

KEN LUMB VALEDICTORY

Died 19 February 2009

I got to know Ken in 1972 when he joined the *Union of the Physically Impaired Against Segregation* (UPIAS) as a founder member. At a time when problems we faced were predominantly regarded as the preserve of the medical and allied professions he was a passionate supporter of the *Union's* social approach. This radical social interpretation of disability faced ferocious opposition from all quarters and it required considerable self-confidence and even bravery to continue advocating the social interpretation when relying on personal services from the very professions under criticism. Ken was such a person. For this the body of disabled people in the UK owe him a tribute which is sadly unsung while others gain recognition and collect awards.

Ken located his limited physical energies in Manchester where he was a founder member of the *Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People*. This organisation was an inspiration throughout the country. In particular the newsletter and magazine, *Coalition*, were read avidly by all who welcomed disability related news. Perhaps more importantly in the long run Ken was stalwart in defending controversial debates and exchange of views that were not published elsewhere.

During my visits to Open University regional centres I was able to meet Ken several times as part of my job gleaning material for the Disability Studies courses. Ken was able to keep me informed about disability related news that was not readily available elsewhere. I was particularly pleased to include in one of our courses Ken's article on 'charity advertising'. I regarded this as an outstanding analysis for its time. Unfortunately his limited time had to be spent on organisation building and his undoubted writing skill was not fully exploited.

Ken was a solid, resolute and committed disability 'activist' and I am extremely grateful for having had the opportunity to regard him as a comrade and friend.

My sincerest best wishes to Anne and Hazel.

Vic Finkelstein

3 March 2009