Asylum.

The case books show stories about local history, mental health and identity.

People who join the project create oral histories. These are histories told by people speaking.

The project is making a website archive that will stay on the internet for all to see and use.

You can find it on the internet at:

<http://changeminds.org.uk/>

## **History of Place – Accentuate UK**

This project visited 8 places across the country. It found the lives, pictures and stories of disabled people.

Deaf and disabled people and others volunteered and joined in the project.

They used the archives in each place to create blogs. They made what they found into digital stories.

The archives were used in displays and exhibitions at major museums. Some were:

- MShed in Bristol.
- The Museum of Liverpool.
- The V&A in London.

The project created games.

The project made resources for people to use.

The project wrote toolkits on digital exhibitions.

The project wrote toolkits on including young deaf and disabled people.

The project was given money by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

You can find it on the internet at:

<http://historyof.place/>

## **Disabled Britain on Film – BFI**

The British Film Institute (BFI) has started offering a new collection of films from their film archive and other collections in the UK. The films show how disability has affected the lives of people across the UK for the last 100 years.

The 'Disabled Britain on Film' collection has around 190 films.

The films show how people's attitudes to disability have changed. They show how we can learn from the past.

You can find it on the internet at:  
<https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/collection/disabled-britain-on-film>

## **What archives in the UK are about disability?**

Every year National Archives asks over 300 archives in the UK what new collections they have.

You can look at what is in these collections on 'Discovery'. This is the National Archives catalogue.

It has lists of archives in The National Archives and in archives across the UK.

You may see the lists called Accessions to Repositories.

You can look for things by year or by theme (what they are about).

You can find it on the internet at:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/accession/>

In 2013 the theme of 'Disability' started being used.

Some archives in this theme are:

- In 2015 the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies was given a collection of the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation. It has papers about the Paralympic Games and the International Paralympic Committee.

In 2016, Manchester Archives and Local Studies was given the Ian Stanton collection. Ian was a disabled activist, writer and musician

- In 2017, Mosaic: Shaping Disability Services, Leicester (1900-2010) left their archives at the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Record Office.

I hope I have given a snapshot of some of the fantastic archives about disability.

I hope I have shown what good work there could be in the future.

More archives are being found and explored because people who work in archives are looking for them. There is more interest in the history of disability.

I hope to see more from these fascinating collections in the future.

I hope to see more about disabled people.

I would like there to be more research to show changes in how people have seen and thought about disability over time.

Beth Astridge, Archive Sector Development,  
The National Archives

Email [Beth.astridge@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:Beth.astridge@nationalarchives.gov.uk)



# **Making history, or how to get your archives into an archive**

**Larysa Bolton tells us what to do if we have an archive.**

An archive can be a set of items you have found and kept.

They can be the papers of a friend or your family.

They can be papers from a group or organisation.

People may not know what to do with papers they find.

There is an archive service at the Central Library in Manchester. It is called Archives+.

There are some words people use about archives.

The word archive can mean 2 things:

1. The items that make up a set of things can be called an archive.
2. A place where people take their archives to keep them safe is called an archive. For example, Archives+ at Manchester Central Library.

If you take an archive to Archives+ do ask about words you do not understand.

## **What is an archive?**

Ask yourself if what you have is an archive.  
An archive is something which tells you about a person, place, group, activity or event.

It can be made up of different items:

- Notes from meetings (minutes), reports, leaflets.
- Books, newsletters, magazines, newspapers.
- Photographs, sound recordings, videos and film.
- T-shirts, banners.
- Merchandise – items used to tell people about a group, event or something else.

Ask if the items you have tell a story.

Do they tell us about things that were happening?

Do they tell us about decisions that were made?

Do they tell us about how people and groups were linked together (relationships)?

Is there only one of the item? (It is unique.)

Are there only a few of the item? (They are rare).



If you can answer 'yes' to some of these it may be an archive.

## **What do you do with your archive?**

It may be difficult to decide where to keep or give your archive to.

The National Archives have a list of archive services on their website at:  
<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/find-an-archive>

Archive services all have a list of what they will keep. This is called a collecting policy.

The list may be of places an archive can be about.

The list may be of topics archives can be about. Manchester Central Library takes items for different reasons.

The Manchester City Council Archive take items if:

- 1.They are about the City of Manchester.
- 2.They are about Greater Manchester. If it is about 2 or more districts of Greater Manchester. For example a business in Manchester, Oldham and Trafford).

Other archives at the Central Library are:

- The North West Film Archive, who collect moving image material for the whole region.
- The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre, who collect black and minority ethnic archives.

## **Getting in touch with an archive**

Your local archive will want to hear from you. They can tell you about other archives if they cannot take yours.

When you get in touch tell them:

1. How big is your archive? You can talk about it like this. It is 3 carrier bags and 2 big boxes of papers. Or a book-case full of files and folders.
2. Who collected and looked after the items? This is called the provenance.
3. When was the archive collected? For example dates on papers or when photos were taken.
4. What is the archive made up of? Is it papers, photographs, books, other items?
5. Where is the archive kept now?

6. If you are worried about anything. For example, papers or other items are fragile. It is not stored in a safe, dry place.
7. Tell the people at the archive if you think the material you have tells a story no one knows about yet.

## **Who will own the archive?**

If Archives+ takes your archive you have to choose who will own it. You can choose:

1. Manchester City Council owns your archive. This is called a donation.
2. You own your archive and loan it to Archives+. This is called a deposit.

How you feel about the archive will be important for this decision.

Some people like to give responsibility for their archive away.

Other people find it hard to feel that they have donated their archive and it is not theirs.

People at Archives+ can talk to you about making this decision.

You must fill in a form to donate or deposit your archive.

You will be asked for your address and telephone number.

You can also say if there are parts of the archive you do not want people to look at. You can talk to people at Archives+ about this.

You will be asked to say as much as you can about the archive. It may be a list of what is in the archive. This is because you are the person who knows what it is about. People in Archives+ will not know this if you do not tell them.

## **What Happens When your archive is in Archives+**

Some people can bring the archive to Archives+ themselves. Sometimes Archives+ can pick up the archive from you. Talk to Archives+.

The archive is added to the list (database) of archives in the building. This is called accession.

The archive is given a number.  
All the information about the archive is added to the database.

Then a conservator looks at the archive.  
A conservator is someone who knows how to

look after items physically.

The conservator decides if the items need cleaning or repairing.

The conservator checks for pests for example bookworm or mould.

After this the archive is put in the strong room. A list is made of what is in the archive. This list is called a finding aid or catalogue.

The archive can then be used by the public.

There is a room in Manchester Central Library called the Search Room.

This is where people can look at archives.

## **Who looks at archives?**

Lots of different people look at archives:

- People who are interested in family histories;
- People interested in the history of Manchester;
- Teachers from schools and universities;
- Groups of children from schools;
- People from TV, radio and newspapers;
- Artists, writers and musicians.

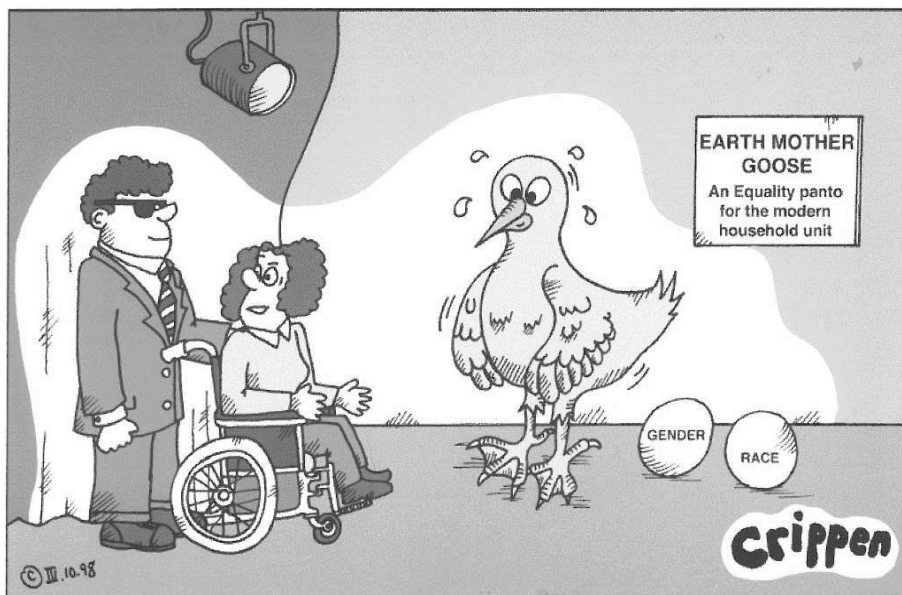
## **Why it is important to save an archive**

The archive can

- Be proof that something is right or wrong.

- Give an artist or musician ideas.
- Link someone to a person who they miss.
- Be shown on TV, or be talked about in a book.
- Be shared around the world.

Lots could happen with an archive.  
It is all thanks to the person who gives or lends the archive.



"She was fine until she tried to lay the golden egg of Disabled people's Civil Rights !"



# **Time to change: other ways to collect archives**

**Larysa Bolton from Archives+ has written this. She says archivists need to work with people in their communities.**

An archivist is someone who works with archives.

In my other article in this magazine I said how people can find an archive. Everything I said was true.

I do not think it is the only way to collect archives.

This way of collecting archives means someone needs to see that items they have are important.

They need to believe they themselves are important.

People need to be able to ring Archives+ to ask if their archive is interesting.

Everyone does not believe this about what they have or themselves.

It means things can get lost or thrown away.

There is another way to collect archives.

But this way takes more work.

Archives are not just about bits of paper. They

are about people.

People make archives, they keep them, and they feel the need to share them.

Archivists need to speak to people.  
We need to make links with people (relationships).

Archivists need to say  
“This archive you’ve created is amazing. We’d love to work with you to make sure many people can see how incredible it is”

Archivists need to do more than wait for people to contact them.

We need to look at what archives have now.  
Archivists need to think about what is missing from archives.  
Are we collecting the stories of what is missing?  
Do we have a story about everyone?

Archives need to be in communities.  
Libraries and archives need to be places people want to go to.

Archivists need to work with people they have not worked with before.  
Archivists need to ask how artists, writers and musicians use archives.  
They need to use this to make archives better.



Archivists need to think about what different items can go into archives.

It needs relationships built on trust and respect. Archivists need to agree that people who make and bring archives know a lot.

It will take a long time. It will take time to get to know people who bring archives. It will take time to build trust.

We need to think about where we get the money to do this. It will take planning and different ways of doing things.

So, to collect archives we need people, partnerships (working together) and being positive.



# **My reply to 'Time to change'**

**Archive Worker Linda Marsh replies to Larysa Bolton's article. Linda explains why she gets excited about "an old parking permit."**

In her article, Larysa Bolton talked about 'different' ways Archivists can reach communities.

I say yes! ('brava').

I am new to working with Archives+.

I am very passionate about making sure that the history of 'the ordinary person' is recorded.

When something is recorded an item is kept that will tell people about it. For example, a photograph or some writing.

So much of history we are told is about famous people ('the great and the good').

This has started to change over the last 20 years.

But we still do not know about a lot of people. A record of what they have done is not kept or celebrated.

Disabled people have had new experiences in

the last 30 years.

Some of these would be 'ordinary' to most people. Going out shopping for food. Choosing to go to the theatre, cinema or a football match.

Are these changes recorded?

Is the hard work it took to get these changes recorded?

Do people know about these?

What if you cannot go on a bus for the first time before you are in your 40s, 50s, 60s or even older?

That is what has happened for many disabled people in the UK.

Many people are campaigners. This means they do different activities to fight for change.

What if you risk your safety or health to campaign to be able to get on a bus?

Many campaigners have done this. It has not just been wheelchair-users.

Other disabled and non-disabled people who could already get on that bus joined in.

Campaigning on the streets is not the only activity that should be recorded and celebrated. Lots of people spent time in meetings and on the phone.

And before computers ... yes remember ... there was a time when a stamp on an envelope was the only way! ...

Archives have items that most people would find interesting to look at: photographs, posters, postcards, t-shirts and badges.

All these show imagination and how people can make things (creativity).

What about the 'boring' parts? Talking about how to let people know what we are saying. Meetings to plan a successful rally.

Archive boxes full of typed and hand-written notes may seem boring. They show the hard work which goes into campaigning.

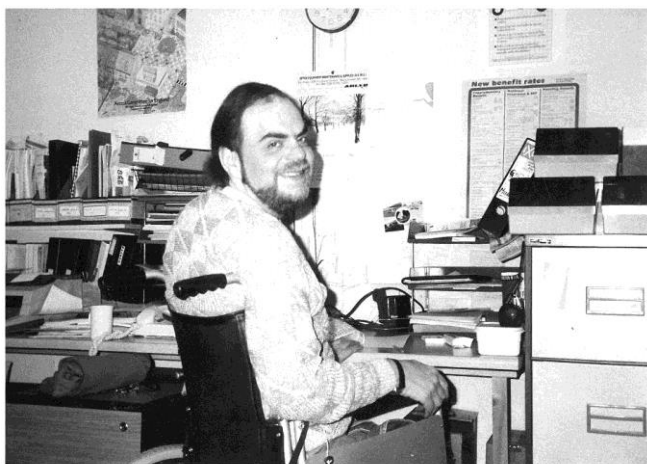
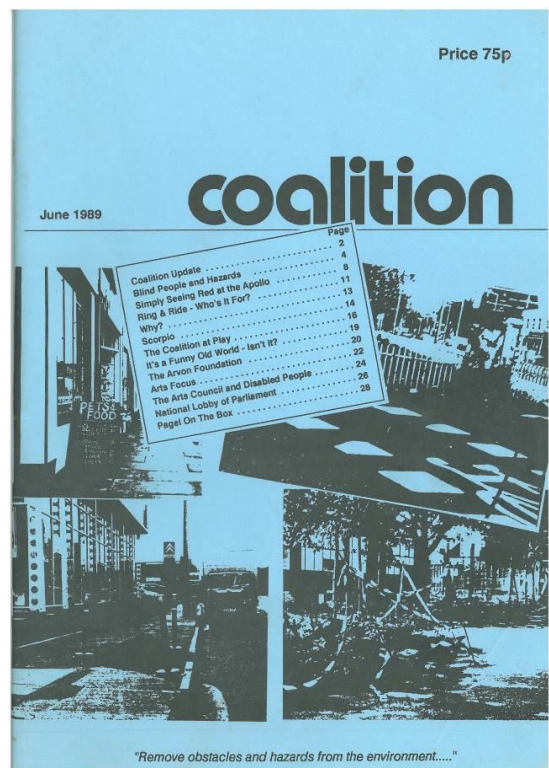
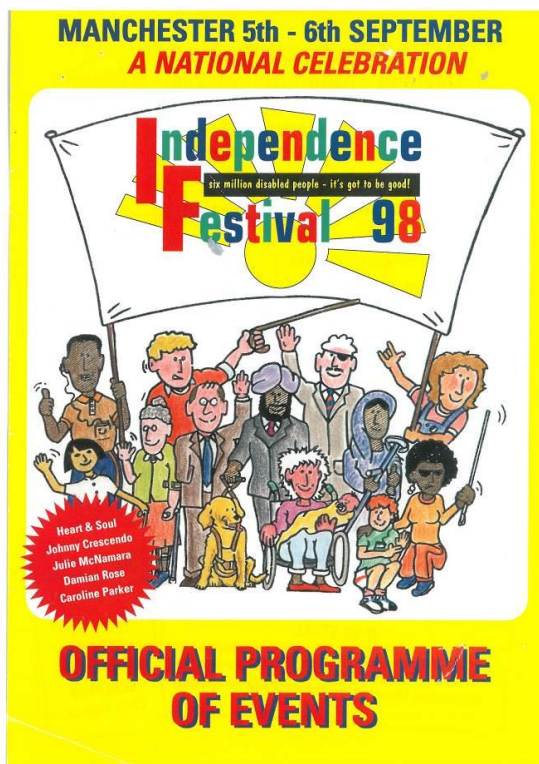
The things I got most excited about were the hand-written notes planning a rally in Manchester in 1990. And the parking permit for the van which was to bring the stage to the rally.

Archivists at Archives+ are enthusiastic and dedicated. Because of this there will be a GMCDP Archive soon.

This stops us losing many historical records

about the Disabled People's Movement.  
 We are making history now!  
 Keep saving records of what you are doing.  
 Save your meeting notes, save your jottings,  
 save your t-shirts, placards, badges ...  
 everything!

I think it is wonderful that Archives+ are reaching out to find archives and records.



# The GMCDP Archive

The GMCDP Archive is a lot of different items stored in the Strongroom in Manchester Central Library.

It is being kept for us by Archives+.  
Archives+ is an archive centre in the library.

This is a long list.

It is the different kinds of items in the GMCDP Archive.

There are:

- Documents (meeting notes, letters, planning notes, programmes and timetables).
- Newspaper cuttings and articles.
- Reports and books.
- Newsletters and magazines.
- Posters and flyers.
- Photographs and postcards.
- Booklets and leaflets.
- Videos and DVDs.
- Audio cassettes and CDs.

And more...

We even have an ADAPT 'Free Our People' wind-sock and Spastic Society collecting doll!

It has all been given to the archive by people and disabled people's groups.

Some of the groups are:

- Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP);
- Manchester Disability Forum; and
- The British Council of Disabled People (BCODP).

## **How it all started**

The collection started in 2005.

GMCDP looked at how an archive about disabled people's groups could be set up.

We asked people if we should have a national archive about disabled people's groups.

People and groups started sending their papers and other materials to GMCDP.

In 2016 GMCDP asked Archives+ how we can let other people look at what is in our Archive.

In 2018 GMCDP employed a worker. Her job is to start making a list (catalogue) of what is in the archive.

Archives+ are helping GMCDP with this.

It will take a lot more than a year to finish making the list.

## **Why the GMCDP Archive is important**

Disabled people have set up our own groups. We have done lots of work called activism. This has been done to get things changed that are not good for us.

What disabled people have done is part of history.

Disabled people have been part of making society more equal.  
Disabled people have been part of making human rights better.

We must save items that tell the story of disabled people.

It is important to save the materials that show what disabled people think about our lives. It is important to save the things that show how other people see us and treat us.

We need to keep photographs, notes about planning campaigns, magazines, t-shirts, badges, posters and lots of other items. These show people what we have done.

Books and reports written by different people are important.  
All these are very interesting to look at.



An archive has more than items that look good.

There are other archives, for example:

- The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre (at Archives+ and part of the University of Manchester);
- The Feminist Archive;
- The Hall-Carpenter Archive and
- Women's Archive (Glasgow Women's Library).

An archive about disabled people's groups will add to the history and stories these archives tell.

The GMCDP Archive will carry on growing. Other collections will be given to Archives+ for safe keeping.

For example, the archive from the Union of the Physically Impaired against Segregation, and the Lorraine Gradwell Campaign Clothing Collection.

So far we have listed a tiny bit of the archive. We have found some very exciting items.

The Archive has a number of posters. One is from the Deaf Society of South Africa. We have the set of David Hevey's 'Liberty, Equality, Disability' posters. We have the history posters created by Birmingham Coalition of Disabled People.

We have many books. Some examples are:

- 'A Life Raft In A Stormy Sea' by Lorraine Gradwell.
- 'Disability and Development' by Emma Stone.
- 'Independent Lives' by Jenny Morris.

We have meeting notes, newsletters and other papers from groups that have closed. For example Manchester Disability Forum.

There are boxes of letters, papers and reports between people and disabled people's groups. I am sure we will find some fascinating debates in these papers.

Some of the most exciting things for me are:

- Hand-written notes planning rallies and campaigns.
- The original artwork that newsletters, magazines, leaflets and posters were made from in the days before computers.
- Lots of photographs of disabled people protesting, performing on stage, debating in meetings, and enjoying ourselves.

## **What next ...?**

It is up to you what happens next with the GMCDP Archive.

An Archive is made up of what people bring to it.

Do you have a bag of papers, box of files, a hidden stash of leaflets, booklets, posters, meeting notes, photographs?

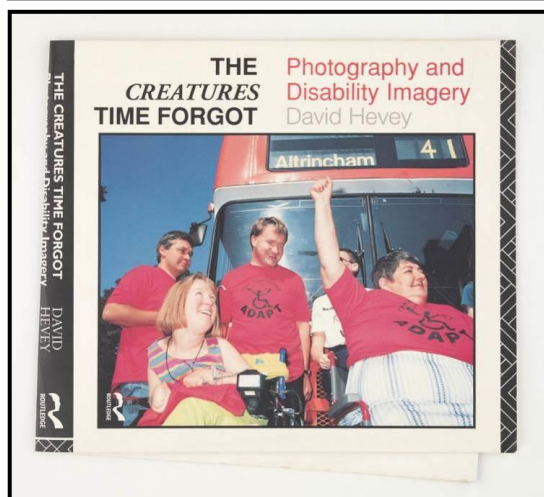
Don't let them gather dust and mould ... contact GMCDP or Archives+ to see if they could be loaned or given to the GMCDP Archive!

## A Life Raft in a Stormy Sea

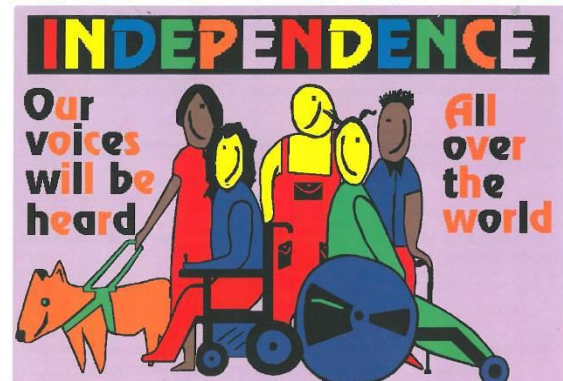
*Everyday disability politics rooted in the social model*



Lorraine Gradwell



**Independence Festival 1997**  
Saturday 20th September, Albert Square, Manchester



**2.00pm - 10.00pm - FREE**

Performers include

Ian Stanton • Julie McNamara • Johnny Crescendo • Matt Frazer  
Get Off Our Backs Theatre Company and many more.  
• Speakers •

Compered by comedy duo Natalie Markham and Mandy Colleran.

Disability arts and Exhibitions • Disability Market • Cafe and Food stalls  
Children's activities.

Afternoon music and comedy performances in Albert Square.  
Evening cabaret and disco in the Town Hall • Licensed Bar.

For more information contact

Tel / Minicom **0161 234 3684**



# Looking back at archiving a collection

## Tony Baldwinson tells us about preserving an archive.

In 2018 I was in contact with Judy Hunt. We started talking about archives.

Judy had a precious collection of papers from UPIAS, the Union of the Physically Impaired Against Segregation.

I think it was the most radical group of disabled people in Britain.

Judy's husband (who has died) was Paul Hunt. He had been one of the people to set up UPIAS.

UPIAS has closed. But it is still important. People still talk about the work UPIAS did. The work of UPIAS must be kept safe (preserved).

People put a lot of hard work into UPIAS. It made a lot of change.

We want to keep the records of UPIAS safe. We do not want people to misuse them.

People in UPIAS had promised not to share what they had said with others. This is called confidentiality.

I was very pleased when Judy Hunt asked me to look after these papers.

I was also worried about taking them from London to Manchester on the train.

These papers are very, very important to me.

Judy and I agreed the archive is closed until 2030.

This means no one can look at the papers.

We decided to ask Archives+ to have the archive.

This is because I agree with how Archives+ does its job and works.

Archives+ has the GMCDP Archive and other collections of personal papers, videos, banners, t-shirts and badges donated by radical disabled people.

I started 'sorting out' the UPIAS papers.

This took a lot of time and care.

UPIAS notes and letters were hand-written and typed.

The paper was already used on one side. It has come from the Open University offices.

The paper was very fragile.

The paper was odd sizes.

There was typing on the back of the paper.

I put the papers in plastic wallets made for archives.

I photocopied the papers on the side with the writing from UPIAS.

I scanned the papers to have a copy on the computer.

I decided to put the papers in order of their date.

Half of the papers were like newsletters for members. These were used to share ideas. Half of the papers were letters and meeting notes.

There were lists of members. I put this information on the computer.

I put all the papers on a big dining table. I spent a few weeks sorting them out.

Like in a detective programme, the papers slowly started to tell a story of who was doing what.

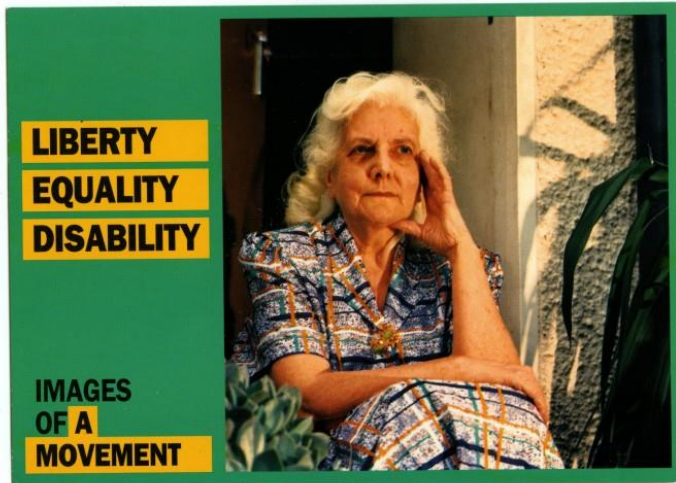
For example, you can see when a new secretary or chairperson takes over. How they do things changes.

I put the papers in new files and listed (catalogued) what was in each file.

Example: "file 6, 1978, letters, meeting notes."

Next each piece of paper needs to be listed.

There is not time to do this now.



**GMCDP**  
**Disabled People's**  
**Refugees Project**  
**(DPRP)**



**Contact Annette Lin:**  
**E-mail: [annette@gmcdp.com](mailto:annette@gmcdp.com)**  
**Typetalk: 18002 0161 276 0043**  
**Telephone: 0161 273 5154**  
**Fax: 0161 273 4164**  
**Address:**  
**GMCDP, BEVC, Aked Close,**  
**Ardwick, Manchester M12 4AN**



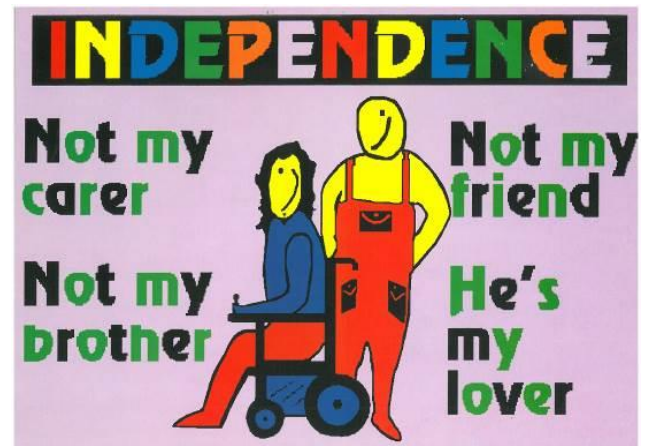



# Disability and Development

Learning from action and research on disability in the majority world

Edited by  
Emma Stone

THE DISABILITY PRESS



I am Somebody, I am Me. I like Me being Me and I need nobody to make Me Somebody.

Take Action Now -  
Greater Manchester  
Coalition of Disabled People

TEL. 0161 273 5154 (Voice & Minicom)

Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (G.M.C.D.P.)

J.A. Torrey



Would this man frighten your children?



PHOTO BY PHIL RIDER

From 1988, when disabled actor Nabil Shaban was excluded from working in a TV programme

# DISABLED PEOPLE!

## JOBS UNDER ATTACK

**JOIN OUR PICKET OF THE PACT OFFICES**

at 10am on 3rd December

(a GMCDDP action on the United Nations International Day of Disabled Persons)

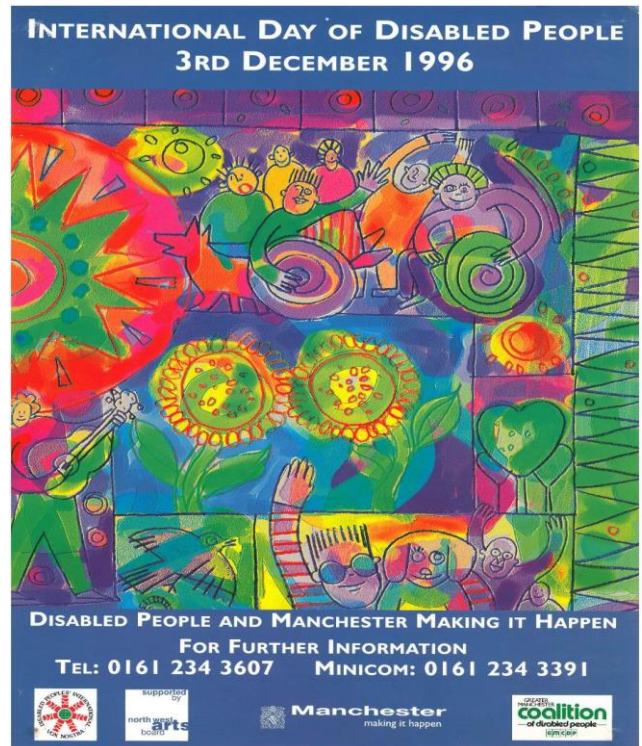
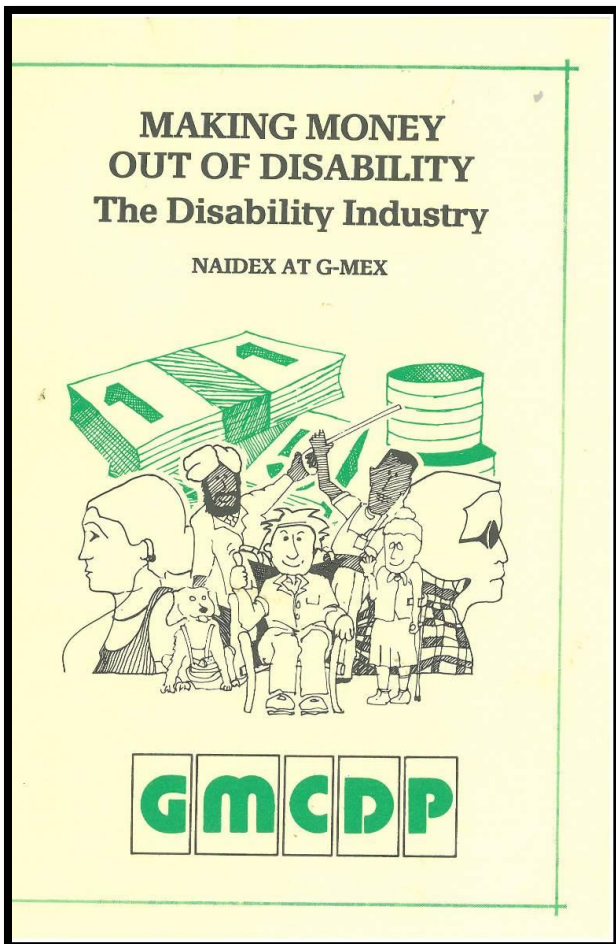
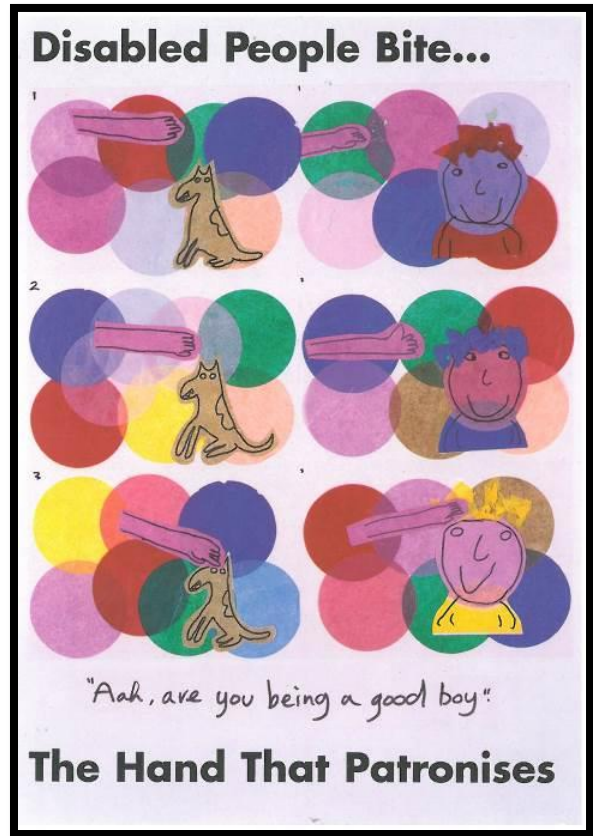
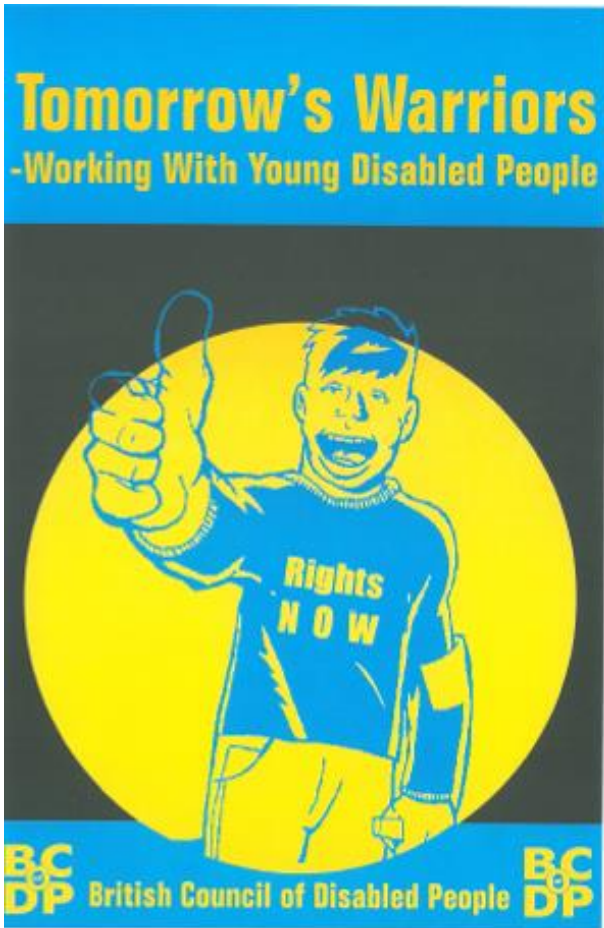
### WHY ARE WE PROTESTING?

The Employment Department is proposing to change the existing support schemes for disabled workers. From next April employers will be expected to contribute towards the costs of equipment and support services (including the Fares to Work Scheme), and an expenditure ceiling will be imposed on individual workers, limiting the amount of assistance which they can receive over a five year period.

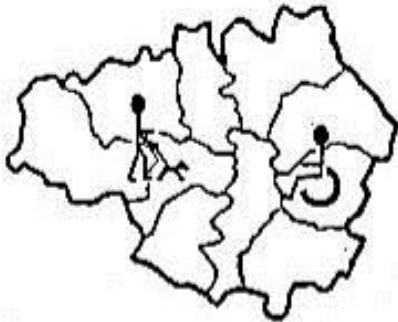
Countless research projects and statistics have proved the existence of widespread discrimination against disabled people in employment. These new measures will make it even harder for disabled people to compete for jobs.

NOTHING IS EVER ACHIEVED THAT STAYS IN A DREAM

Take Action Now - Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People TEL. 0161 273 5154 (Voice & Minicom)



# The first ever Coalition front page, 33 years ago ...



## GREATER MANCHESTER COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

11, ANSON ROAD,  
MANCHESTER, M14 5BY.

Tel. 061-225-4560.

### INTRODUCTORY NEWSHEET - FEBRUARY, 1986.

The Coalition is an organisation controlled by disabled people, the primary objective being to establish a Resource Centre for the Greater Manchester area, to promote the integration of disabled people into society at all levels.

The Coalition is now based at 11, Anson Road, Manchester, 14, with 3 salaried workers in post:-

- 1 Clerical/Administrative Officer and
- 2 Information/Publicity Workers.

There is still one position to be filled.

The inaugural meeting was held last summer at County Hall when an Executive Committee was elected.

### LIST OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

David Goddard - Oldham.  
Lorraine Gradwell - Flixton.  
Ken Lumb - Middleton.  
Kevin Hyett - Stockport.  
Bernard Leach - Chorlton.  
Annette Taylor - Stockport.  
Linda Carroll - Longsight.  
Martin Pagel - Manchester.  
Henry Harris - Salford.  
Audrey Creighton - Oldham.  
Ian Stanton - Oldham.

Neville Strowger - Tyldesley.  
Saeed Ahmet - Manchester 16.  
John Wells - Chorlton.  
Jeremy White - Failsworth.  
Paul Mittler - Stockport.  
Brian Haine - Oldham.  
Mark Todd - Walkden.  
Keith Stevens - Moss Side.  
Reg Taylor - Denton.  
G.E. McIsaac - Timperley.

## ...ever onwards and upwards!