

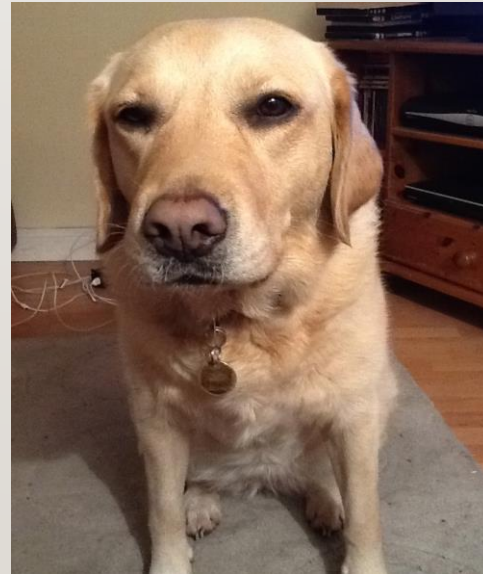
INCLUDING DISABLED PEOPLE

SUE BOTT CBE



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- Visually impaired since birth
- Working life spent in policy development and campaigning particularly around independent living and rights of disabled people
- Guide dog owner
- Walkaholic



ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

- About 13.9 million of us in UK
- Throughout history we've been treated differently from some ancient communities who thought we had special powers to more recent times of institutions and exclusion
- Always we have fought for our rights and in the latter half of 20th century through to 21st century have been more successful
- 1981 UN Year of Disabled People – a significant year for disability rights with formation of Disabled People International and UK – wide disability rights organisation

WHAT MAKES US DISABLED PEOPLE?

- Vic Finkelstein Models of Disability
- The Medical Model – You are a disabled person because there is something wrong with you – you can't go out into the countryside because you have these eye conditions that mean you can't see properly, oh and by the way it's all your fault – you'll just have to wait until there is a cure
- The Social Model – You are a disabled person because there are barriers in the environment that get in your way – you can wonder into the countryside if only those pesky styles were not in the way, it's not your fault and there is a solution



LEGISLATION AND REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT

- Equality Act 2010
- A disabled person is someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a ‘substantial’ and ‘long-term’ effect on your ability to do normal daily activities (www.gov.uk/definition-of-disability)
- Unlike other protected characteristics under the Equality Act ‘reasonable adjustments’ are required so as not to discriminate against disabled people
- This is the challenge as it will require knowledge (best gained from disabled people ourselves) and resources ...And a little enthusiasm!

WHY BOTHER?

- The stick – it's the law
- The carrot – About 20% of the population are disabled people so including us gets your access figures up and we have a bit of spending power too.
- It's what you would want for yourself, the overwhelming majority of disabled people acquire an impairment at some point in their lives, so who knows you might join us
- Because you feel inspired to include us



AND FINALLY ...

Sun-warmed rocks and the cold of Bleaklow's frozen sea

The snow and the wind and rain of hills and mountains

Days in the sun and the tempered wind and the air like wine

And you drink and you drink till you're drunk on the joy of living

Ewan MacColl

Why shouldn't disabled people get drunk on the joy of living?

