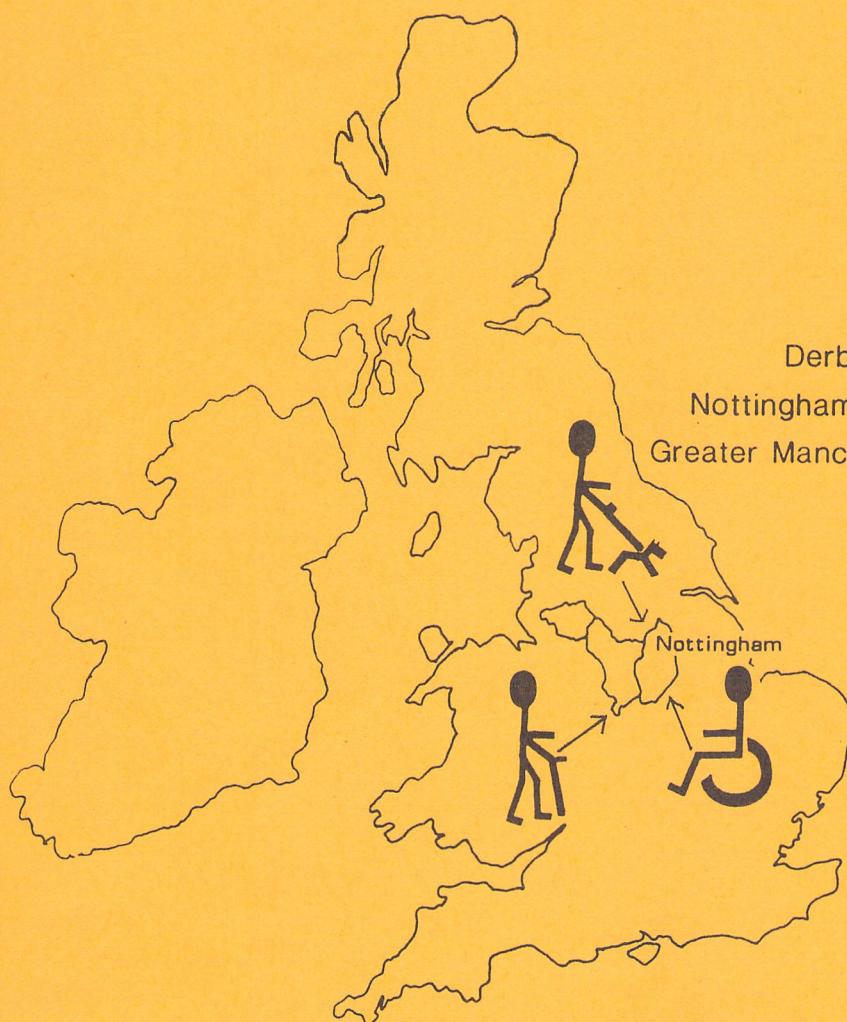


British Council of Organisations of Disabled People



in conjunction with

Derbyshire Coalition of Disabled People

Nottinghamshire Coalition of Disabled People

Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People

& Housing & Disability Group.

"Independent/Integrated Living" talk-in

INFORMATION PACK

on

Sat. 8th September. 12.15pm - 4.30pm.

at

Rutland Hall of Residence

University of Nottingham

University Park

Nottingham

BCODP British Council of Organisations of Disabled People
5 Crowndale Road London NW1 1TU

ORGANISATIONS OF DISABLED PEOPLE -
JOIN BCODP

There are millions of us who are severely disabled in the UK.

Many of us are forced to live in institutions.

Most disabled people get an inadequate education.

Many disabled people are still employed in sheltered workshops on low wages.

Most policy issues are decided by others in our name which perpetuate this poverty and segregation.

ABOUT BCODP

The BCODP is made up of both new and long standing organisations of disabled people, controlled by disabled people. It was established in November 1981 and continues to draw disabled people together through our organisations, which we control. BCODP is currently working with many other disabled organisations and professionals in the field. It is the official UK representative body and a founder member of Disabled People's International.

The BCODP has provided us with a forum for the free exchange of information and ideas for developing and expressing our needs. Through our discussions we have redefined our 'disability' and along with the DPI we have rejected medical definitions of our situation, knowing that disability is not a personal problem but a social one. Our society has been planned and developed without taking our requirements into consideration. We are left segregated from the rest of society and prevented from participating fully in our communities. We are denied the most fundamental human rights as laid down by the United Nations:-

BASIC RIGHTS

The Right to Education

The Right to Rehabilitation

The Right to Employment

The Right to Economic Security

The Right to Independent Living

The Right to Participate in Social, Cultural and Political Activities

The Right to Influence

The BCODP's commitment to opposing our segregation is total and our first priority was to set up Standing Committees to look at the social barriers that exist. Their function is to assess and campaign against the restrictions placed upon us. The Standing Committee's are:-

Standing Committee on Housing and Personal Support:

Standing Committee on Education:

Standing Committee on CILs

The action plans of the Standing Committees calls for the need of disabled people to participate fully in decision making, service delivery and professional training. The Standing Committees require active participation of disabled people to progress further in our struggle.

Standing Committee on Housing and Personal Support

This Standing Committee has worked with other organisations involved in the field of housing to promote provision of suitably designed housing and personal support services to disabled people in their own communities. This has involved work with local groups of disabled people in areas throughout the

United Kingdom to ensure that disabled people have a real voice in deciding how they want to be helped to live in their own areas. The Standing Committee have been researching and collating information on the ways that integrated housing and community support provision have been developed by disabled people both in this country and abroad as alternatives to our segregated residential institutions. This information is now being made available to disabled people; all possible support will be offered to local groups and organisations of disabled people who want to promote this means to integration and to come together to have a voice in what provision is made in their own local community.

Standing Committee on Education

The Standing Committee's main aim is to reduce by half the number of disabled children in special schools over the next ten years. To achieve this aim, we shall have to work with our constituent organisations to ensure that authorities develop the requisite systems of support to make integration a practical proposition. This standing committee believes that integration, particularly at the formative stage of development, is essential to sweep away the barriers of ignorance and prejudice that keep the disabled and able-bodied apart and ultimately lead to discrimination, dependency and an inability to cope. Also that unnecessary segregation from the community represents a denial of full citizenship and freedom of association to disabled people.

Standing Committee on CILs

This standing committee is continuing to play a co-ordinating role and drawing together disabled people who are active in the area of Centres for independent and integrated living. CIL groups in various parts of the country are continuing to exchange information and ideas, refining both theory and practice in a process of mutual education. In Britain, as elsewhere, local factors operate to make each development different as it incorporates the needs of the local community. This grassroots involvement from disabled people provides a valuable contribution to our own assessment of our needs.

The BCODP encourages all organisations of disabled people to join us and to put forward their members on to the Standing Committees.

BCODP is YOUR organisation - encourage your organisation to join the BCODP. Through our joint active participation we can achieve our full integration and equality. Join us now in our demands for accessible housing in every town; to have integrated schooling which will offer equal opportunities for ALL disabled children; to create centres of integrated living which will ensure a genuine choice of where and how we live. All disabled people must have the right to live fully in the community regardless of physical impairment. We must change the physical environment to ensure that educational and work opportunities, housing and transport, our cultural and social life as well as sport and recreational facilities are completely accessible to all. Only through breaking down these barriers will we reach equality with other people. Help BCODP fight for our basic human rights. Ask for membership details today. Ask your organisation to join. If no suitable organisation controlled by disabled people exists for your disability or special interest, we encourage their development and offer our full support.

ABOUT DPI

The Disabled Peoples' International was set up in 1981 and reinforces these demands on an international level. It urges all Governments to carry out our development plans and that their future programmes should take fully into account our needs, calling for the reallocation of world resources to achieve this.

The DPI consists of:

- (a) National Assembly
- (b) Regional Assembly
- (c) World Council
- (d) World Congress

Through the BCODP we have representation on the World Council and join with other countries in our fight for basic rights.

List of Organisations

Association of Blind and Partially Sighted Teachers and Students;
Association of Disabled Professionals;
Derbyshire Coalition of Disabled People;
Disabled Drivers' Association;
Disablement Income Group;
GEMMA;
LIFT - Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus;
National Federation of the Blind;
SEQUAL
Spinal Injuries Association;
Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child - Disabled Peoples Section;
Union of the Physically Impaired against Segregation;

Membership to the BCODP is open to National Organisations controlled by disabled people - there is also a category of affiliations for local and regional groups.

BCODP is seeking charitable status.

For membership details contact:-

General Secretary,
BCODP,
5 Crowndale Road,
LONDON. NW1

DISABLED PEOPLES' INTERNATIONAL



DISABLED PEOPLE OF THE WORLD – JOIN DPI!

Are you aware that there are 500 million of us who are severely disabled?

Are you aware that there are 100 million of us who are severely disabled solely because of malnutrition?

Are you aware that it is the inhuman policies of big business in agriculture and of indifferent national governments that has brought this misery and suffering to the families of millions of people?



Abstract from MANIFESTO

We, the members of DISABLED PEOPLES' INTERNATIONAL, representing disabled people from all parts of the world have adopted the following charter to serve as a guideline in our struggle for full participation and equality in all societies. We urge disabled people all over the world to unite in organisations of their own and to join DPI in a common struggle for full participation and equality with our fellow citizens.

In all countries and in all cultures there are people with physical and

mental disabilities. The World Health Organisation estimates that approximately 500 million of the world's total population are now disabled. Of these 140 million are estimated to be children. More than 300 million disabled people live in developing countries and it is estimated that only one percent of them have access to any kind of appropriate care, rehabilitation or service.

All over the world societies are planned and developed without any regard for the needs of disabled people. As a consequence disabled people live on the fringe of their societies. In many ways we are segregated from our fellow citizens and often prevented from exercising even

the most fundamental human rights as laid down by the United Nations.

BASIC RIGHTS:

The Right to Education

The Right to Rehabilitation

The Right to Employment

The Right to Economic Security

The Right to Independent Living

The Right to Participate in Social; Cultural and Political Activities

The Right to Influence

1983



1992

UN Decade of Disabled Persons

Abstract from PEACE STATEMENT

Disabled people all over the world know, from their deepest personal experience, the capacity of war to cast its mantle of death and destruction over life and limb. The ability of modern weapons of war to devastate a people, to sear human memory with the permanent scars of personal tragedy, to shatter the dreams and hopes of children, to maim and injure, is nowhere more eloquently proclaimed than here, the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima.

The Disabled Peoples' International says:

LET ALL OF US JOIN TOGETHER IN A WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT FOR PEACE.

LET US CALL FOR ALL THE NATIONS' ECONOMIES TO BE TRANSFORMED FROM WAR ECONOMIES TO PEACE ECONOMIES.

LET US INSIST THAT THE \$ 600 BILLION NOW SPENT A YEAR ON ARMAMENTS IS DIVERTED TO SOCIALLY USEFUL PROJECTS.

LET US DEMAND THAT THE WORLD LEADERS NOW, IN THIS MOST MOMENTOUS EPOCH, WHERE WE HAVE THE POWER TO DESTROY AND CRIPPLE, BEGIN THE ENORMOUS TASK OF REDIRECTING OUR RESOURCES, OUR PRODUCTION, OUR TALENTS AND OUR ABILITIES FROM THE CREATION OF THE WEAPONS OF WAR TO THE CREATION OF THE INSTRUMENTS OF LIFE.

The Disabled Peoples' International calls on all people to affirm this movement for peace by signing a WORLD PEACE PETITION to be submitted to all the nations at the United Nations Organization.

DISABLED PEOPLES' INTERNATIONAL

Peace Memorial Park, Hiroshima, Japan, June 24, 1982.



Abstract from **CONSTITUTION**

Whereas universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice; and

Whereas conditions exist involving injustice, hardship and privation to large numbers of people with physical, sensory and mental impairments; and

Whereas such persons have a right to full participation and equality, meaning the right of every disabled person to share in the social life of the community in which he or she lives and enjoy living conditions equal to those of other citizens, including an equal share in the improvement in standard of living resulting from social

and economic development; and

Whereas disability has too long been viewed as a problem of the individual and not the relationship between an individual and his/her environment, it is necessary to distinguish between:

a) disability is the functional limitation within the individual caused by physical, mental or sensory impairment, and

b) handicap is the loss or limitation of opportunities to take part in the normal life of the community on an equal level with others due to physical and social barriers; and

Whereas rehabilitation is a process aimed at enabling a person to reach an optimum physical, mental and/or

social functioning level in order to provide that person with the tools to direct his/her own life, independent living and community services are not and should not be, part of that process; and

Whereas all systems of society must be open to disabled people, it is affirmed that

– there are many barriers to the full participation of disabled people,

– removing those barriers will require changes in the structure of our society,

– there is an obligation to make the physical environment, housing and transportation, social and health services, educational and work opportunities, cultural and social life, including

sports and recreational facilities, completely accessible to all,

– governments have a duty to ensure that the benefits of reform and development programmes in every field also reach disabled citizens,

– special measures to effect this should be incorporated into governments' planning processes and administrative structures; and

Whereas the United Nations has recognised the rights of disabled people through the Resolutions: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons, Declaration of the Rights of Disabled Persons, and

Whereas the social and economic conditions of disabled people in underdeveloped and developing countries are recognised as meriting special and urgent attention, the Parties to this document, moved by sentiments of justice, humanity and peace, and with a view to attaining the objectives set forth in this preamble, agree to the following Constitution of Disabled Peoples' International.

Organs – The Disabled Peoples' International shall consist of: –

- a) National Assembly
- b) Regional Assembly
- c) Regional Council
- d) World Council
- e) World Congress

DISABLED PEOPLES' INTERNATIONAL

On the list below you will find the names and addresses of chairperson, vice-chairpersons for their respective region.

Chairperson
Ron Chandran-Dudley
33 Wilkinson Road
Singapore 1543

Africa
Tambo Camara
UNHMP
B.P. 583
Nouakchott
Mauritanie

Asia
Eita Yashiro
Rm. 210 Sangiin-Kaikan
2-1-1, Nagata-cho
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100
Japan

Europe
Niam Maguire
Irish Wheelchair Association
Clontarf
Dublin 3
Ireland

Latin America
Jacqueline de las Carreras
Corporacion Argentina de Discapacitados
Estomba 1650
C.C. 79, SUC. 30 C.P. 1430
Buenos Aires, Argentina

North America
Ed Roberts
1744 Sherwood Avenue
Sacramento, California
U.S.A.

Coordination of development programmes:

Deputy Chairperson
Henry Enns
924-294 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada R3C 0B9

More information about DPI, its Constitution, Manifesto and other documents, can be obtained through the DPI Secretariat in Sweden.



DISABLED PEOPLES' INTERNATIONAL

DPI

Box 36033, S-100 71 STOCKHOLM, Sweden

Telephone: 08/84 03 00 or 84 90 00

Visiting address: Reimersholmsgatan 59

THE UNION OF THE PHYSICALLY IMPAIRED

AIMS

The Union aims to have all segregated facilities for physically impaired people replaced by arrangements for us to participate fully in society. These arrangements must include the necessary financial, medical, technical, educational and other help required from the State to enable us to gain the maximum possible independence in daily living activities, to achieve mobility, to undertake productive work, and to live where and how we choose with full control over our lives.

SUMMARY OF THE POLICY STATEMENT

Britain today has the knowledge and technological means to bring physically impaired people into the mainstream of life. But this capacity is not in fact used to tackle basic human problems like those posed by disability. So physically impaired people often remain isolated and excluded by such things as flights of stairs, inadequate public and personal transport, unsuitable housing, rigid work routines in factories and offices, and a lack of up-to-date aids and equipment. They are systematically channelled into segregated schools, workshops, homes, centres, hostels and clubs. All these segregated forms of help represented progress in times past. But since the means for integration now undoubtedly exists, confinement to segregated facilities is increasingly oppressive and dehumanising.

In recent years, the struggles of disabled people and their relatives and friends, together with advances in technology and medical science, have resulted in larger numbers of disabled people participating more fully in ordinary life. This has produced a positive shift in general attitudes. But the physically impaired remain an oppressed group in a society based on the necessity to compete in the labour market to earn a living. Their low productivity normally means that any work obtained is low paid. And they may be cast on the scrapheap at any time, ending up on the means-tested poverty line or even in a soul-destroying institution.

Disabled people's general position as an oppressed group can be seen most clearly in residential institutions, where isolation and segregation have been carried out to extremes. Despite the efforts of some staff and volunteers, segregated institutions remain prison-like scrap-heaps of this society. The Union places great emphasis on supporting the struggles of residents in institutions for full control over their personal affairs and a democratic say in management. The building of further residential institutions if opposed, and resources should instead go to providing adequate services to people in their own homes. The Union also calls urgently for the provision of non-institutional alternatives along the lines of the Fokus scheme in Sweden, for example, for people who need extensive personal help. The eventual object is to achieve a situation where all physically impaired people have a real opportunity to participate fully in society. This will mean the phasing out of segregated institutions and facilities, including for example special schools, workshops and day centres. As long as massive resources are committed to segregated facilities, it is not possible for the necessary arrangements to be made for everyone to participate in normal educational, work and leisure activities.

Also, the unnecessary survival of segregated facilities re-inforces out-of-date attitudes and prejudices generally, and therefore holds back those physically impaired people who do not have to use them.

The traditional way of dealing with disabled people has been for doctors and other experts to decide what should be done, and to encourage the acceptance of disability. The Union rejects their approach. Although it recognises the need for treatment and advice on medical matters, and the necessity of accepting the physical impairments, it wants to overcome the disabilities imposed on top by the way society is organised. Since the basic problem of disability is exclusion from active social participation, it follows that the efforts of experts are really constructive only when they build on and encourage the self-help and activity of disabled people themselves. And this is why the Union's main efforts will be directed towards discussion and common action with other disabled people, rather than in the vain attempt to solve their problems for them.

Disabled people everywhere are already struggling against their isolation, segregation and other forms of oppression, both individually and now increasingly together in groups. The Union takes the process of coming together a stage further. It exists to offer help to all physically impaired people in the fight to change the conditions of life which oppress them and to reach their full human potential.

As resources become available, the Union will undertake various kinds of action in support of disabled people's struggles. It intends to help in fighting bureaucratic delays and inefficiency, in pressing for the provision of suitable housing, and for ramps and lifts in public buildings, and in improving conditions in sheltered workshops and similar places. By careful discussion about these practical struggles, the Union will develop increasingly clear guide-lines for future action.

Full membership of the Union is open to all physically impaired people who are expected to take some part in Union affairs and will be helped to do so if they have communication difficulties. Democratic control rests with all full members, with an elected Executive Committee to make day-to-day decisions on the basis of the agreed policy. Special-interest groups within the Union will consider particular aspects of disability and publish reports from time to time. An open newsletter will also be published, together with occasional leaflets.

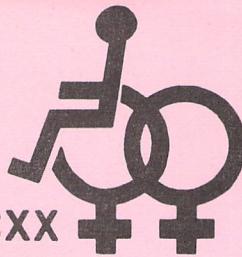
It is fundamental to the Union's approach to seek to work with other oppressed groups, and to support their struggles to achieve a decent life. Also, the Union welcomes the support and help of able-bodied people, who may become Associate members, but may not vote or hold office. This provision is designed to ensure that full members can develop their powers of decision, organisation and action.

The Union will not register as a charity, nor appeal for funds publicly, and it regards political involvement as essential. It welcomes co-operation with other disability groups, but intends to speak out freely and act independently when the interests of disabled people require it.

For information contact: Kevin Hyett, 12, St. Johns Walk,
Oak Street, Cheadle Heath, Stockport.

GEMMA

BM Box 5700 London WC1N 3XX



Gemma is a national group of homosexual women with/without physical handicap who are interested in lessening the isolation of disabled gay women who haven't access to gay publications or groups and who do not wish to "come out" to family, heterosexual friends or residential staff — Gemma is especially aware of the need for discretion.

Gemma members of all ages offer to be penfriends, or to befriend in person, if wished, to enable the enquirer to contact local gay groups and to attend gay meetings and events if she wishes.

Present membership is 80, about half of whom have disability of varying degrees. Gemma formed in 1976 through *Sappho* magazine, and with help and encouragement from Bill Stewart of Sexual Problems of the Disabled, and from Trevor Thomas who then held CHE's folio for Handicapped and/or Elderly Gays. East London's Gay Women's Group provided practical support and Gemma is affiliated to Newham Voluntary Agencies Council.

In order to make Gemma more widely known we approach local radio stations, libraries, social service centres, day centres, citizens advice bureaux, associations concerned with handicap, adult education colleges and women's groups and magazines.

We are listed in *Gay News*, *Sappho*, *Sequel* and *Femme* magazines, and liaise with local CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality) groups and the National Organisation of Lesbians.

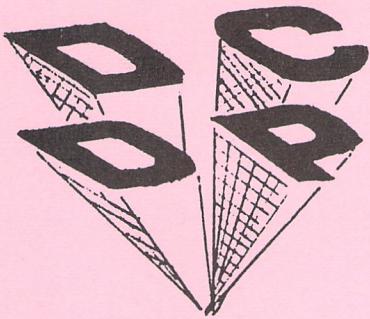
We stress we are *not* a ghetto of disabled lesbians but rather a bridge into a wider friendship circle. Non-handicapped members are very much welcomed and we hope Gemma will contribute to gay society by forming groups in areas where no social group exists for gay women. Older women form a valued part of the membership and offer to befriend by letter, or where possible in person, other gay women, handicapped or not, in the 60-70+ age group.

There are now Gemma members in: Hants, Yorkshire, Lancs, Dorset, Bedford, Midlands, Wales, Cheshire, Glos, Co Durham, Kent, Middx, Cumbria, Bucks, Sussex, Essex, Northumberland, Northants, Staffs, Oxford, Surrey, Notts, Wilts, Lincs.

Gemma does not have subscriptions, as we want anyone to be able to join. There is a quarterly newsletter for which a s.a.e. is appreciated. London members meet quarterly in members' homes with occasional hire of meeting rooms.

Information can be supplied in Braille or on tape.

WOLVERHAMPTON/area contact, s.a.e. to Lesley C/O Gemma



DERBYSHIRE COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE.

WHAT IS DCDP?

An organisation of ALL disabled people and their supporters throughout Derbyshire to work for UNITY OF PURPOSE and to give each other mutual support in working to achieve our common aims.

WHAT ARE THE AIMS?

To promote the active participation of disabled people in obtaining the help needed to achieve maximum independence in daily living activities and full integration into society with full control over our lives

WHO CAN JOIN?

Anyone! It doesn't matter whether you are disabled or non-disabled, an individual or an organisation. All can join DCDP. However only disabled members can vote on Coalition business - to ensure DCDP is the genuine VOICE OF DISABLED PEOPLE.

HOW CAN NON-DISABLED PEOPLE PLAY A PART?

In many practical ways - after all, many disabled people cannot manage without the help, support and encouragement of those who are not disabled. The vital difference is, in DCDP, non-disabled members support the self-help activity and independence of disabled people themselves.

DOES DCDP AFFECT THE INDEPENDENCE OF OTHER DISABILITY ORGANISATIONS

Not at all. All existing organisations concerned with disabled people were set up with their own aims, interests and activities in mind and DCDP does not affect their independence or autonomy. It simply offers all such independent organisations a chance to join forces on common interests - IN UNITY LIES STRENGTH.

WHAT DOES DCDP DO?

It works to achieve its aims in 2 basic ways; Firstly, through working to provide practical services and facilities of direct benefit to disabled people. These are being spearheaded through the establishment of a Centre for Integrated Living, which is built into a strategy for service development worked out with Derbyshire Social Services Department. Secondly, through pressure group activities of various kinds, eg., taking up campaigns on access, supporting individuals with grievances; and raising awareness through use of the media.

HOW TO JOIN

For individuals, the annual subscription is £2.00, for organisations £10.00. But there are special arrangements for disability organisations. All enquiries to the Hon Secretary, Dorothy Hemm, 4 Seaford Way, Cotmanhay, Ilkeston, - telephone Nottingham 321775.

OFFICE ADDRESS. VICTORIA BUILDINGS. 117 HIGH ST. CLAY CROSS, CHESTERFIELD DERBYS. S45 9DZ

TEL. CHESTERFIELD (0246) 865305

- the introduction of the Blind Persons' Tax Allowance.
- the creation of a number of home worker schemes for visually handicapped people.
- the introduction of concessionary fares on certain domestic air journeys.
- the introduction of the RNIB of a hire purchase scheme for expensive goods.

These are only at national level. Local branches could list their own successes.

How can you get involved ?

Full membership of the Federation is open to all blind and partially sighted individuals, and associate membership is available to sighted friends, relatives and indeed anyone who is interested. Those who wish to help financially without becoming associate members may do so by becoming Friends of the Federation. Our quarterly journal, *Viewpoint*, is free to all full members and is available to anyone else at a small charge.

The Federation offers a full and varied social life as well as a good opportunity to make a positive contribution towards the improvement of services for blind people in our country.

What are the biggest problems for the blind and partially sighted?

What do they most need?

How can the Government and the public help?

ASK THEM

Ask them through their own organisation

Ask them through their democratically elected representatives

Ask the National Federation of the Blind.

RECEIVED 23 AUG 1984
ken.



THE
**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

What is it ?

The National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom is a nationwide organisation of visually handicapped people who believe that no one understands their problems better than they themselves. It provides a collective means by which blind individuals can effectively bring their views to bear on the development of services which affect them. Co-operation is actively sought with Central Government departments and local authorities, and members of the organisation are frequently invited to discuss policy with these bodies. Representatives of the Federation play an active and influential role on the Council and committees of the country's major charity for the visually handicapped, the Royal National Institute for the Blind. The Federation is a member of the International Federation of the Blind.

Founded in 1947, the Federation is an independent association, having no links with any political party or trade union. It draws its members from all sections of the visually handicapped community. In its efforts to improve the overall standard of life for blind and partially sighted people, the Federation involves itself in a number of major campaigns. Currently, there are six of these, which can be described as the six pillars of an integrated society. Very briefly, these campaigns are as follows:

What does it fight for ?

1. Integrated education for visually handicapped children in ordinary schools, where the necessary additional support would be provided.

2. A guaranteed right to work for disabled people in general and the blind and partially sighted in particular — the Federation offers an employment advisory service.
3. The creation of a safer and better planned environment for blind and partially sighted people to move around in, with particular emphasis on clearing the pavements, road safety, and travel concessions.
4. The provision of a handicap allowance which, as far as the blind are concerned, would compensate for the extra expenses incurred because of blindness.
5. The provision of social services that are sensitive and responsive to the special needs of blind people.
6. Greater participation by the visually handicapped in the administration of their own welfare by means of increased representation of organisations of the visually handicapped on all relevant bodies.

Underlying the entire spectrum of its work, the Federation endeavours to achieve a better understanding between blind people and those who are able to see: in other words, a meaningful integration in all spheres of life.

How does it work ?

The organisation consists of branches located throughout the United Kingdom, including one which operates by post for those who are not within easy reach of a local branch. Policy is decided by an annual delegate

conference and implemented by an executive council. Conference delegates and Council members are elected only from and by Federation members. None of the Federation's officers are paid.

What has it achieved ?

The value of the Federation is not to be measured only by its short-term successes. Many of its aims are the sort that need a protracted campaign, often over many years, and the very fact that the Federation serves as the permanent voice of the visually handicapped in official quarters is ample justification for its existence. We are convinced that the visually handicapped are considered more often and consulted earlier by a number of bodies because of the Federation's work over the years. In addition, there are some specific achievements for which we can justifiably claim a major share of the responsibility. These include:

- a substantial increase in the representation of organisations of the visually handicapped on the Executive Council of the Royal National Institute for the Blind and on the Braille Authority of the United Kingdom.
- The introduction by the Manpower Services Commission of the Personal Reader Service for visually handicapped people in employment.
- the introduction by British Rail of the Disabled Persons' Railcard.
- a number of measures to improve access for guide dogs

YOUR LOCAL DIAL IS:

DIAL Aberdeen	0224 634786
DIAL Ayr	0292 264716
DIAL Bangor	0248 52197
Birmingham Handicapped Children's Information Service	021 643 6267
DIAL East Lancs.	0254 64004
DIAL Bradford	0274 594173
Brighton CWISH	0273 593322
Bristol Disabled Advice Centre	0272 733282
DIAL Bucks (Aylesbury)	0296 33937
Bury Disabled Advisory Service Cardiff - The Disabled Persons Information Centre	061 797 4898 0222 398058
DIAL Corby	053 634742
DIAL Coventry	0203 612890 (ansaphone)
DIAL Cwmbran	063 33 62951
DIAL Daventry	0327 704223
DIAL Derbyshire	0773 833220
DIAL Doncaster	0302 876080
DIAL Dumfries & Galloway	0387 65599
DIAL East Kent	0227 50001
DIAL Essex	0245 87177
Exeter Disability Rights Advisory Service	0392 59336
DIAL Glenrothes	0592 753891
DIAL Grangemouth & District	0324 483386
DIAL Harlow	0279 412020
DIAL Herefordshire	0432 277770
Hull Disability Rights Advisory Service	0482 226234
DIAL Huddersfield	0484 510511
DIAL Leeds	0532 795583
DIAL Leicestershire	0533 700666
DIAL Livingston	0506 414472
London ARCH	01 263 8622
London Camden	01 328 7316
London Handicapped Help Line	01 472 6652
London Harrow	01 423 4179
London Lambeth	01 582 4352
London Waltham Forest	01 520 4111
London Wandsworth	01 870 7437
London Westminster	01 630 5994
Manchester Telephone Advice Bureau	061 228 2111
DIAL Mansfield and District	0623 25891
DIAL Merthyr Tydfil	0685 79769
Middlesbrough Rehabilitation Information Service	0642 813133 Ext. 133
DIAL Middleton & District	061 653 2729
DIAL Midhurst	073 081 3962
DIAL Mid-Sussex (Haywards Heath)	0444 416619
DIAL Newcastle upon Tyne	0632 323617
DIAL Newport	0633 58212
DIAL North West Kent	0322 91362
Norwich ASK	0603 51061
DIAL Nuneaton & Bedworth	0682 349954
DIAL Oxford	0865 750190
DIAL Perth	0738 36358
DIAL Portsmouth	0705 824853
DIAL Rotherham	0709 73658
DIAL Sheffield	0742 27996
DIAL Somerset (Taunton)	0823 78067
Southampton Help for Health	0703 777222 Ext. 3753
Stockport Telephone Advice Bureau	061 480 6970
DIAL Stoke on Trent	0782 279149
DIAL Sunderland	0783 492844
DIAL Tameside	061 3208333
Tamworth S.A.D.	0821 66393
DIAL South Tyneside	0632 540232
DIAL Wakefield	0924 379181
DIAL West Lancs	077 473 3921
DIAL Weston Super Mare	0934 419426
DIAL Wigan	0942 714111
DIAL Wyre Forest	0562 66631 Ext. 244

TELEPHONE NUMBERS CORRECT
AT TIME OF PRINTING

If you want to start a DIAL service, please contact DIAL UK.

Your local DIAL would appreciate your support. Why not ring them

Any donations would be gratefully received by DIAL UK or your local DIAL!

National
Association of
Disablement
Information and
Advice
Services



DIAL UK

DIAL House
117 High Street
Clay Cross
Chesterfield
Derbyshire
S45 9DZ
Telephone: Chesterfield (0246) 864498

A FEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT DISABLEMENT INFORMATION AND ADVICE LINES

What is D.I.A.L.?

A free, impartial and confidential service of information, advice, and, in some cases, practical help provided by people with direct personal experience of disability.

Who can use it?

Anyone with a query or problem connected with any aspect of disability; for instance:

- (a) Disabled people, their families and friends.
- (b) Professionals-doctors, social workers, architects.
- (c) Voluntary and statutory agencies.
- (d) Students and researchers.

How is it available?

By telephone, by letter or by personal visit. Telephone queries are dealt with directly, wherever possible or appropriate, backed up by documentary information in some cases.

What Information is available?

All the main publications in the field, e.g. books, magazines, papers, government publications, are examined and relevant

information noted and filed. This forms the documentary background to the current awareness of the service.

A library of books relating to disability is maintained in certain cases in conjunction with the local Library Service. Please ring for further information.

What kind of enquiry can be answered?

Examples of the kind of questions which commonly arise usually fall into the following categories:—

- (a) Income and benefits.
- (b) Aids, equipment and appliances.
- (c) Leisure activities and holidays.
- (d) Access and mobility.
- (e) Welfare rights.
- (f) Housing, accommodation and care.
- (g) Education and employment.
- (h) Rehabilitation and training.
- (i) Voluntary organisations and their work.
- (j) Local welfare services.
- (k) Legislation, Reports and other literature.
- (l) Personal relationships and sexual problems.
- (m) Information about specific impairments.

Some questions may fall outside the competence of D.I.A.L. to properly answer, e.g. questions requiring medical knowledge—in such cases an appropriate referral can be arranged. But wherever possible D.I.A.L. deals with all enquiries direct.

Do all Groups work like this?

Each group is organised independently and has developed its own service. Not all provide the same service as described above; some even provide more.

Are all Groups called D.I.A.L.?

Some Groups have chosen their own unique title whilst still supporting the National Association of Disablement Information and Advice Services.

Why D.I.A.L. U.K.?

Support for the National Association means support for local information services for people who are disabled. All disabled people have a right to information in the same way as anyone else. A National Association encourages the growth of a network providing local access to up-to-date and accurate information.

Fund-raising

SEQUAL has to work hard at fund-raising: it is the fruits of this fund-raising which supply the much needed equipment, and finance the carefully controlled administrative costs. The equipment provided is very expensive, and has to be maintained and insured. There's a team of regular supporters collecting used postage stamps, organising fairs, coffee mornings and sponsored events of every variety, but help is always welcome - especially from members who have benefited from our assistance in the past.

Membership

SEQUAL has two classes of membership: FULL membership for disabled people - annual subscription £2.00; and ASSOCIATE membership for those wishing to support SEQUAL and help disabled people - annual subscription £4.00.

If you are interested in learning more about SEQUAL, please complete the form below and send it to the Co-ordinator.

Printed by: printaprint (wimbledon)

I am interested in:

Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>
Covenants	<input type="checkbox"/>
Helping with fund-raising	<input type="checkbox"/>
Setting up a display unit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Talks and visits by the Welfare Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collecting boxes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sales goods	<input type="checkbox"/>
Publicity material:	
Car stickers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Posters	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information booklets	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stickers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name	
Address	

What is SEQUAL?

SEQUAL means special equipment and aids for living. It is an independent non-manufacturing national charity. Its main aim is to assist severely physically disabled people with the purchase of special electronic/electrical equipment. SEQUAL is run by severely disabled people who themselves use a variety of electronic equipment - and it is dedicated to the financial and social improvement of conditions for its members and other disabled people.

SEQUAL provides a full-time welfare staff, and a Welfare Officer will visit any disabled person who requires help and information regarding suitable equipment. After this visit, some very different ideas and possibilities will be the order of the day: definitely no more thoughts about being incapable!

If there is nothing needed in the way of communication equipment, perhaps SEQUAL can help with a mobility problem. There is a fleet of specially adapted vehicles placed strategically around the British Isles; these are on loan to members, and may be borrowed for a day or a month. A full list of sitings, with local contacts, is available from the Co-ordinator.

SEQUAL produces a quarterly magazine, POSSIBILITY. This reports on aids, grants and holiday news. Also included is information on sales goods, publicity items, and sales and wants listings. The magazine is an important link for members wishing to join in a 'self-help' type correspondence too. There's always someone who has found a way around a difficulty, who's eager to share their discovery.

Lectures and talks about SEQUAL can be arranged by contacting the Co-ordinator.

The equipment

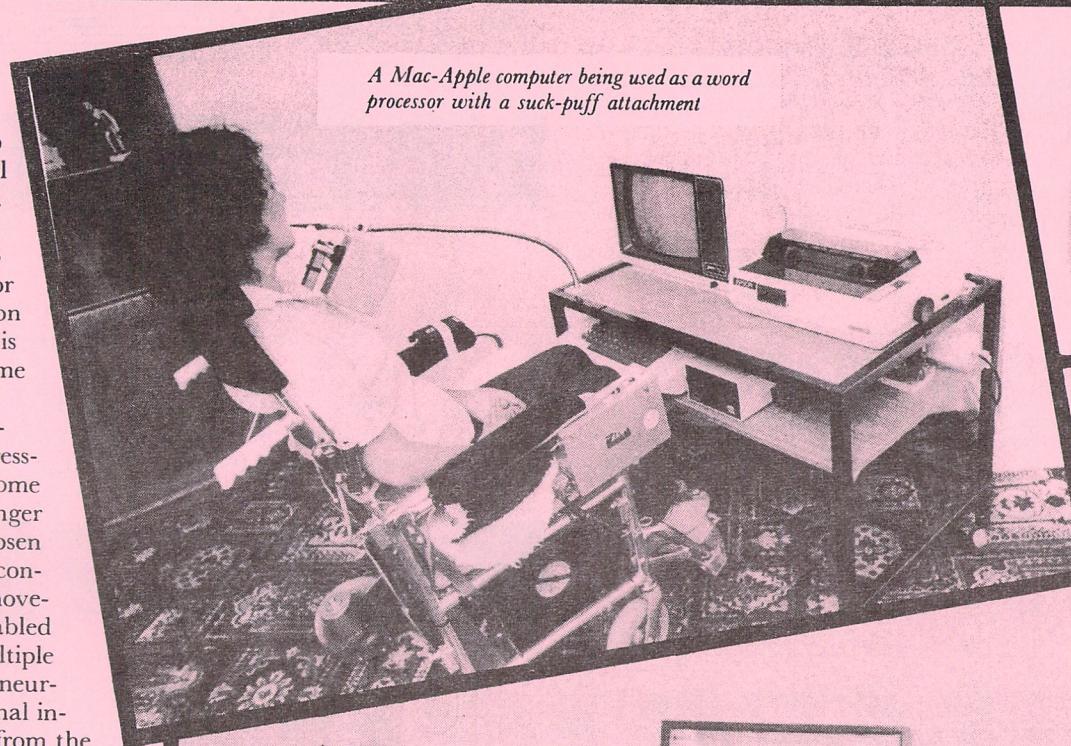
Many different types of equipment have been developed which enable severely physically disabled people to exercise efficient and effortless control over electronic/electrical equipment. This brings more than a measure of independence: it offers the chance to communicate after years of silence, or presents a real hope of seeing education as something in which participation is possible; even employment can become an actual goal.

Many control systems are mouth-operated by gentle suction and/or pressure down a tube, but where there is some residual movement e.g. a flicker in a finger - a microswitch or set of suitably chosen microswitches may be used. Special controls can be built for spastics where movement is uncontrolled. All severely disabled people, such as those suffering from multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, motor neurone disease, rheumatoid arthritis, spinal injuries, and many others, can benefit from the equipment SEQUAL offers.

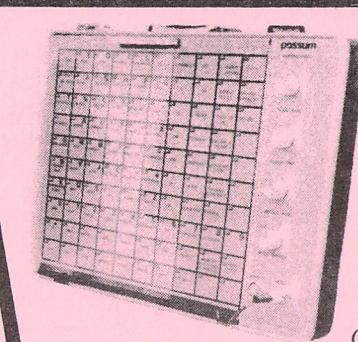
Control systems are produced to operate items such as mini-keyboards, tape-recorders, dictation machines etc. The range of communication aids starts with fully portable communicators and ends with a complete word-processor system, with plenty of scope for communicating on assorted levels in between! And there are page-turners, drinking aids, and assessment pointer-boards for pre-literate children. Even with such an impressive list, room still has to be made for the toy-aids - plus the new pieces of equipment which manufacturers demonstrate to us every month, as the technology-surge sweeps on!

A remote-control typewriter system. In the background, the environmental control indicator panel

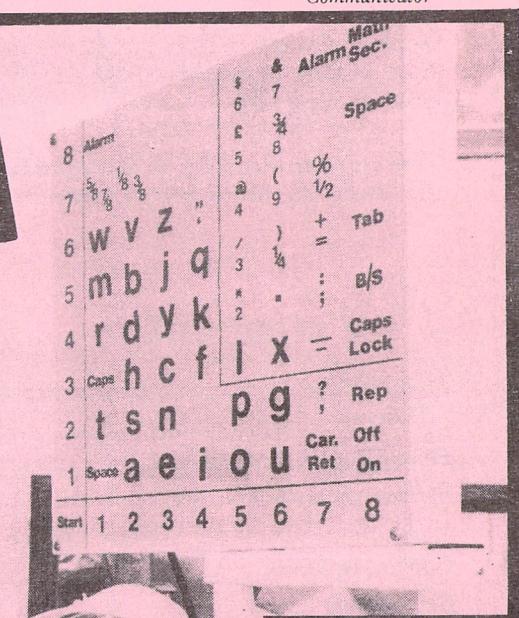
Photo: Dudley Herald



A Mac-Apple computer being used as a word processor with a suck-puff attachment



The Possum Communicator



SEQUAL aims to give prompt and efficient help where it is most needed, but this requires support and finance. Therefore, please do take the opportunity to join SEQUAL, and give us your solid support.

DISABLED PEOPLE AND THEIR EMPLOYMENT

This review of research into the performance of disabled people at work, was undertaken for the ADP by Dr Melvyn Kettle, then Research Fellow in Rehabilitation Studies at the University of Bradford, and published in 1979. It shows that disabled workers have a lower record of absenteeism and illness than able-bodied ones and that many of them are safer, more careful, more reliable, and more efficient than their able-bodied colleagues; "some of the best performers were among the most severely disabled".

THE FUTURE

We are very keen to welcome new, active members—students as well as professional people who want to use their talents and knowledge to secure improvements in education and employment for all disabled people.

ADP is an Association **of**, not **for**, disabled people.

ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED PROFESSIONALS

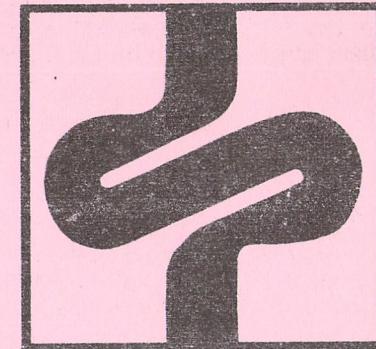
Registered under the Charities Act 1960
Number 264196

HOW TO JOIN

Application forms can be obtained from:
(address on insert)

If you know anyone who might be interested in joining the Association please give them a copy of this leaflet or let the General Secretary have their name and address.

General Secretary: Mrs Peggy M Marchant
The Stables,
73 Pound Road, Banstead,
Surrey SM7 2HU
Tel: Burgh Heath (073 73) 52366



The Association of Disabled Professionals

FORMATION

The Association of Disabled Professionals (ADP) was founded in 1971. At that time quite a lot was being done to train, rehabilitate and employ disabled people in skilled, semi-skilled and clerical work; but there were few facilities for assessing, training or finding them employment in the professions.

AIMS

ADP aims:

- to improve the education, rehabilitation, training and employment opportunities available to all disabled people;
- to help them by encouragement and example fully to develop their physical and mental capacities; to find and retain employment commensurate with their abilities and qualifications and fully to participate in the everyday life of society;
- to improve public knowledge and acceptance of the capabilities, needs and problems of disabled people, particularly in relation to education and employment.

It is a fundamental principle of ADP that a victory achieved by one disabled person shall become a victory for all, so that those who follow in the same path shall meet fewer obstacles and more encouragement and help.

ORGANISATION AND MEMBERSHIP

The Association is run by its disabled members. Apart from the General Secretary, all its officials are disabled and give their time voluntarily.

Able-bodied professional people form a most welcome and valued part of our membership, but 90% of ADP's members are disabled. They include members from both Houses of Parliament and a wide variety of professions, including: accountants, actuaries, architects, artists, barristers, chemists, civil servants, clergy, company directors, computer scientists, economists, editors, educational technologists, dentists, dieticians, doctors, geologists, graphic designers, hospital administrators, librarians, musicians, physiotherapists, psychologists, scientists, social workers, solicitors, teachers, university lecturers, translators and writers.

Many of these people are very severely disabled. Our current membership shows that you **cannot** be too disabled to work and there are few, if any, professions that cannot be followed by disabled people, no matter how severe their disabilities may be.

ACTIVITIES

Much of our work involves combating the inclination of too many people to associate disability with inability, and to assume that disabled people's interests differ from those of the able-bodied. We maintain close contact with Parliament and our members also serve on a multitude of external committees through which ADP's interests can be promoted.

Several of our members are actively involved in projects related to our work. Some of them are being undertaken for the ADP, others are those of individuals who wish to make use of our members' specialist knowledge and experience.

We issue an informal, quarterly **House Bulletin** through which members can seek and issue information on their special interests or work.

We have a growing Register of Professional Advisers, members qualified and practising in professions, who have volunteered their help to those who need advice on employment prospects in particular fields.

A large proportion of our work is associated with educational and employment problems and we daily put members in touch with organisations and individuals who might be able to help them. In many cases we take up issues with outside organisations on members' behalf.

From the problems we deal with, and from the information members volunteer, we are building up a picture of failure and success that will guide our future activities: the failure of too many to give any encouragement or help, and the success of so many very severely disabled people.

The experience of our members in seeking both higher education and professional employment is that they have to rely on their own initiative. They have usually received nothing but the most rudimentary help and often even this has had to be fought for. They have succeeded despite, rather than because of, the help and advice they have received. Each success has been gained as the result of personal initiative, perseverance and very great effort. Each has had to fight, often with the help of only a few dedicated able-bodied friends or relatives for the success they now enjoy.

DESPITE DISABILITY

Written chiefly by ADP members, this book on career achievements of handicapped people was published in July 1974, receiving much favourable publicity in the media and being reviewed in more than 30 periodicals and papers. **Despite Disability**, published by Educational Explorers can be obtained from public libraries. It will give prospective members an insight into our approach.

'Evening up the odds against' is what we like to say the SIA is all about. We're a charity, run by people who've broken their backs or necks - paraplegics and tetraplegics - who work, together with the help of friends, for the benefit of all spinal cord injured people, their families and companions.

Our main aim is to help paralysed individuals achieve their own goals. To this end we work to bring about whatever is necessary to enable wheelchair users to choose and realise their own way of living.

We're also actively involved in stimulating scientific research into paraplegia and into relieving its consequences.

We started as little more than a good idea in 1974. And now we have nearly 4,000 members. Including representatives from both Houses of Parliament. Evening up the odds against, often means changing the rules. Already we've helped change a number of orders and regulations.

We have our own headquarters, with our very own computer, donated by a well-wisher. We mean business, so it's best to be equipped.

We've established our own helpful services, like link schemes and special holiday facilities and many more. We've the plans too, to embark on other new and needed projects.

And what's more, we're doing it mainly with finance we've raised ourselves.

That's why fundraising is very important to us. Because money, as they say, makes the wheels go round. And each wheelchair has four. So we have quite a job on. If you'd like to help please do.

But money is only a means to an end. An end of dependency, of the feeling of uselessness, isolation and perhaps the end of pain, and even paralysis itself one day.

Then the odds against really will have been evened up.

Till that's achieved, take a look opposite at what the SIA are busy doing in the meantime.

Holiday Information

Besides relaying through the Newsletter member's holiday experiences especially regarding the wheelchair accessibility of a resort, help is also given to people who have not had a holiday for years. Advice is offered on all types of travel.

SIA Grass Roots Groups

Active members are creating local groups so as to help other members improve local provision for disabled people by working with other organisations and local authorities.

Research and Development

Medical and social research is promoted into all aspects of spinal cord injury. Members have been involved in investigations into shoulder pain and 'root pain'. Intractable pain is the most debilitating side effect of paraplegia, but

Newsletter

Lively and informative. This is the journal for spinal cord injured people. It lets you know what's going on and covers

Publications

So you're paralysed ... the invaluable guide to spinal cord injury is a best seller and is now available in several languages. Its successor 'Able to Work' unravels a complex system of employment for disabled people. (Both £3.00 post paid.)

Welfare Service

Increasing numbers of severely disabled people are choosing to live independently - that is, in a home of their own, with appropriate support from the community. Our Welfare Office can support, encourage, advise and put people in touch with those who have done it already. We maintain up to date information on all aspects of Independent Living. As well as advising on rights and helping individuals get the

best out of their local services. SIA is actively involved in projects to widen the choice of housing available to members. We also have a link scheme which introduces newly paralysed people to more experienced members. The SIA is committed to the idea of peer counselling. We are actively engaged in encouraging training for this. This way members will be able to benefit from the skill and experience of others.

sia
SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION

5 CROWNDALE ROAD LONDON NW1 1TU

The Association helps members interpret IATA regulations. We have also helped members receive compensation for unacceptable treatment and damage to their wheelchairs.

We're pushing for people in wheelchairs.

All the unfit news that's fit to print.

When you're disabled, it's as much what you know as who you know. And our Newsletter knows both.

It puts you in the picture with all the info you need.

Reports on aids, grants and other people's experiences.



It tells you all the short cuts to independence, and

The SIA is a self-help organisation of paralysed people and their friends. We work to promote and achieve better lives for people in wheelchairs.

You're welcome to join us in the push to get things done.

comes in. It'll put you in touch with the facts that can make all the difference.

Our Welfare Service can help turn existing into living. We've the answers to all sorts of your questions. From benefits and sex (or are they one and the same?) to housing and hospitals.

with people who've faced and found ways round the very difficulties you may be experiencing.

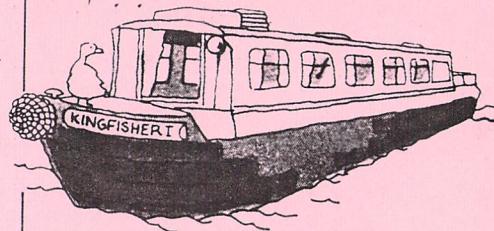
Such as finding out about adapting homes, or how to have disabled children educated in ordinary schools.

Our legal eagles.

The SIA has its own personal injury claim service.

The SIA has its own special holiday facilities for members.

And they're fit for you to enjoy yourself.



We've a fleet – well, two anyway – of uniquely designed narrow boats which are completely accessible to, and can be steered by someone in a wheelchair.

We've also a specially adapted holiday caravan at Selsey, Sussex.

helps you cut down on bureaucratic red tape.

It's got news about jobs and ideas for holidays. As well as cars for sale and houses on offer.

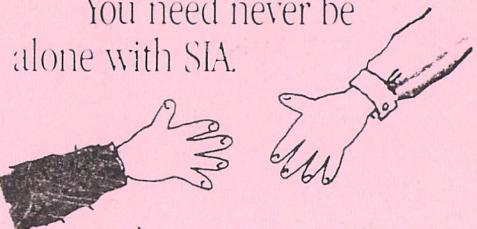
The light at the end of the tunnel.

"All you never wanted to know about disability, but now you have to learn," is where the resourceful SIA Welfare Service



You are not alone.

You need never be alone with SIA.



We've a nationwide Link Scheme that helps wherever it can.

We've got all the practical advice and experience you could need. Cures we don't have yet, but we can give you the benefit now, of how other people have remedied all sorts of problems.

And we'll link you up

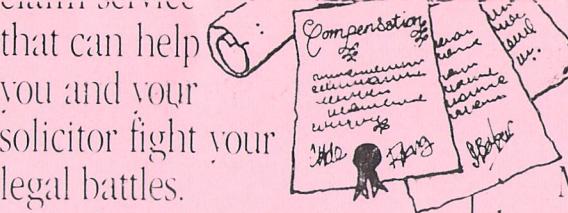
claim service that can help you and your solicitor fight your legal battles.

The UK's highest ever compensation award owed much to reports we compiled for the case.

We know the cost of disability and what's more, we know the consequences.

Let the good times ROLL

Being busy doing nothing makes a great change from simply doing nothing.

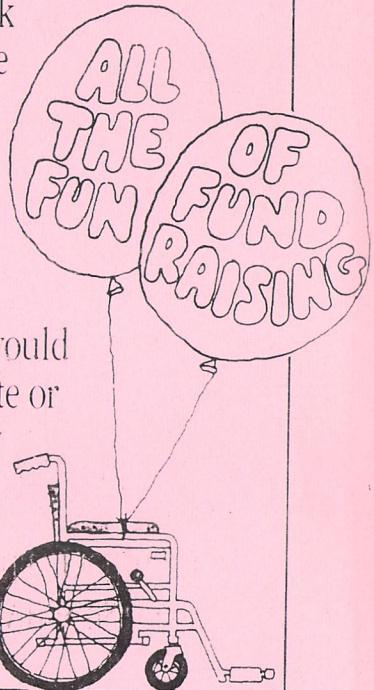


Money go round.

Money may not buy happiness, but it certainly makes misery easier to bear.

We work hard to raise finance, but we can always do with more help.

If you would like to donate or assist in any way, please contact our office below.



Founder & President
Baroness Masham
of Ilton



Chairman
Paul Bush



Director
Stephen Bradshaw



General Secretary
Mary Ann Fyrell



Welfare Officer
Frances Hasler

SIA

SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION

5 Crowndale Road London NW1 1TU 01-388 0840

SIA - Pushing for people in wheelchairs

Registered Charity number 267935

sia SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION **sia** SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION

SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION **sia** SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION **sia**

An introduction to the
Spinal Injuries Association.

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

The Nottinghamshire Coalition is a newly established organisation, the committee having been elected in June of this year.

In its constitution the Coalition says one of its main aims is to promote the active participation of disabled people in securing such help as may be necessary to ensure integration in daily living activities and full integration into society with full control over their lives.

Although only recently established the coalition has already made an impact acting as a platform which enables disabled people to speak for themselves: They have met with members of parliament and councillors to discuss issues affecting the lives of disabled people.

In line with other such coalitions the Nottinghamshire Coalition is affiliated to the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People. It is hoped that the Coalition will eventually act as an umbrella organisation for all organisations of disabled people and disabled individuals in Nottinghamshire.

For further information please contact the Vice-Chairman, Mrs Kathleen Archer, 9 Lansdowne Drive, West Bridgford, Nottingham; Tel: Nottingham 234974.

September 1984

19. 8. 1978



THE UNITED STATES

1. The United States is a large country in North America. It is the third largest country in the world in terms of area.

2. The United States is a federal republic.

3. The capital of the United States is Washington, D.C. The largest city is New York City, with a population of about 8 million.

4. The United States has 50 states.

5. The United States is a democratic republic, with a president elected by the people.

6. The United States is a member of the United Nations.

7. The United States is a member of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which includes Canada and Mexico.

8. The United States is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which includes most countries in the world.

9. The United States is a member of the United Nations Security Council, which includes the United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China.

10. The United States is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

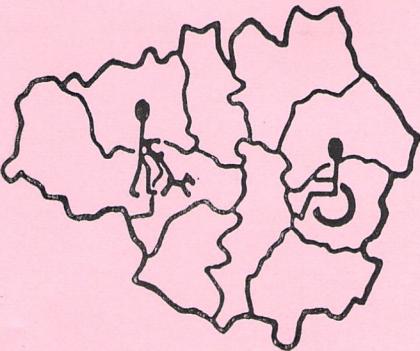
11. The United States is a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

12. The United States is a member of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

13. The United States is a member of the World Health Organization (WHO).

14. The United States is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

15. The United States is a member of the United Nations.



GREATER MANCHESTER COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

— Draft leaflet.

How We Began

Throughout 1983/84 a group of disabled people in the Greater Manchester County pooled ideas on how the quality of life of disabled people might be improved.

They organised a conference in June 1984 which was attended by 50 disabled people plus their supporters who decided that the Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People should be created.

How Far Have We Got?

A Steering Group of 20 disabled people is busy raising funds, searching for premises and working on our constitution and rules for membership.

What Is Our Purpose?

To set up a countywide organisation for and controlled by disabled people.

We aim to promote the notion that all people with a disability should have freedom of choice in any matter which affects their lives, and to encourage them to play an active part in making decisions and necessary arrangements for maximum independence in daily living.

We feel that ideas and information which may seem innovative to some, should be spread amongst not only people with any form of impairment, but those involved in helping them, whether professionally, voluntarily or in some other capacity.

We believe that by bringing together people with all manner of disabilities, they can give each other mutual support in achieving fulfilled lives, with the means to be fully integrated into society, thereby proving the point that **IN UNITY LIES STRENGTH**.

What Next?

The Steering Group hopes to put forward its proposals at a second conference, possibly in the autumn, and to arrange seminars of interest to potential members.

If you would like to be invited to our next conference or seminar, or be kept abreast of developments, you should ask to be included on the GMCDP mailing list at:-

Greater Manchester Council for Voluntary Service
The St Thomas Centre
Ardwick Green North
Manchester M12 6FZ

Introduction

Geotag Barcodes

... and is to be forwarded to the

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1. 1990年1月1日开始实施的《中华人民共和国个人所得税法》。

What does



stand for?

Megan du Boisson's statement of intent, 'AIMS OF DIG', was written in 1965. The statement remains unchanged to this day:

1. to secure for all disabled people a National Disability Income and an Allowance for the extra expense of disability.
2. to co-operate with other bodies for the improvement of the economic and social position of disabled people and the chronic sick.
3. to promote research into the economic and social problems of disablement.

In 1967 DIG held its first rally in Trafalgar Square and presented a petition at 10 Downing Street. A second rally followed in 1968.

An organisation of disabled people

Today DIG has 41 branches spread throughout England and Wales with around eight thousand members, the majority of whom are themselves disabled.

DIG Scotland, a constitutionally related but administratively separate organisation, has thirteen branches and a membership of over three thousand.

Many branches run their own advisory services by telephone and with personal visits, often assisting claimants in appeals and tribunals. This service is backed up by nationally devised schemes for recruitment and training. The Head Office is currently involved in a Branch Development Programme seeking to identify ways in which individual branch work can be made even more effective. The branches participate actively in campaign activities, including lobbying local MPs, fundraising and publicity events.

The policy making body of DIG, the National Executive Committee, is elected annually by the membership of DIG.

The voice and views of DIG are raised in Parliament by DIG's Honorary Parliamentary Spokesman who briefs Members of Parliament on DIG policy, prepares amendments, meets civil servants and generally promotes the DIG cause in the political arena.

The Head Office

The Office in London has a small paid staff including:-

- General Secretary, whose responsibilities include the administration of the Group and the Trust, forward planning and organising meetings and conferences.
- Advisory and Information Officer who gives an independent counselling service for disabled people, providing information, advice and assistance, especially in relation to financial problems and take-up of available benefits, and provides casework evidence of the social and economic consequences of severe handicap.
- Special Projects Administrator, whose main responsibilities are developing and organising fund raising and other branch and membership activities.
- Research Officer, who works on a specific project financed by an outside body. The Nuffield Foundation is currently funding a study of the extra costs of mentally handicapped living.
- A small secretarial and clerical staff to support the work of the officers