



# POWER 100 2017

**Britain's most influential  
disabled people**

in partnership with



Launch sponsor

**LLOYDS  
BANKING  
GROUP**





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DISCOVER WHAT  
**MATTERS**

Louis Jameson

Assistant Manager  
Group Disability Programme

*Former HR Graduate*



# A word from our partner sponsor



Shaw Trust is delighted to sponsor and celebrate the Power 100 List 2017, a celebration of Britain's most influential disabled people.

Congratulations to everyone. Every year, I am overwhelmed by the achievements of these inspirational individuals and I am buoyed by the positive impact this publication has had on our society since its inception three years ago. This list plays a vital role in providing much needed encouragement to the young and talented leaders of tomorrow, allowing them to see that aspiration and ambition can be fulfilled regardless of disability or impairment.

As one of the UK's leading disability charities, Shaw Trust are fully committed to delivering a truly accessible world for everyone. Our vision is a country where everyone has the opportunity for employment, inclusion and independence.

We are working closely with the Government, employers and local authorities to help halve the disability employment gap, to ensure disabled people are better represented in the workplace and to eradicate the traditional barriers holding people back from achieving life goals.

Compiling this list is an almost impossible task. With more than 10 million disabled people in Britain, everyone has their own inspirational and very personal story of overcoming barriers to succeed.

As Booker T Washington famously said: "Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."

At Shaw Trust, we salute you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Roy L. O'Shaughnessy'.

**Roy O'Shaughnessy, Chief Executive, Shaw Trust**



# A word from our launch sponsor



I am delighted that Lloyds Banking Group once again has the opportunity to celebrate the success of Britain's most influential people with a disability or impairment.

At Lloyds Banking Group we strive to continually improve the experience for our disabled colleagues and customers. As Group Executive Sponsor for Disability, I'm proud that we've been recognised as a leading employer and continue to work to have market-leading practices for customers.

Our goal is to be the best bank for customers; one that truly reflects 21st century Britain in the diversity of its workforce and, consequently, understands the needs of an equally diverse customer base. There's always more to do, but I'm pleased to say we're making real progress on building an inclusive, trusted and respectful bank for both colleagues and customers.

Lloyds Banking Group recognises the importance of having strong role models to aspire to. Through acknowledging the talents and achievements of the most accomplished people in Britain with a disability or an impairment, I know the Power 100 will again provide inspiration to the young and talented leaders of tomorrow.

Congratulations to everyone on this year's list and I wish them all continued success.

**David Oldfield**

Group Director, Retail and Consumer Finance  
Lloyds Banking Group

# Editor's note



This year has been a historical one for disability, having particularly seen disability sporting achievements highlighted on a global scale. With the success of the British Paralympic team coming second overall with a total of 147 medals in Rio, there has been a lot of positive public acknowledgement for the abilities of our disabled countrymen. Possibly less celebrated, but of great importance, has been some major political successes within a very shaky political climate in which disabled people have been a prime cost-cutting target. The successful blocking of the welfare cuts by the House of Lords is due, in part, to a number of political figures in this book; giving even more weight to the power and influence that disabled people have in Great Britain, further showing why we are one of the leading nations when it comes to disability rights and success.

We, however, must not forget the achievements of those not in sport; the continual rise of those working in the third sector, law, entertainment and the arts is a testament to the waves that disabled people are making in all arenas. We see year on year that judging this list is getting harder and harder, and that is a great thing. The new names that have entered the list are incredibly strong and we have particularly seen some very young people coming in with great influence which is especially thrilling.

Talking to the individual members of the list, there is a particular sense of unity, togetherness and a collective push to making life better for other disabled people living in the UK and the rest of the world. There seems to be an active desire to make the career path easier to tread for those coming after; I find that hugely inspiring and believe that a lot of people and movements could learn from such a progressive attitude.

I would like to thank Tanni Grey-Thompson and the rest of the judges for their professional and thorough judging, Shaw Trust for their continued support of the list and my Powerful Media colleagues Michael Eboda, Dom Hyams and Adenike Adenitire.

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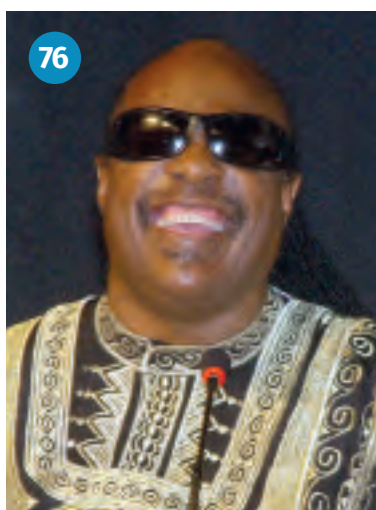
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# **Arts, Fashion & Design**



## David Bonnett

Architect

David Bonnett is one of the most vocal champions of inclusive design. The world-renowned architect has run projects from inception to completion for housing, offices and public buildings, including pioneering many aspects of accessible design for people with wheelchairs.

In 1994, David completed his doctorate on “Design Effectiveness for People with Severe Disabilities”, making him into a leading figure on the subject.

David Bonnett Architects was established that year. It became David Bonnett Associates in 2001, and in 2015, the firm picked up five Civic Trust awards (the longest standing, independent built environment awards scheme in Europe) for its work. The company has won 24 of these awards since 2011, as well as 11 RIBA awards, awarded by the Royal Institute of British Architects.

David’s practice is multi-disciplinary and advises on both building projects and public realm projects and masterplans.

Some of their stunning successes include the design of the Athletes’ Village for the 2012 London Olympics and the redesign of the Camden Roundhouse.

Together with heading the practice David is frequently invited to lecture, ranging from informal discussions and seminars to national and international design presentations and conferences. He is the Visiting Professor to the Department of Architecture at Oxford Brookes University and is a member of the Design Council/CABE Review Panel for CrossRail.

## Liz Carr

Actress, comedian,  
presenter, activist

Liz Carr is frank about her life as a disabled person and the comedy that it brings, frequently referring to her condition in her stand-up as “meus thronus kaputus”.

She is most recently well known for joining the long-running BBC crime thriller series, *Silent Witness*, as a regular character, Clarissa Mullery.

Liz co-hosted the BBC’s Royal Television Society Award-winning *Ouch!* and has worked as a researcher for *Have I Got News for You*. She also recently starred in crime thriller *Le Accelerator*, directed by Thomas Eikrem. She has also been part of a number of comedy groups, including *Abnormally Funny People*, and has performed in numerous shows at the Edinburgh Festival.

Liz has been a disability rights campaigner in the UK and has spoken at many rallies. In May 2008, she joined with ADAPT, a prominent disability rights group in the United States, to raise money and to protest against presidential candidate John McCain’s refusal to support the right of people with disabilities to live in their own homes.

In 2011, Liz was part of a *Newsnight* debate on the controversial issue of assisted suicide, following the BBC’s screening of *Terry Pratchett: Choosing to Die*.

In September 2016, her controversial stage show *Assisted Suicide: The Musical* premiered at the Royal Festival Hall. The show chronicles her own journey as an activist against the legalisation of euthanasia and assisted suicide.





## Claire Cunningham

Performer, choreographer

Claire is a multi-disciplinary performer and choreographer based in Glasgow. She was born with osteoporosis and performs on crutches.

She began to work in dance in 2005, after working with US choreographer Jess Curtis, who kindled her interest in movement. This led to her pursuing her own training with various practitioners, including a mentorship with Bill Shannon (aka The Crutchmaster).

Since then, she has developed her own movement vocabulary often rooted in the use/misuse, study and distortion of crutches. Her work includes the critically acclaimed solo show *ME (Mobile/Evolution)*, which continues to tour internationally following a successful run at the 2009 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, earning her a Herald Angel Award.

In 2011 she was awarded an Arts Admin Bursary, and through the Unlimited Commissions for the Cultural Olympiad created 12, a large-scale group work for Candoco Dance Company.

In 2014 she created a new solo: *Give Me a Reason to Live*, inspired by the work of Dutch medieval painter Hieronymus Bosch and the role of beggars/disabled people in his work, and the full-length show *Guide Gods*, looking at the perspectives of the major Faith traditions towards the issue of disability.

Claire, who has appeared in the top 30 of the Hot 100 list of most influential figures in arts and culture in Scotland, also performed *Give Me a Reason to Live* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival where it was nominated for the Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award and received five-star reviews.

NEW  
2017

## Rachel Gadsden

Performance artist

Rachel Gadsden is an exciting and unique visual and performance artist with more than 20 years' experience of creating dynamic work as both solo artist and collaborator.

She has exhibited internationally and works across the mainstream and disability art sectors, presenting cross-cultural visual dialogues that consider the most profound notions of what it is to be human. At the core of her practice are concerns as to how humankind comes to terms with mortality: by unearthing the unseen, making the invisible visible.

A multi award-winning artist who has a BA and MA in Fine Art, her artistic career began with the support of a Prince's Youth Business Trust Award in 1988.

In 2005 Rachel received an Artsadmin Digital Media Bursary to develop a project narrating a history of North Wales Hospital in Denbigh.

Commended in the 2011 International Freedom to Create competition, Rachel's *Global Alchemy* is now permanently exhibited in Mandela's Walk to Freedom in Cape Town. She was also awarded the National Diversity Award 2013: Positive Role Model for Disability and a BreakThrough UK Award 2014 – Influencing disabled people's participation in society.

In 2015 she was commissioned by the UK Parliament to create artwork as part of 'The Beginnings of that Freedom' exhibition, which were gifted to organisations across the UK in January 2016 to celebrate 800 years since Magna Carta was sealed and the 750th Birthday of the Montfort Parliament.





**NEW**  
2017

## Ruth Gould MBE

Artistic director of DaDaFest

Passionate about disability and deaf arts celebrated as cultural diversities, Ruth established DaDaFest in 2001.

Born and bred in Liverpool, Ruth initially trained in performance arts, speech and drama at Liverpool Theatre School.

In 1988 she undertook further training at the School of Creative Arts in Sydney, Australia. She became the school's movement and drama teacher, leading to further work opportunities in New Zealand and the United States.

Ruth is on the board of Contact Theatre, a governor of Alder

Hey Children's Hospital, and an advisory member for Granada Foundation and Liverpool City Council Tourism and Culture Select Committee. She is increasingly making links with disability communities across the globe, and in 2014 received the Winston Churchill Travel Fellow to visit India and Malawi.

Ruth was awarded an MBE in the Queen's 2016 official birthday honours list in recognition of her career in disability and deaf arts alongside her work at DaDaFest, which is part-funded by the Big Lottery Fund.



## Tony Heaton OBE

CEO, Shape

Tony Heaton is a multi-award winning sculptor and CEO of Shape – a disability-led arts organisation based in London that works with major cultural institutions and disabled people.

As a practising sculptor he won a Channel 4 competitive commission to create a public art sculptural intervention, with the result being *Monument to the Unintended Performer*, which was installed at the entrance to Channel 4 TV Centre in celebration of the 2012 Paralympic Games.

It was, Tony says, “created in recognition of all those disabled people who are subject to scrutiny simply by getting on a bus in a wheelchair or walking down the street with a white cane”.

His other contribution to the Games was a LOCOG commission to create sculptural lecterns for Lord Sebastian Coe and Sir Philip Craven, which Tony based on his sculpture, *Great Britain from a Wheelchair*.

Prior to Shape, he spent more than 10 years as director of Holton Lee, Dorset, developing within the 350-acre campus an architectural award-winning building, Faith House Gallery, and fully accessible artists’ studios.

Tony was the initiator of a million-pound National Disability Arts Collection and Archive project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund which was launched at the House of Lords in February 2016 by patron Baroness Jane Campbell.



## Kelly Knox

Model

Kelly is Britain's leading disabled fashion model and a dedicated and passionate advocate for diversity in fashion.

Over the course of her career she has worked hard to pave the way for others and offer inspiration to those who need to develop confidence in the face of negative attitudes towards disability. In early 2016 she co-founded the Diversity Not Disability campaign to promote equal opportunities for models with disabilities.

Since beginning her career as winner of BBC Three's *Britain's Missing Top Model* in 2008, Kelly has graced the covers of Marie Claire UK and DIVA, been photographed by the world-renowned Rankin, and supported charitable causes, including the Models of Diversity campaign, United Response's Postcards from the Edges and Reach.

Kelly has also had great success on the catwalk. She has spread her message of diversity and drive internationally and across various cultures and social movements; from opening Pakistani Fashion Week and appearing as a "human mannequin" for the UK's favourite corset store, The Fairy Gothmother, to working with photographer Tony Briggs.

Other notable appearances include being one of Gok Wan's "Gokettes" in two series of the popular television show *How To Look Good Naked*. Kelly has also worked for Debenhams and is now programme co-ordinator at Shape Arts. In August 2016, she was shortlisted as Celebrity of the Year at the National Diversity Awards.

NEW  
2017

## Ruth Madeley

Actress

In 2016, Ruth was nominated for a Leading Actress BAFTA award for her role in *Don't Take My Baby*.

The acclaimed BBC 3 factual drama tells the story of a disabled couple's fight to keep their newborn baby. It was her first lead role and the coveted nomination put her up against the likes of veterans Suranne Jones and Sheridan Smith.

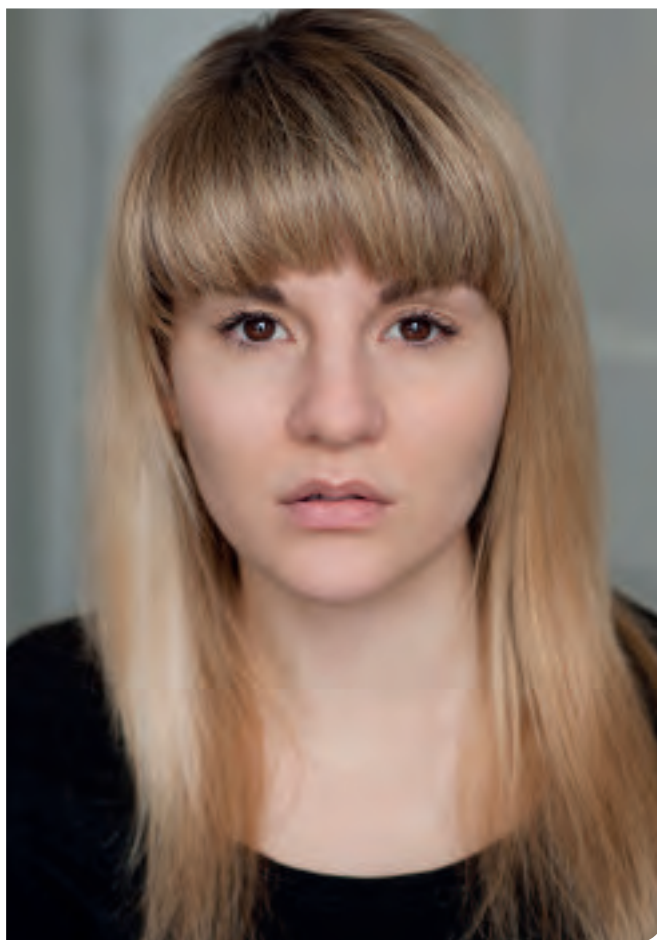
Since then Ruth has completed filming for a major ITV series *The Level* in her first non-disability specific role, something she sees as a milestone for the industry's representation of disabled people.

Ruth says: "Having the opportunity to play the lead in *Don't Take My Baby* was an unbelievable experience – not just for me as a 'disabled actress' but also for the chance to be a role model for other young disabled people who want to see more inclusion within the media. She adds: "There's a long way to go, but I'm very excited to hopefully be a part of that change, where I can be an actress first and a disabled actress second."

After being born with spina bifida and scoliosis, Ruth has trouble walking and uses a wheelchair.

As a five-year-old her life was transformed by charity Whizz-Kidz, which works to break down challenges and barriers that young disabled people face.

The charity gave Ruth a new wheelchair which allowed her to push herself around the school playground. Since then she has worked vigorously to raise money for Whizz-Kids, and was until recently a member of its board.





## Sophie Morgan

Artist, designer,  
TV presenter, consultant

In 2003, a car accident left Sophie Morgan paralysed at the age of 18, which while undoubtedly life-altering, has not stopped her from becoming one of the most multi-faceted young talents in the UK.

While adapting to life as a wheelchair user, she enrolled to study Fine Arts at Goldsmiths College, which has led to her work as a celebrated portrait artist and designer.

Her work has included 2013's *Mannequal*, a stylish wheelchair design to be used for a mannequin in display windows. It was showcased in the shop windows of both Adidas and Debenhams.

In 2004, just nine months after her accident, Sophie signed up for the BBC 2 reality TV series *Beyond Boundaries*, which follows 11 disabled people on a gruelling 220-mile expedition across Central America. She was a lead presenter for Channel 4's TV coverage of the 2016 summer Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro, having also worked as a presenter for the 2012 Paralympics in London. In 2008, she was instrumental in challenging boundaries within the fashion industry when she appeared in BBC Three's *Britain's Missing Top Model*, where eight women with disabilities competed. Sophie emerged as the runner-up, which later led to her being chosen as the face of Stella McCartney's 2012 Adidas Olympics collection.

Other TV work has included critically acclaimed documentaries *License to Kill* and *The World's Worst Place to be Disabled*.

In 2013, she was named Ultimate Campaigner of the Year in Cosmopolitan's Ultimate Women Awards, is a consultant for charities Scope and Back Up and is known for her educational work within road safety collaborating with BBC Learning and Drive IQ.

## Penny Pepper

Writer,  
disability rights activist

A genre-defying, versatile writer and well-known rights activist, Penny Pepper's work is a mixture of the defiant and the saucy, with a focus on examination of difference, identity and freedom.

She wrote the taboo-breaking book *Desires Reborn* in 2012 and in 2013 she won a Creative Futures Literary Award.

In September 2014, her one-woman spoken word show, *Lost in Spaces*, premiered to strong reviews at Soho Theatre, touring in autumn 2015.

Penny recently launched the Quality Writing for All Campaign for The Literary Consultancy at The Free Word Centre.

As a performance poet, she has performed across the UK, including London, Edinburgh and further afield in New York.

High-profile TV guest slots have included *The Victoria Derbyshire Show*, *Newsnight*, *Sky News* and BBC Radio 5 *Live Hitlist*.

As well as columns for *The Guardian* and *Access Magazine*, in 2015 she also enjoyed a three-month blog residency for *Mslexia Magazine*.

Her memoir *First in the World Somewhere*, will be published in autumn 2017, having received funding on award-winning crowdfunding publishing site Unbound.

She has said: "It would make much more sense if governments actively worked with disabled people, spent more time listening and saw to it that a greater number of genuine opportunities were opened up, instead of scapegoating disabled people through assessments."





## Jenny Sealey

Artistic director, Graeae Theatre Company

Jenny has been the artistic director of the Graeae Theatre Company since 1997. In 2009, she was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Honours and became an artistic adviser for Unlimited 2012 Festival.

In 2012, Jenny co-directed the London 2012 Paralympics Opening Ceremony alongside Bradley Hemmings. She also won the Liberty Human Rights Arts Award and was named on the Time Out London and Hospital Club Club100 list of the most influential and creative people in the creative industries.

Jenny became deaf at the age of seven. At the time she danced

ballet and was suddenly unable to hear the dance instruction. Her teacher, however, simply told her to follow the person in front of her and she has never looked back.

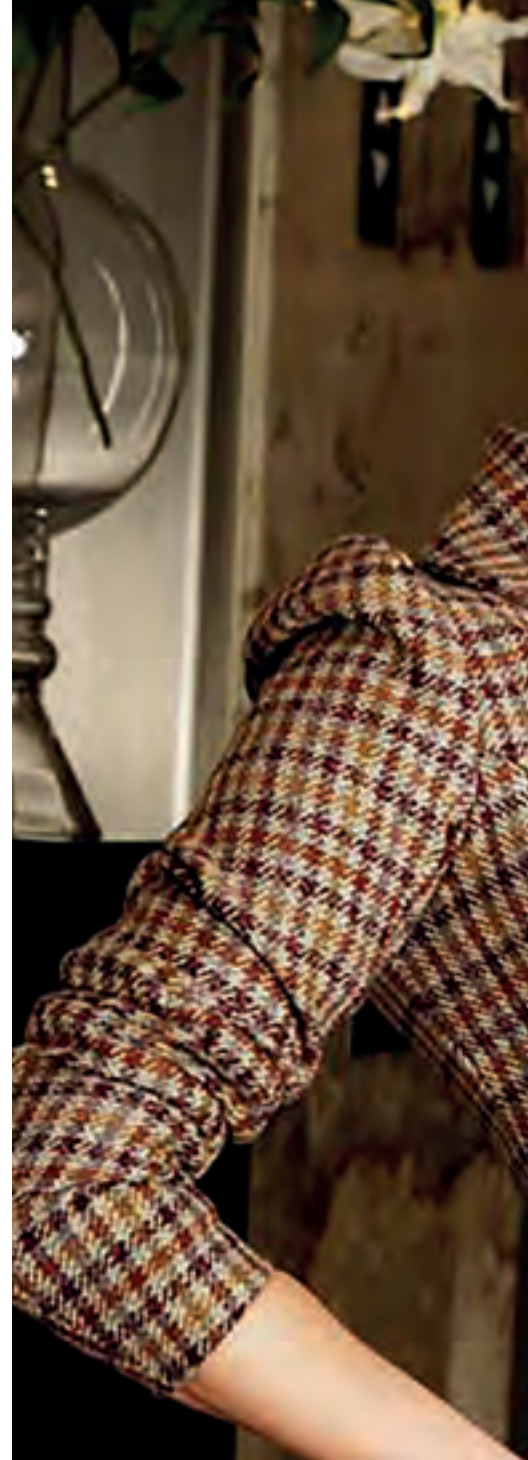
She continues to break down barriers for disabled people in the arts and in February 2016, Graeae's co-production of *The Solid Life of Sugar Water* ended its tour at the National Theatre, for the first time in the company's history. In October 2016, Graeae launched Ensemble, a £10,000 crowdfunding campaign to give deaf and disabled creatives training and work experience in the arts.

# “I realised I was not disabled by my missing left hand, but by the lack of opportunities, the attitudes and barriers put up by society”

Not just a pretty face, Kelly Knox is an inspirational woman with a golden heart and a belief that everybody should feel beautiful and comfortable in their own skin. A model who has graced the pages of top fashion magazines and been one of Gok Wan's 'Gokettes', Kelly's entrance into the industry was a little unconventional. Here, she speaks to **Kat Deal** about how she got into fashion, her highlights and her love for the Titanic

**Q** Why did you decide to get into the world of fashion/modelling?

**A** I saw an advert on Facebook asking “Are you beautiful, disabled and think you can be the next Kate Moss or Naomi Campbell?” It intrigued me. I replied, entered *Britain's Missing Top Model* and won the competition. On my original application I wrote that I would like to inspire young disabled people who may not have confidence or lack self-esteem. I believe it is every person's birthright to grow up confidently, in the skin that they're in. I knew my attitude wasn't “the norm” – I didn't see myself as disabled. As human beings, we should never be defined by our colour, age, size, gender or ability. Suddenly, I was labelled disabled. I realised I was not disabled by my missing left hand, but by the lack of opportunities,





**“IF MORE DIVERSE BODIES WERE CELEBRATED AND EMBRACED, PEOPLE MAY JUST BE MORE ACCEPTING OF THEIR OWN BODIES”**

the attitudes and barriers put up by society. This only made me even more determined to crush those stereotypes! I want to change the way the world sees disability and beauty. I've always enjoyed fashion and beauty – when I was a teenager, I read all the great magazines... Sugar, Bliss, Shout... but never stopped to think why there wasn't somebody like me in those magazines. Times were different back then. Young people are under so much pressure this day and age to be perfect – I feel that social media, fashion and advertising play a big part. If more diverse bodies were celebrated and embraced, people may just be more accepting of their own bodies.

**Q What's been your favourite shoot so far?**

**A** Shooting for Rankin was incredible, but

that is such a long time ago now. I have grown incredible amounts as a person, a soul and a model in that time. I love all shoots, so it's hard to pinpoint. If I could do it seven days a week, I would! I get such a buzz. When I model, it's like it is not me but my alter ego. When my makeup is done, hair and clothes styled and the lens is on me, I come alive. I did a shoot for Hey Girl magazine last month, one of my first proper shoots since having my son. I absolutely loved it! It was the dream team! We all had such a laugh – laughter creates the best energy and that energy channels into the shoot.

**Q Who is your biggest inspiration?**

**A** Lisa, my manager/agent, is my biggest inspiration. She is such a beautiful human being, incredible woman and

loyal friend. Kind, caring, determined, passionate, motivational, empowering, spiritual, encouraging, angelic, classy, feisty, focused and full of so much positive energy, love and light. She is my light! Lisa believes in me, like no-one else... I am so lucky and grateful to have her in my life.

**Q If your friends described you in three words, what would they be?**

I asked my best friend Sam – she said it's impossible to describe me using only three words, but she said: mystical, magnetic and soulful.

**Q As a model with a disability, do you think your role/responsibilities differ from non-disabled models?**

**A** I'm part of this new generation of models, committed to changing the way society perceives disability and beauty, breaking the mould and paving the way for others. Disability is the last barrier to break in fashion.

**Q What is your formula for success?**

**A** Never ever give up!

**Q What's your guilty pleasure?**

**A** I watched *Titanic* about eight times at the cinema. Every time it's on TV, I have to watch it!

**Q If you were stranded on a desert island, what one book and one CD would you like to have with you?**

**A** I am currently reading *Light is the New Black* by Rebecca Campbell. It's a guidebook for a new breed of women who are here to be bright lights in the world – modern-day lightworkers who agreed to be here at this time in history. Everything in this book resonates within my soul. As for music, my partner is a wicked DJ so I would bring one of his jungle mixes so I could have a good ol' dance!

**Q What are your aspirations for the future?**

**A** Not limited to, but... To launch my own clothing line, be brand ambassador for a top beauty brand and be on the cover of *Vogue*!

**Q What advice would you give to other young disabled people wanting to get into fashion?**

**A** It hasn't been easy for me, it still isn't easy... You have to be thick-skinned at times, determined, motivated, strong, hardworking, have self-belief and courage. Always listen to the song of your own heart and follow your dreams.



## Yinka Shonibare MBE

Artist

Yinka Shonibare was born in London and moved to Nigeria at the age of three. He returned to London to study Fine Arts first at Byam Shaw College of Art and then at Goldsmiths College, where he received his MFA, graduating as part of the “Young British Artists” generation. He is well known for his exploration of colonialism and post-colonialism within the contemporary context of globalisation.

His work explores these issues, alongside those of race and class, through the media of painting, sculpture, photography and, more recently, film and performance. Having described himself as a “post-colonial” hybrid, Yinka questions the meaning of cultural and national definitions.

He was a Turner Prize nominee in 2004 and 2013. In 2002, he was commissioned by Okwui Enwezor At Documenta 10 to create his most recognised work *Gallantry and Criminal Conversation* that launched him on an international stage.

He has exhibited internationally at more than 50 leading museums and galleries, with exhibitions in MCA Sydney, the Brooklyn Museum, New York and the Museum of African Art at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, among others.

In 2015, Yinka held a solo show titled *Wilderness into the Garden* at the Daegu Art Museum in South Korea, with more than 80 pieces of his work on display. He has also exhibited at the Royal Academy of Art’s summer exhibition, as well as exhibiting in the Museu Afro Brazil, Montreal. In November 2016 he was honoured by the Museum of Arts and Design in New York.

## Sue Williams

Disability Services Co-ordinator, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama

Prior to her current role, Sue was the Senior Officer in charge of Diversity at Arts Council England for more than eight years, where she was responsible for national policy on disability equality.

Now, as the Disability Services Co-ordinator at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, she continues to make her mark on the arts, which has given her the reputation as one of the most influential people in the industry. As co-ordinator, she is the main point of contact for specific disability service-related questions and queries.

Sue says: “I am very passionate about what I do and the work that I do and as a disabled person working in disability, I can’t go home at night and forget about disability. It’s part of who I am.”

She adds: “When I started working in the arts, access and inclusion for disabled people was really just about being nice to disabled people and I’m quite pleased to say that things have moved on from there a bit and that change is happening.”

Before she joined the Arts Council, Sue worked for the University of the Arts, in London. She was a project co-ordinator with responsibility for looking at access to the curriculum for art and design students.

Sue has worked in collaboration with the Arts Council of Wales on a new body of work called Throb looking to explore new territory in communication within sexual dysfunction, pain, pleasure disease and their psychological fallout.

She is a member of the Artists Pension Trust, Resident Artist in the National Dance Company Wales and a trustee for AXIS.





## Stephen Wiltshire MBE

Architectural illustrator

Stephen is one of the world's leading architectural artists, whose work has been showcased across the globe, as well as in his own gallery in Pall Mall and The Royal Opera Arcade.

After a single 30-minute helicopter ride Stephen has the incredible ability to draw the skylines of many of the world's leading capital cities from memory. He has drawn panoramas of New York, Rome, Hong Kong, Frankfurt, Madrid, Dubai, Jerusalem and London. His most massive work to date has been a 10-metre drawing of Tokyo which took him eight days. In November 2016, he took on Mexico City, the first Latin American city he has drawn.

His 2014 campaign *See The Big Picture*, where he drew the Singapore skyline, won three golds and one silver award at the Mob-Ex awards in Singapore, attracting more than 150,000 visitors.

In 2006 he was awarded an MBE for his efforts towards art. Stephen, who was diagnosed as autistic at three, and did not speak until he was five, has greatly contributed to dispelling the perception of autism. He visited the world-famous Monte Carlo car rally to capture the race in aid of the Caap Afrika charity, and was selected as a British icon to welcome visitors to Heathrow, with his work displayed across the airport.

# **Business, Finance & IT**

NEW  
2017

## David Burdus

Businessman; chairman of the British Wheelchair Racing Association

David is an award-winning businessman and the director of Burdus Comms, which delivers services such as training and mentoring, branding and design, consultation and motivational speaking.

He founded Burdus Sports which puts on sporting events such as the Tunnel 2K International Wheelchair Race.

Described as the fastest wheelchair race on the planet, the 'cult' 2km road race takes place in the dead of night, through Tyne Tunnel 1, North East England, when it is closed to traffic.

Competitors race Paralympic-standard, state-of-the-art racing chairs, at speeds of more than 50mph by muscle power alone. Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson is a big supporter and started the 2015 race.

David also runs a third company, Burdus Access Management, which provides inclusive project and design services. Clients have included the BP headquarters building in St James Square.

Since 1988, Burdus has been one of the first full-time and designated "disabled" access officers in the country and has been involved in writing disability and access policy for public bodies, private sector and voluntary sector agencies.

David has worked with six ministers for Disabled People over the years and in 2014 was called by Labour MP and Public Accounts Committee chairwoman Margaret Hodge to present his access policy practice and procedure documentation in the run-up to the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

David interviewed former Conservative Party leader William Hague for ITV when the two bills were going through the House.

He has worked as a presenter and researcher for Channel 4's *Same Difference* and BBC 2 series *The Great Outdoors*. He has also assessed and advised many National Lottery projects, including being on the assessment team for the Royal Opera House.

## David Clarke

Footballer; Head of Clydesdale Bank's St Albans Business & Private Banking Centre

In 2015, David was named President of the St Albans District Chamber of Commerce. The organisation, which boasts 400 members, aims to boost jobs in St Albans and create more opportunities for businesses.

It is just one of many hats worn by the former captain of Britain's five-a-side blind football team, alongside his position as chairman of the Athletes' Association for the British Paralympic Association and as Head of Clydesdale Bank's St Albans Business and Private Banking Centre. The celebrated sportsman also represented Team GB at the 1996 Paralympics in Atlanta in the sport of goalball, as well as representing Great Britain in blind five-a-side football when it made its debut at the 2008 Paralympics Games in Beijing, where they finished fifth. He later captained Team GB at the London Games in 2012 and was selected as the stadium torchbearer, where he was the first person to receive the torch in the stadium. Still the country's greatest ever goal scorer in any national football squad – male or female, disabled or not – David has won five international tournament silver medals with the team, as well as winning the European Championships Golden Boot three times.

David was inducted into the Football Hall of Fame in September 2013 at the National Museum of Football at St George's Park.





## Dr Stephen Duckworth OBE

Director, Disability Assessment Services, Capita plc

In 2016, Stephen took on the role of Chairman of the Rehabilitation International World Congress (RIWC) Programme Board. The three-day Congress is hosted by disability employment charity Shaw Trust, and seeks to influence disability and inclusion policy at a global level by delivering speeches, workshops and plenaries to delegates from 60 countries.

Stephen's varied career started when he founded research company Disability Matters in 1989. Previously he was Executive Director of Serco Institute, which helps create sustainable public service markets through research and communication.

In addition, he is also a former Regional Operations Director for West Midlands Flexible New Deal, where he was responsible for supporting more than 5,000 long-term unemployed jobseekers secure sustainable employment.

Other notable roles he has held include being a member of the Department of Health's National Quality Board, a board member of the Employers Forum on disability and a member of the Disability Equality Delivery Board which oversees the work of 10 Government departments to deliver the 2025 agenda.

He was board member on the Olympic Delivery Authority on Health, Safety and Environment, and is now acting as Director of Disability Assessment Services at Capita.

Stephen has used a wheelchair for more than three decades after fracturing his spine during rugby training when he was 21.

## Dr Phil Friend

CEO, Phil & Friends Ltd

Phil is an admired champion for equal opportunities and diversity and is regarded as one of the country's foremost consultants on these topics.

He was awarded an OBE in 2001 for services to equal opportunities and disabled people and was made a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts in February 2007.

His company, Phil and Friends Ltd, was formed to push and promote the issue of disability within the business sector.

In addition to this, he has had a number of articles published and is a regular contributor on national/local television and radio, as well as appearing in video productions commissioned by Sky, the Employer's Forum on Disability, various Tourist Boards and Angel Productions.

Phil is a Director of Dining with a Difference, and is the Chairman of Disability Rights UK, a trustee for Rica, an Associate of the Business Disability Forum and a Trustee of the Grass Roots Foundation. He is also a Churchill Fellow and a fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts.

His wheelchair users' self-help book (with his colleague Dave Rees) entitled *Why Are You Pretending to Be Normal?* explores how disabled people can manage, rather than just cope, with their disability.





## Robin Hindle Fisher

Business coach; Chairman, The Extra Costs Commission

Robin is business coach and partner at Hay Hill Partners LLP which focuses on providing one-to-one business coaching and executive mentoring for board and exco members and their direct reports.

In this role he works across multiple sectors with particular experience in areas such as financial services, client-focused teams, career transition, acquisitions and restructurings and senior executives who interact with the City. Robin has enjoyed an impressive career within the financial sector, with 27 years in fund management and then a move into business coaching. His clients have included BP, Coutts and the John Lewis partnership. Robin

also acts as a non-executive director of Ruffer LLP, an investment management company.

As Chairman of The Extra Costs Commission, a body set up to explore the extra aspects of day-to-day living faced by disabled people, he has written articles for the Money Advice Service informing the disabled community how to be savvy shoppers, as well as the Financial Times.

Robin, who was born with physical disabilities caused by the drug Thalidomide, is a passionate supporter of the Wales rugby team and in 2009 ran the London Marathon.



## Giles Long MBE

Inventor, LEXI; Paralympian

Retired British swimmer Giles invented LEXI, the guide to Paralympic classification. The triple Paralympic gold medallist runs Lexicon Decoder Productions, which licenses LEXI information graphics to broadcasters and in-venue organisers, who use it to unlock the complex classification systems used in the sports to create greater audience engagement.

It was first used by London 2012 host broadcaster Channel 4 and was also sub-licensed to ABC in Australia. It was used throughout the world for the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. At the

age of 13 Giles broke his arm, uncovering a bone tumour. Following chemotherapy, radiotherapy and several operations over a two-year period, he was left with a prosthetic replacement.

This vastly reduced the mobility of his right shoulder and put a temporary end to his competitive swimming career.

However, a reignited passion spurred on by his coach set him on course for the Paralympic Games and the triple gold medal success in the S8 100 Butterfly at the Sydney 2000 Paralympics, which he completed in a world record time.

## Euan MacDonald MBE

Founder, euansguide.com and  
The Euan MacDonald Centre for Research

Euan established The Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Research, which seeks to improve the lives of patients with MND, in 2007, in partnership with the University of Edinburgh. Around 130 people are diagnosed with MND each year in Scotland alone, and in addition to conducting research, the centre offers clinical treatments.

In 2013, the centre which was part-funded by Euan and his father, announced a new partnership with the J9 Foundation, which provides support for people with MND in South Africa

Euan, who was diagnosed with MND in 2003, has also gone on to play an integral part in establishing The Voicebank Study which gives people who, due to the disease are losing or have lost the ability to speak, the chance to preserve their voice.

In 2013, Euan and his sister Kiki founded Euan's Guide, a digital charity and disabled access review website and app that aims to 'remove the fear of the unknown' and inspire people to try new places. It was born out of a personal frustration that this information was not readily available for people with disabilities and their friends and families.

Euan's Guide was a winner at The Herald Scottish Digital Business Awards and Euan also received a commendation for the Unsung Hero Award at the Herald Society Awards 2015 for the innovative website.



## Gary McFarlane

Founder, CEO, Assist-Mi app

Gary co-founded Assist-Mi, a revolutionary app offering comprehensive assistance to disabled users on the go. It works by connecting the user directly with service providers to request real-time assistance at the touch of a button.

In 2015, Assist-Mi embarked on a successful crowdfunding campaign, gaining the support of well-known faces including Clare Balding and Evelyn Glennie as well as the attention of the UN.

In March the following year, Assist-Mi received £260,000 government funding to develop and pilot a smartphone application that will help disabled rail passengers to request real-time assistance during their journey.

In September that same year, they also collaborated with national charity Shaw Trust with a mandate to enable a revolutionary level of assistance for clients navigating their way to appointments at five participating Shaw Trust offices.

A skilled coder with a background in internet online projects such as Ecommerce, M-Commerce, CRM systems and mobile SMS multimedia mobile service, Gary has also worked as a freelance consultant specialising in Disability Discrimination and accessibility on the web.

He is also a former team leader at The Princes' Trust, working there as a Personal Development Programme Manager, and a trustee of Disabled Motoring UK, a charity that campaigns for disabled drivers, passengers and Blue Badge holders.





## Jeff McWhinney

CEO, SignVideo

Belfast-born Jeff is a well-known deaf entrepreneur who is a strong campaigner for equality of the deaf and hearing community. In 2004 he founded SignVideo, a Video Relay Services and Video Remote Interpreting provider which provides British Sign Language (BSL) video interpreting services to enable communication between the community of over 150,000 deaf BSL users in the UK and hearing people. The service is available instantly on tablets, smartphones, computers and laptops via apps and software.

SignVideo is a predominantly deaf-led organisation providing VRS solutions to the government, the NHS, councils, UK banks, telecommunications providers, helplines and many others.

In 2007, as a result of a presentation by Jeff, SignVideo was selected as one of the three preferred suppliers in video interpreting to the Department of Work and Pensions and was the sole provider from 2008 to 2010.

In 2016, the company announced a deal with mobile phone network O2 where deaf or hard-of-hearing fans wishing to book tickets or make enquiries to the London venue are now able to liaise directly with the venue's customer service helpline through a link to SignVideo on the O2 website. That same year SignVideo collaborated on a similar deal with Nationwide Building Society.

Jeff's big break in his career within charities for deaf people came in 1984 when he worked for Breakthrough (now DeafPlus), a charity working towards integration between deaf and hearing people. In 1995 he became CEO of the British Deaf Association (BDA). From this position, he was involved in gaining UK Government recognition of British Sign Language as an official language.



## Simon Minty

Director, Sminty Ltd

Simon is a Director of Sminty Ltd, a disability training and consultancy company.

He works with organisations such as the BBC, Barclays, British Council, Buckingham Palace, Environment Agency, EY, Lloyds, Motability Operations and Nationwide. The company is also a consultant for many media organisations to help improve the portrayal of disabled people on screen, including BBC, Four, Five and Sky as well as "indies" such as Wall to Wall, Zodiak and Endemol. He also frequently works internationally in Europe, Middle East, North America and Asia Pacific with clients ranging from a small NGO to a global investment bank.

Away from his day job, Simon is the producer of the comedy troupe, Abnormally Funny People, which he co-founded in 2005, after co-producing and performing in their sell out Edinburgh Fringe comedy show. He co-hosts the Abnormally Funny People podcast and guest hosts the BBC Ouch show.

A keen traveler, he won the Travel X Travel Writer of the Year 1999 – Best Television Feature for his Channel 4 Travelog programme in China.

He has personal experience of disability, being of short stature and of limited mobility.



## Terry Nelson

Inventor; former footballer

It's been nearly 30 years since Terry received a kidney transplant and his journey since then has been both remarkable and inspirational.

A former midfielder with Liverpool FC, Terry retired from the game due to repetitive injury. He later began a career as a paratrooper, and it was then he discovered he needed an urgent kidney transplant. His brother who was also in the military donated one of his kidneys, which effectively ended his own military career. A grateful Terrence vowed that he would repay his brother by becoming the fittest transplant patient in the world.

He kicked off this mission by running the 1992 London Marathon just 15 months after his operation. A year later he won three gold medals at the 1992 British Transplant Games and gold in the 5,000m at the World Transplant Championships in Vancouver.

On his return to the UK, his transplant failed but that didn't stop him from picking up another two gold medals at the British Transplant Games. He then spent the next 11 years on dialysis

which left him profoundly deaf and mostly needing to use a wheelchair – he later had to have his left leg amputated. During this time he turned to deep-water training for both physical activity and therapy. In 2004 Terry had a second kidney transplant.

After this, he decided to use the knowledge he had built up from 10 years of aqua training, and developed the unique Aqua Running X6 HBS – Hydro Buoyancy System – the most advanced buoyancy suit in the world, which allows anyone of any age, ability or disability to train through any injury or illness with no impact.

Last year the wheels were set in motion for it to be used by military forces around the world to speed up their troops' recovery from injury.

The suit is officially endorsed by the Sanitas Real Madrid Medical Services and is also used by Premier League football clubs such as Manchester United, Liverpool and Manchester City, as well as by the England football team, the England Rugby Union team and the British and Irish Lions.

# Entertainment



## Ash Atalla

TV comedy producer and writer;  
Producer of *The Office*

Ash Atalla is one of the UK's best known comedy producers. Most famous for his work with Ricky Gervais, he produced the hugely successful comedy series *The Office* and has won several domestic and international awards, including three British Comedy Awards, three BAFTAs and a Golden Globe.

Ash developed polio as a baby and is consequently a wheelchair user. He made his first appearance on TV in 1999 when he co-presented a channel 4 series on disability, *Freak Out*.

His work has also seen him produce several major series including *The IT Crowd* (during which he made a cameo appearance) and *Man Stroke Woman*.

Ash set up his own independent production company, Roughcut TV, in 2007. Among his many productions are *Trinity* (ITV2) and *Anna & Katy* (Channel 4). Roughcut also released its first iOS app in January 2013 – *The Official Mr. T* app.

His recent projects in his role of executive-producer include Sky 1's *Trollied*, the BAFTA-nominated YouTube series-turned BBC Three cult hit about a west London pirate radio station *People Just Do Nothing*, *Top Coppers* and *Cuckoo*.

He says: "Of course you're visible because you look different. I'm really fine with that, but at least I became visible for other things, and that was, sort of, an aim."



## Jack Carroll

Comedian and actor

In 2010, at the age of 12, Jack came to comedian Jason Manford's attention when he saw a video of him performing at his parents' wedding anniversary celebrations.

At Manford's invitation, Jack gave a short performance at the start of Manford's live show in front of more than 1,400 people at St George's Hall in Bradford. The performance was featured on a segment of BBC One's *The One Show*.

Jack's big break came when he competed in the seventh series of *Britain's Got Talent* at the age of 14, finishing as the runner-up. To date, Jack's *Britain's Got Talent* performances have been viewed more than 24 million times on YouTube.

As an actor, Jack made his acting debut on 4 *O'Clock Club* as a pupil thinking of joining Elmsmere.

Since then he has appeared in two series of the CBBC Channel show *Ministry of Curious Stuff* and most recently has starred in the new series of *Trollied*. He also made a guest appearance in the BBC One daytime soap *Doctors* in March 2015.

Jack, whose cerebral palsy is often a subject of his act, won a Pride of Britain award in 2012.

In June 2015, he performed a comedy routine on an episode of *Sunday Night at the Palladium*.



NEW  
2017

## John James Chalmers

Presenter

A television presenter who has hosted Paralympics coverage alongside Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson, JJ Chalmers is a former Royal Marine who was injured in May 2011 by a roadside bomb when he was serving with 42 Commando in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

JJ has also featured as a presenter on Channel 4's *National Paralympics Day 2015* and *The Superhumans Show*, as well as an online show for the IPC Athletics World Championships in Doha.

He has worked with a broad range of companies such as JLR, PwC and United Biscuits, and his message can be used to inspire or educate through topics such as leadership, communication and high performance.

Representing Britain in the Invictus Games this year, JJ won a gold medal in the recumbent cycling. Widely written about and featured in all major news outlets, JJ is rising up the popularity ranks extremely quickly.

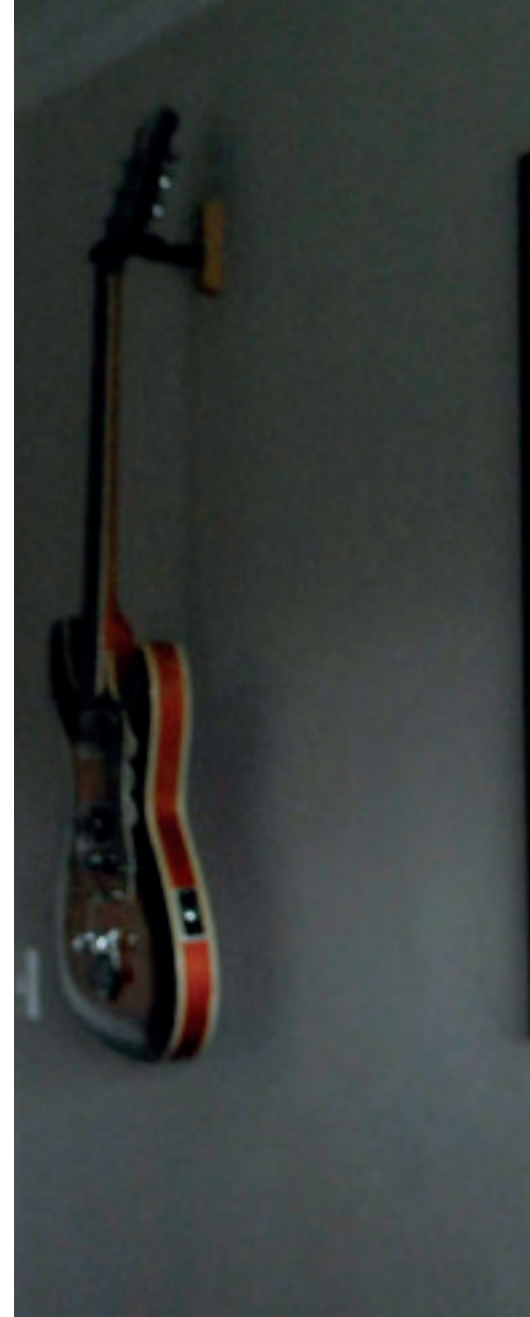
He said: "Watching the London 2012 Paralympics made me proud to be disabled. My recovery has shown me the world is full of truly awesome people."

"It's my dream and ambition to have the opportunity to tell their stories."

# “I dream of a world where special schools are banned so everyone gets to 18 having shared a class with every imaginable sort of human being”

Robin Millar is one of the most successful music producers of all time, and has worked with artists such as Sade, Fine Young Cannibals, Eric Clapton, Sting and Herbie Hancock. He is also a noted mentor, who has trained younger producers such as Jim Abbiss (Arctic Monkeys, Adele). Robin is a witty, talented and extremely humble man with a passion for youth and a belief in fighting the battles you can win.

Here, he talks to **Kat Deal** about advising young people to tool up, as well as speaking passionately about his own career highlights



**Q** What has been the highlight of your career so far?

**A** Sade's *Your Love Is King* appearing on Top of the Pops in the middle of the 80s electro synth pop era, like an oasis in an electronic desert. It's sort of a shiver down my spine that was 20 years in the making. It was like a disbelief that the dreams that I'd had since I was 13 with a plastic guitar had ended up with me being one of those people who had had a hit record. It was a record I was really proud of on a musical and production basis; I felt I'd really contributed.

**Q** Why did you choose to go into production and how did it happen?

**A** That was to do with my eyesight actually. I was a touring and working musician both singing on my own and playing guitar. It came to the point where I couldn't see the sheet music in front of me – I was putting up a front and pretending I could see it. I went on a European tour and I fell off the stage. I broke my guitar and hurt myself and I felt



## “IF I HAD ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD I’D STILL BE DOING THIS”

that I was, wrongly, an imposition on the rest of the touring party. I was offered a job in a recording studio in France. You don’t actually have to see in a recording studio, you can learn your way around all the knobs and buttons etc. I got the opportunity to record a French punk band (with the box saying Robin Millar as producer). The record was picked up, released, and went to No.1; so I said “Oh wow, this producing lark is a doddle”. I seemed to have a knack for directing and people seemed to take my suggestions on board. I was given many opportunities after that.

**Q Who is your favourite artist of recent times?**

**A** Adele. I find her lyrics and the way she sings incredibly moving and I think everybody does.

**Q What is the best part of your job?**

**A** Time stands still. If I had all the money in the world I’d still be doing this. Maybe I’ll start something at 11.30 in the morning, and

I’ll be working; I’m not disabled, I’m not looking at my bills, it’s all soundproofed and I’m not aware of anything on the outside. I’ll go, “I’m going to get myself a cup of tea and something to eat, it’s probably lunchtime” and I’ll look at my watch and it’s six hours later. The best bit of my job is doing it. Music is something I do every day; I have to.

One of the highlights of my music life was when we did a workshop with very disabled young teenagers (that I organise in difficult countries) and taught them to use Pro Tools. There were two blind kids in the group – one had learning difficulties, one was twice as intelligent as me. At the end of the workshop we had a bit of a “do” where everyone had to play a song they’d come up with. The blind Sri Lankan chap with learning difficulties, between me and this other chap, had made a track with beats, a bass line, a simple piano thing, and with a little chant and him clapping. I was in bits; I was completely sobbing my eyes out. Shelly, my partner, said, “Robin, if you

could see his face”. There are moments like that that are humbling.

**Q What advice would you give to young disabled people who want a career in the music industry?**

**A** Tool up, get skilful; it’s much easier than it was. Colleges, places of learning and individuals are much more ready, willing and able to support people with disabilities. Fight the battles you can win; choose an area you feel is a good area. Use examples like me, Stevie Wonder and Robert Wyatt to put in perspective: “If they can do it, I can do it.”

**Q What are your aspirations for the future?**

**A** I dream of a world where special schools are banned so everyone gets to 18 having shared a class with every imaginable sort of human being; they will then know their strengths and weaknesses and not mind the weaknesses. There will be no building that doesn’t have ramps or lifts. I want to run a public body and actually have a direct influence on it.

## Warwick Davis

Star Wars actor, Harry Potter star; talent agency CEO, quiz show host

Warwick, who was born with dwarfism, is renowned for playing the title characters in the movie *Willow* and the *Leprechaun* film series, the Ewok Wicket in *Return of the Jedi* and Professor Filius Flitwick and Griphook in the *Harry Potter* films.

He also starred in the recent box office hit *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* and as a fictionalised version of himself in the sitcom *Life's Too Short*, written by Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant.

Warwick became the first person with a disability to regularly host a primetime show when he presented *Celebrity Squares* on ITV, and as we went to press it was announced that from November 2016 Warwick would be fronting *Tenable*, a new quiz on ITV based around top 10 lists.

When he was 11, Warwick responded to an advert asking for people who were 4ft tall or shorter to be in *Return of the Jedi*. Since then, he has starred in more than 30 films and TV shows.

Warwick co-founded the talent agency Willow Management, specialising in representing actors under 5ft tall. In 2004, he began representing actors over 7ft tall who had also suffered from being confined to "niche" roles.

In April 2010, Davis published his autobiography, *Size Matters Not: The Extraordinary Life and Career of Warwick Davis*, with a foreword by George Lucas. He is also a founder of the Reduced Height Theatre Company, which stages theatrical productions cast exclusively with short actors and using reduced-height sets. Their first production, *See How They Run*, toured the UK in 2014.

Warwick is scheduled to appear in the next instalment of the Star Wars franchise, *Star Wars: Episode 8*.



## Stephen Fry

Media behemoth

Stephen is an English actor, screenwriter, author, playwright, journalist, poet, comedian, television presenter, film director and all-round national treasure.

As half of the comic double act Fry and Laurie, he co-wrote and co-starred in *A Bit of Fry & Laurie*, and took the role of Jeeves (with Laurie playing Wooster) in *Jeeves and Wooster*.

His acting roles include the lead in the film *Wilde*, Melchett in the BBC series *Blackadder*, the titular character in the series *Kingdom*, a recurring guest role as Dr Gordon Wyatt on the crime series *Bones*, Gordon Deitrich in the thriller *V for Vendetta*, Mycroft Holmes in Warner's *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* and The Master of Laketown in Peter Jackson's *Hobbit* trilogy.

He has also written and presented several documentary series, including the Emmy Award-winning *Stephen Fry: The Secret Life of the Manic Depressive*, and is also the long-time host of the BBC television quiz show *QI*. He played Prime Minister Alistair Davies in the ninth season of Fox TV's *24: Live Another Day*.

As a proud gay man, Stephen's award-winning *Out There*, documenting the lives of lesbian, bisexual gay and transgender people around the world, is part of his 30-year advocacy of the rights of the LGBT community.



## Blaine Harrison

Singer

Blaine is the lead singer of the successful indie band the Mystery Jets. With a number of top 40 singles, the Mystery Jets have played stages such as the Reading and Leeds Festivals, Top of the Pops and the NME Awards. Blaine's father is also in the band.

In 2016, the band released their fifth album *Curve of the Earth* after touring with multiple Grammy-award-winning US group Mumford & Sons and have just signed to Caroline International, a branch of Universal Music.

Blaine was born with spina bifida, which has affected his leg muscles since he was a child.

In 2009, he became a patron of the Attitude is Everything Charity, which works with live music venues in the UK to make gigs accessible for people with disabilities.

Blaine has said playing live as someone with a physical impairment is sometimes hard work, as many modern facilities still do not have the means to cater for disabled people. He has made it clear that his band will only play in venues which have made an effort to cater for people with disabilities and will refrain from playing in small, crowded pubs.

Blaine started playing instruments as a child. He experimented with drumming at the age of eight, as well as the guitar and piano.

NEW  
2017

## William Mager

Producer

William is the Series Producer of *See Hear*, the BBC's long-running television series for deaf and hard-of-hearing people. William is deaf himself and has been a champion for deaf production talent in the workplace.

He has recruited a production team for the series made up almost entirely of deaf people who communicate using British Sign Language. *See Hear* continues to be an effective gateway into the BBC for deaf people and many have gone on to work on other productions such as *The One Show*.

The programme itself has helped to ensure deaf people are well informed on the topical issues that affect them – holding people in authority to account and ensuring that the achievements of deaf people are celebrated.

William says: "I think it's important that sign language continues to be seen on television.

"I don't mean just 'in vision' in the corner, but actually a presenter presenting who is deaf themselves and using their language to the audience receiving it in their language.

"Portrayal is so important too – for me, if a hearing person watches *See Hear* they might learn something and realise something about deaf people which will help the community go forward."

William has also put a focus on making sure deaf people are properly represented on mainstream television programmes. To achieve that, *See Hear* has collaborated with programmes such as *Doctor Who*, *Newsnight*, *Bargain Hunt* and the BBC's regional news.



## Nicholas McCarthy

Pianist

Nicholas was born in 1989 without a right hand and only began to play the piano at the late age of 14 after being inspired by a friend playing Beethoven's *Waldstein Sonata*.

Having once been told that he would never succeed as a concert pianist, Nicholas refused to be discouraged and went on to study at the prestigious Royal College of Music in London. His graduation in July 2012 resulted in headlines around the world, as he was the only one-handed pianist to graduate in the college's 130-year history.

Having performed extensively throughout the UK, Nicholas has toured South Africa, South Korea, Malta, Kazakhstan and the US. He regularly gives live performances and interviews on television and radio including shows for BBC Radio 3, BBC Radio 4, BBC television, Channel 4 and ITV. Nicholas has featured in documentaries for the BBC and Channel 4.

Summer 2014 saw Nicholas present two of the world famous BBC Proms on BBC4 television and in 2015 he attained official Yamaha Artist status and is an ambassador for the Yamaha CFX Concert Grand, Nicholas's piano of choice.

In early 2015, Nicholas announced an exclusive record deal with Warner Music. His first album is entitled *Solo*.



## Francesca Martinez

Comedian, actor, writer, disability campaigner

As a comedian, Francesca has toured internationally, including sell-out runs at the Edinburgh Festival, the Melbourne Comedy Festival and the Just For Laughs Festival in Montreal. As a campaigner, she spent a year getting the 100,000 signatures required to trigger a debate in Parliament on welfare reform and its effect on disabled people.

Using her award-winning humour, Francesca, who has cerebral palsy, talks passionately about facing fear, the profound power of positive thinking, gaining the right perspective and questioning society's values in her critically acclaimed memoir, *What the \*\*\*\* is Normal?!*, which was nominated for The Bread and Roses Radical Publishing Award.

As a youngster Francesca had a regular part in the BBC children's drama *Grange Hill*, becoming one of the first disabled actors to have a significant role on a popular TV programme. In November 2016, she was the guest curator at Sheffield's Off The Shelf Festival of Words, which featured a day of inspirational talks and events. She also teamed up with Network Rail to launch a new campaign to improve disabled passengers' experiences of travelling by rail. Another recent highlight for was supporting Frankie Boyle on tour.



## Robin Millar, CBE

Music producer

The original “Smooth Operator”, Robin is one of the world’s most successful record producers with 150 gold, silver and platinum discs and 44 No 1’s to his credit, including Sade’s iconic *Diamond Life* album.

He has worked with legendary artists including Randy Crawford, Big Country, Eric Clapton and Sting and is the only blind man to produce an Olympic Games Opening Ceremony.

His productions have won almost every major global music award including Brit and Grammy awards. He has been a visiting professor and lecturer in commercial music for 15 years at The Royal Academy of Music, London College of Music, Surrey University and the University of Modena in Italy. In 2016 he led a deal (along with Blue Raincoat Music’s Jeremy Lascelles) to purchase Chrysalis Records from Warner Music, one of the year’s biggest music industry moves.

His campaigning work has included being the Patron of UNHCR, Trustee of The Playing Alive Foundation, Creative & Cultural Skills UK and the Vietnamese Boat Peoples’ Appeal. His concerts and recordings for Oxfam, UNICEF and Artists Against Apartheid have raised over £30 million. In 2011, Robin became global adviser to the Young Voices mission to the poorest regions in the world, to empower young disabled people.

Robin has been registered blind since the age of 16 and has had no sight since 1985.

In 2012, he underwent a 12-hour operation to insert bionics into his eye, trialing a pioneering new idea for future generations.



## Derek Paravicini

Pianist

Derek is an extraordinarily talented pianist, with the ability to play a piece of music perfectly after hearing it only once.

Playing entirely by ear, Derek has a repertoire of many thousands of pieces that he has memorised – jazz, pop and light classical – and he is also a great improviser.

Having been blind since birth, Derek also has learning difficulties.

He has performed in venues across the UK including Ronnie Scott’s and the Barbican Halls in London (his first appearance came at the age of nine), he has also played in venues throughout Europe and the US. Furthermore, Derek has appeared in the media across the world including the BBC, CBS, PBS, Channel 5 and the History Channel.

In 2006 Derek released his first album, *Echoes of the Sounds to Be*. He is regularly gigging and appearing on radio all over the world, and has recently taken to Periscope to play requests for people live from his immense catalogue of ear-learned and memorised songs.

In February 2016, he performed as part of ensemble The Derek Paravicini Quartet (with Hannah Davey, Ben Holder and Ollie Howell) at the prestigious Cheltenham College.



## Lee Ridley

Stand-up comedian

Lee Ridley AKA “Lost Voice Guy” is one of the most exciting young comics in the UK. As a result of complications with cerebral palsy, he is unable to talk, but that doesn’t mean he is silent, and is probably the first stand-up comedian to use a communication aid.

The winner of the BBC’s New Comedy Award 2014 has gigged all over the UK at places such as The Stand, Manford’s Comedy Club, Jongleurs, The Frog and Bucket, The Glee Club, The Comedy Store as well as many independent clubs. He has also supported Ross Noble and Patrick Kiely on tour.

He has featured on the BBC, CNN, The Independent, The Sun and The Mail on Sunday.

Lee has also given motivational speeches for a range of charities and other similar organisations including Communication Matters, Find A Voice, the Royal College of Nurses, Percy Hedley School and the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists.

Lee is also a patron of Find A Voice and Communication Matters and The Sequal Trust.

In August 2016, it was announced that BBC Radio 4 will be piloting a sitcom starring Lee. The show will draw on his experience of coping with disability, telling the story of fictional character Matt, who is leaving home for the first time.



## Ruby Wax, OBE

Comedian, TV star, mental health campaigner

Ruby is probably best known for her TV documentaries and interviews. She was a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company for five years, and has been script editor for many shows including all series of *Absolutely Fabulous*.

Previously, Ruby studied psychology at the University of Berkeley, California, and obtained a Diploma in Psychotherapy and Counselling from Regent's College, London. Recently she obtained a Master's degree in Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy at Oxford University.

In spring 2014, Ruby began touring the UK with her one-woman show *Ruby Wax: Sane New World – The Tour* and is still touring. She based the show on her No 1 bestselling book *Sane New World: Taming the Mind*, which has enjoyed worldwide success since publication in 2013.

*Sane New World* helps us understand why we sabotage our own sanity and provides a manual on how to survive the 21st century.

In the summer of 2012, Ruby presented her talk "What's so funny about mental illness?" at TedGlobal and in 2011 launched a website called Blackdogtribe.com which helps sufferers to get help, information, to communicate with each other and to break the stigma of mental illness. She was awarded an OBE for services to mental health in 2015.

In May 2016, the doors opened to her first Frazzle Café, a walk-in café where people have a chance to talk honestly about experiencing mental health concerns without feeling stigmatised.

## Arthur Williams

TV presenter, pilot

Arthur shot to fame for his presentation of Channel 4's coverage of the 2012 Paralympic Games. He followed this up in the summer of 2013, when he made his breakthrough as a factual presenter on Channel 4 where he was a reporter for the widely acclaimed two-part series *D-Day As It Happened*, and later with the 60-minute authored documentary, *The Plane That Saved Britain*, which centred on Arthur's love for the unheralded World War II plane, the Mosquito.

Then 2015 saw the broadcast of another Channel 4 project, *In Flying to the Ends of the Earth*, a three-part series which saw Arthur fly to some of the world's smallest and most dangerous landing strips to find out why people want to live at the ends of the earth.

As a former Royal Marine, Arthur was an active and extremely fit individual. He served as a specially trained signaller in sophisticated military communications and data transfer, but a car crash in 2007 resulted in him being paralysed from the waist down.

Courageously, he has rebuilt his life and set his sights on an active career in sport and media. In 2009 Arthur entered the Birmingham wheelchair marathon and won. He then spent four months in 2011 training with the GB cycling development squad alongside friend and Beijing wheelchair athlete Brian Aldis.

While searching for new challenges Arthur went back to his childhood dream; he had always wanted to be a pilot. While researching he came across a charity based in Hampshire called the British Disabled Flying Association.

He subsequently went on to gain his private pilot's licence and a class-one medical from the Civil Aviation Authority.



# Politics & Law



## Dame Anne Begg

Former Labour MP

Dame Anne is a council member of the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), the regulatory body for social and care workers which meets in Dundee.

She is also Patron of the care charity Cornerstone and for north-east Scotland literary magazine, *Pushing Out the Boat*.

In her previous role as the Labour MP for Aberdeen South (1997-2015), she chaired the Work and Pensions Select Committee, and was the first full-time wheelchair user to be elected to Parliament.

In the 2011 New Year's Honours List she was awarded a DBE for services to disabled people and equal opportunities.

Regarding her wheelchair as her "liberator", Dame Anne has always believed that disabled people should not be excluded from society. She was a founder member of Angus Access Panel and campaigned for civil rights for disabled people. In 1988, she was voted Disabled Scot of the Year. In Parliament, she also served as Chairwoman of the All Party Groups for Offshore Oil & Gas.

Before entering Parliament Dame Anne was a secondary school English teacher for 19 years at Webster's High School in Kirriemuir then Head of Department at Arbroath Academy.

Her commitment to education saw her actively involved in the teaching union and she was an elected member of The General Teaching Council for Scotland.

In June 2016 she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Aberdeen.

## Baroness Jane Campbell

Crossbench Peer; disability rights campaigner

Baroness Jane Campbell is an active Independent Crossbench Peer, and Co-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Disability Group with Anne McGuire MP.

Jane has a long history of parliamentary lobbying for disabled people's civil and human rights.

She is particularly active in creating structures which encourage disabled people from all sectors of society to take control of their lives and influence positive political and social change. Since joining the House of Lords in 2007, she has chaired two expert panels on Welfare Reform and Independent Living for the Government's Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). She was a member of the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Human Rights between 2010-2012, and a member of the House of Lords Appointments Commission 2008-2013.

A recent legislative success was to incorporate her Private Members Bill on social care portability, entirely into the Government's Social Care Act 2014.

Jane was a Commissioner at the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) from 2006-2009, and a Commissioner of the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) from its inception in 2000. Among her publications, Jane co-authored *Disability Politics* (with Mike Oliver) in 1996; and contributed a chapter to *Disabled People and the Right to Life* in 2008.

Jane received the Liberty Human Rights Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2013. In the same year she was named President of the National Disability Archive (Shape, London). She is also Patron of NDACA and Just Fair UK.



# Disability in the Courtroom: Why the basic human rights of disabled people must be vigorously defended

John Horan looks at two classic cases in history and explores some of the changes needed for improvement today

**W**hen you realise you are disabled you have a stark choice: either to accept what society gives you in your disabled state or to fight for what you perceive are your rights as a disabled person. The individual voices which make up the Power 100 show the multitude of different ways in which you can engage the wider community in the disabled debate.

As I write this the GB Paralympics team are enjoying headline-grabbing news about how well they have done. Disabled people have a positive role to play in the life of the nation, and the disabled community is right to positively engage with the Government, industry and providers of services with a can-do message.

But we shouldn't lose sight of the fact that sometimes a positive message is not enough. Basic human rights of the disabled community must be vigorously defended. In Rackham and the Northern Irish case of Galo, the courts have determined that whenever a disabled person is required





**'THE DISABLED COMMUNITY IS RIGHT TO  
POSITIVELY ENGAGE WITH THE  
GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY AND PROVIDERS  
OF SERVICES WITH A CAN-DO MESSAGE'**

to go to court, for whatever reason – be it to pay off a parking ticket, to apply for a contact visit to a child or to sue a former employer for unfair dismissal – the judge has a duty help them by making reasonable adjustments to the court process. In particular the UK Equal Treatment Bench Book (ETBB), a publication produced by the Government-run Judicial Studies Board and largely unused by courts, lays out what steps a judge must take to make sure disabled people get a fair hearing.

Judges were criticised in Galo for failing to appreciate the ETBB's recommendation that in almost all cases before any important decisions have been made in the case, the judge, if he had grounds for suspecting that there was a disabled person involved in the case, should call a "ground rules hearing". The Northern Ireland Court of Appeal said: "...this case highlights... the need for there to be better training of both judiciary and the legal profession in the needs of the disabled".

They added: "We have formed the clear impression that the ETBB does not appear to be part of the culture of these hearings.

That is a circumstance which must fundamentally change with a structured correction to ensure that this situation does not recur. Had there been proper cognisance of the contents of the ETBB, we are satisfied that a different approach would have been adopted to this case".

Courts and tribunals in Northern Ireland are in the process of engaging with the ETBB. Courts in England, Wales and Scotland seem to be lagging behind – which is remarkable given the same broad principles apply to all of the UK's jurisdictions.

Part of the problem is that in Rackham and Galo, as well as other cases which take the same point, the Legal Aid Board denied the disabled person legal aid when they were unemployed and penniless. There is something wrong with the domestic law when, on the international stage, the Government has promised to guarantee to persons with disabilities "equal and effective" legal protection against discrimination on all grounds. "Effective", here, means the courtroom set-up is how the disabled person would want it. The

UN Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities may seem like lawyers arguing over a piece of text which does not help disabled people in their ordinary lives. However, in order to understand what the convention means the courts must take a moral, human and realistic approach, to its articles – this was recognised by the President of the EAT in Rackham. Real lives and real stories have a profound impact on interpreting the UN convention. They also have the same impact when considering the domestic Equalities Act 2010 and other primary and secondary legislation as well as non-binding rules and regulations.

The experiences and stories of disabled people are a profound source of inspiration to the lawyers who represent them. I hope the next Paralympics in Tokyo 2020 will be as big a success as Rio, and I add my voice to all of the Power 100 in cheering on our disabled athletes.

However, the 'able-bodied' world must realise that behind this transient movement of joy is a community that demands disabled rights be respected by everyone – and will litigate to ensure that happens.



## Michael Cassidy CBE

Chairman, Ebbsfleet Development Corporation

Michael was appointed Chairman of Ebbsfleet Urban Development in 2014. The government organisation was set up to speed up the delivery of up to 15,000 homes to create a 21st century Garden City in north Kent. Since taking on the role, Michael, who has had parallel careers in law, the City, local government and corporate governance, has been actively engaging with local partners and the major landowners to develop a shared understanding of the work required to drive forward development.

In the City of London, Michael has been Chairman of Policy & Resources for five years, eight years Chairing Museum of London, and was also involved in Planning and later Barbican Arts.

His non-executive experience has embraced Crossrail, Homerton Hospital, UBS, BLOOM Worldwide and British Land. His five years in the top job at the City of London Corporation included the response to the IRA bomb threat ("ring of steel") and the period leading up to the election of the Blair Labour government. He was subsequently a speaker at domestic security seminars and was consulted by 10 Downing Street on a series of security-related measures. For two years, he was President of the London Chamber of Commerce. His legal practice over 40 years has focused on UK and international investment, mostly for major pension funds.

## Chris Holmes

Former Paralympic swimmer;  
Conservative Party Peer

Chris is a former Team GB Paralympic swimmer. He is the proud winner of 15 medals, including nine golds, competing at the Paralympics Games between 1988 and 2000. He was LOCOG's Director of Paralympic Integration, responsible for the organisation of the 2012 Paralympic Games.

A lifelong campaigner for equality and inclusion, Chris was appointed to the House of Lords in 2013 as Lord Holmes of Richmond. Chris currently divides his time between parliamentary work, a role as non-executive director at the Equality and Human Rights Commission and various speaking, consultancy and charitable commitments.

As a teenager Chris already had dreams of becoming an Olympic swimmer, but he was struck down with Familial Exudative Vitreoretinopathy, a genetic eye disorder, that rendered him blind.

Unperturbed, Chris decided to join a local swimming club in Birmingham where he trained alongside Team GB Olympic hopefuls and Olympians. A former Commissioner for the Disability Rights Commission, Chris was awarded an MBE at age 20 in the 1993 New Year's Honours list for services to swimming for the disabled. He is Deputy Chancellor of BPP, Chair of Channel 4's Year of the Disability Adviser Group and member of the House of Lords Select Committee on Financial Exclusion.

Chris is supporter and Patron of several charities including Duke of Edinburgh Awards, the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, Help for Heroes and Guide Dogs.





## John Horan

Barrister

On the day before the new millennium, John had a serious stroke. It changed his life and made him more compassionate regarding his work as a discrimination lawyer.

His extensive experience in battling for the rights of disabled people has led to expertise in discrimination in employment, goods and services, education and public authorities. He has been involved in cases against the State, the Judicial Office, the judicial services, the Army, the Church, as well as universities and firms and companies.

His work has taken him to Trinidad, where he successfully challenged the State honour system as not in compliance with the

international discrimination law. His expertise in international and European discrimination law has led to him lecturing the Academy of European Rights in Trier, Germany on numerous occasions.

Late last year he was invited to host the European Commission's Workplace Forum in Brussels on the UN Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities. John's articles have been published by Academy of European Rights and The Equality & Diversity Forum and well as the legal press.

John was awarded the Bar Council's Pro Bono Lawyer for the Year prize in 2003, and played a significant role in the Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year prize won by his chambers in 2015.



## Lord Low of Dalston

Politician

Colin Low is a British politician and law scholar. Awarded a CBE in 2000 for services to disabled human rights and the RNIB (where he is Vice-Chair), Baron Low has also been President of the European Blind Union since 2003.

A graduate of Oxford and Cambridge universities and former Lecturer in the Faculty of Law at Leeds University and City University London, he was made a member of the House of Lords in 2006. His appointment was seen by many people as a recognition not only of him, but of blind and disabled people in general. In a powerful maiden speech that championed the needs of blind and

partially-sighted people, Lord Low vowed to find solutions in the House rather than create difficulties. Born in Edinburgh, Lord Low has lived in Dalston, east London, for 25 years and is passionate about Dalston and the London Borough of Hackney. In 2014 he was awarded the Liberty Human Rights Campaign of the Year award for leading the campaign to ensure the protection of the Human Rights Act would apply to all residential care provided or arranged by local authorities. His victory forced the Government to accept the importance of guaranteeing human rights protections by demonstrating just how relevant those rights are for all.



## Paul Maynard

Conservative MP

Paul has long been an advocate for disability rights, with active links to the RDA, Scope and Trailblazers.

In May 2016 he played an active role in improving accessibility of apprenticeships for people with learning disabilities, producing a list of recommendations to be reviewed by The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for future consideration.

In July 2016, the MP for Blackpool North & Cleveleys and member of the Conservative party was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport (Rail Minister) in July 2016 by new Prime Minister Theresa May.

Paul's fascination for politics began at the age of four when Margaret Thatcher visited the special school he attended in Cheshire. Paul went on to gain a First Class degree from Oxford and began his working career in management consultancy.

He began his political career working as an adviser to Liam Fox and as a speechwriter for William Hague.

First elected in 2010, Paul was re-elected in the 2015 General Election. Paul believes that his life experiences have made him a better MP. He is the second person who has cerebral palsy to become a British MP after Terry Dicks.

In May 2016 Paul Maynard played an active role in improving accessibility of apprenticeships for people with learning disabilities. Engaging with a task force he produced a list of recommendations to be reviewed by the BIS and DWP for future consideration.

## David Ruebain

CEO, Equality Challenge Unit

David is Chief Executive of the Equality Challenge Unit, a policy and research agency funded to advance equality and diversity in universities in the UK and colleges in Scotland. He has been in this role since 2010.

Prior to that, he was a practising solicitor for 21 years; latterly as Director of Legal Policy at the Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain and before that as a partner and founder of the department of Education, Equality and Disability Law at Levenes Solicitors.

David is a member of the Advisory Group of the Office for Fair Access (OFFA), an equality adviser to the English Premier League, a Trustee of Action on Disability and Development, a member of the Rights & Justice Committee of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, a member of the Editorial Board of Disability and Society journal and a fellow of the British American Project.

David was also the winner of RADAR's People of the Year Award for Achievement in the Furtherance of Human Rights of Disabled People in the UK, 2002.

He has also been a Short Term Expert to a European Union Twinning Project, an ADR Group Accredited Mediator, a founding member of the Times Newspaper Law Panel, and a past board member of the European Network of Equality Bodies.

David has published and taught nationally and internationally on education, disability and equality law and has been involved in drafting Private Members Bills and in making oral representations to Committees of Parliament.



# **Education, Public & Third Sector**



## Saghir Alam OBE

Human rights and diversity lawyer; Chairman of ADD International

Saghir is a leading expert in human rights and diversity especially in the area of multiple identities in Age, Disability, Faith and Race, and advises a number of government departments. He has a legal and business background and is a specialist in the area of multiple identities and multiple personalities.

In June 2010 Saghir became the Chairman of Action on Disability and Development (ADD International), a British international development agency that works with disabled people in Africa and Asia to bring about positive change. Saghir is also the senior partner of Equality Group and Global Diversity, as well as the Patron of Include Me Too, the Ethnic Disabled Children Society and Rotherham Advocacy Partnership.

His list of appointments doesn't stop there. Saghir is also the Chairman of the United Kingdom Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Council. He served as Independent Governor for Westminster Democracy Foundation, a non-executive director of the NHS Hospital Trust and National Probation Board and Vice Chairman of a Local Council Standards Board. He is also a lawyer, a Commissioner of the Disability Rights Commission leading on partnership and capacity building and a member of the Human Rights Commission's Disability committee.



## Professor Colin Barnes

Professor of Disability Studies, University of Leeds

Colin has been involved with the disabled people's movement throughout his entire academic career and is a member of several local, national and international organisations controlled and run by disabled people.

After establishing the Centre for Disability Studies as the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People's Disability Research Unit at Leeds University, he also founded the independent publisher, The Disability Press, in 1996 and an electronic archive of writings on disability issues – The Disability Archive UK – in 1999.

The Disability Press has published more than 10 edited collections and two sole authored items, a research report and a novel whereas the Disability Archive is a freely available resource containing over 900 items including books, monographs, journal articles and research reports.

Since 2008, Colin has been Visiting Professor of Disability Studies in the School of Social and Health Sciences at Halmstad University in Sweden and is also an Invited member of Adjunct Faculty, Critical Disability Studies Programme at York University in Toronto. Since 1994, he has jointly supervised more than 20 research students for the award of PhD and MPhil students on various disability-related issues in different parts of the world.



NEW  
2017

## Dr Ian Basnett

Doctor, lecturer, Director of Public Health – Barts Health

Ian suffered a severe spinal injury playing rugby in the 1980s shortly after qualifying as a doctor, which left him paralysed from the shoulders down.

In 2012 was appointed Director of Public Health in the specially created role, which highlighted Barts Health Trust's commitment to dramatically improve the health and wellbeing of East Londoners. He also works closely with Barts Health's staff and community and local authority partners to raise public awareness of issues such as smoking cessation, weight management, immunisation and dental health, and to improve the quality and accessibility of the community-based services in place to tackle them.

Before this Ian was Director for Public Health at NHS North East London and the City, where he was responsible for reducing the burden of ill-health and improving healthcare outcomes for the local population. He is also a strong advocate for independent living and the right to life for people with disabilities. He writes for The Guardian and regularly lectures at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

In 1997, Ian was a Harkness Fellow and spent a year at the University of California, looking at the impact of managed care on disadvantaged populations.



## Professor Peter Beresford OBE

Professor of Social Policy; Director of Centre for Citizen Participation, Brunel University

Peter is a British academic, writer, researcher and activist best known for his work in the field of citizen participation and user involvement – areas of study he helped to create and develop. A lot of his work has focused on including the viewpoints and experience of disabled people, mental health and other long-term service users in public policy, practice and learning.

He is currently professor of citizen participation at the University of Essex and emeritus professor of social policy at Brunel University London. He is Chairman and co-founder of the influential national Shaping Our Lives organisation, which is a strategic partner of the Department of Health.

Peter writes for The Guardian and has a regular column in the journal of The College of Social Work. In 2007 he was awarded an OBE for work done to advance service user and patient involvement in public policy, particularly social care and health. He is proud to have been the first mental health service user to become a professor, and has written many books and articles to advance the rights and voices of disabled people. He was awarded first prize in the Times Higher Education and National Conference of University Professors Essay, where he made the case for the involvement of the knowledge and experience of disabled people to be called upon.



## Suzanne Bull MBE

CEO, Attitude Is Everything

Suzanne is the Chief Executive Officer of Attitude is Everything, which works in partnership with audiences, artists and the music industry to improve deaf and disabled people's access to live music –implementing a charter for venues to adhere to. More than 100 venues and festivals have signed up.

She sees her role as developing positive relationships with a range of live music and cultural partners, and to maintain the organisation's viability and sustainability.

With one in six people in the UK having some form of hearing loss, and an estimated 900,000 severely or profoundly deaf, Attitude Is Everything is a groundbreaking and much-needed organisation.

Suzanne says of the company: "I continued to work with stoic resolve – in particular I set out to prove that there was a growing demand for better access to live music for the deaf and disabled people, and that there was a real business case for access which the music industry hadn't yet taken on board.

"Attitude is Everything's State of Access Report 2014 proved that the music industry were missing out on £66 million from deaf and disabled customers because they couldn't access booking systems."

Having also held a number of positions with Artsline, Shape, Deptford Urban Free Festival and Disability Arts in London Magazine, Suzanne was honoured with an MBE in June 2013 for services to music, arts and disabled people.



## Beth Carruthers

CEO, Remploy; Managing Director of MAXIMUS Human Services

Beth became the Managing Director of MAXIMUS Human Services in the UK in May 2016, where her role is to lead the growth of the existing business in the portfolio and to develop new service lines.

Beth is also CEO of Remploy. The non-departmental public body has a turnover of £50 million and 850 staff operating from 65 locations across the UK, delivering a range of disability employment support services in the welfare to work, skills, education and social care markets.

Her private sector expertise in programme and change management was used to design and implement an employer-led business model which has resulted in Remploy becoming the UK's leading provider of Work Choice, commercial Employment Services contracts worth in excess of £300m and the transformation of the lives of almost 100,000 disabled people.

Beth was a Director of the UK's Employment Related Services Association and a founding member of the POWER group, which has established professional qualifications for Employment Advisers within the UK. Her experience includes a UK/US exchange led by DWP and US Department of Labor that developed recommendations for the UK Government on future programmes for disabled people.



NEW  
2017

## Jackie Driver

Programme Director, programme funded delivery at Equality and Human Rights Commission

Jackie's work focuses on a number of projects including Stop and Search, Electoral Conduct; Representation of the Media and LGBT Hate Crime. Jackie also has a practice lead role in the Commission on sexual orientation and transgender matters. Prior to this role, she headed up the Commission's Correspondence Unit, ensuring internal and external correspondence was dealt with efficiently and professionally.

Jackie is the former Head of Good Relations at the Equality and Human Rights Commission, where programmes included leading on the disability-related harassment formal inquiry, Hidden in Plain Sight. Prior to this, Jackie worked within the local government sector heading up strategic equality policy work, housing and homelessness strategies.

She was a member of the Homes and Communities Agency equality advisory board from 2010 to 2013 where she advised on issues relating to black and minority ethnic communities, disability, gender, religion and belief, sexuality and age. Jackie is also Chair of Breakthrough UK, an organisation aimed at improving the life chances of disabled people through employment, training and independent living opportunities. She was previously the secretary to the Board of Trustees of the Manchester Deaf Centre.



## Hannah Ensor

Founder, Stickman Communications

Since 2010, Hannah has been the creative talent behind Stickman Communications – taking the world of disability away from hospitals and political correctness, and into real life; opening the lines of communication, understanding and acceptance, using humour, insight and stickmen.

Her quirky but accurate cartoons have become an internet sensation, popular with people of all ages; both with and without disabilities. Hannah's work is also recommended and used by an increasing number of medical professionals.

Hannah's background is in Environmental Health, achieving a 1st Class BSc (Hons), but she retired on medical grounds in 2010. Her talent for drawing stickmen was a chance discovery during a hospital stay which grew into a career that works perfectly around her Ehlers Danlos Syndrome and Postural Tachycardia Syndrome.

Hannah's view of her disabilities as "a different normal" and her zest for life spill out into all her work – whether drawing stickmen, giving lectures, blogging life's adventures, fundraising for and working with charities (Patron of the Hypermobility Syndromes Association and advisory board member for Pain UK), or freewheeling at speed down any available ramp. She has also worked with charities Whizz-Kidz, Pain UK, POTS UK and Mind.



NEW  
2017

## Sir Herbert Massie CBE

Disability rights campaigner

Sir Herbert is a governor of Motability, the British car scheme for disabled people, and served as Chairman of the Disability Rights Commission from 2000 to 2007.

He was a founding Commissioner of its successor, the Equality and Human Rights Commission, and was instrumental in ensuring that Parliament passed the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and contributed towards the creation of the accessible London taxi among many other things.

Sir Herbert was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 1984 Queen's Birthday Honours and was later promoted to CBE in 2000 for services to The National Disability Council and the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation.

In 2007, he was made a Knight Bachelor for 'services to Disabled People' and in April 2014, he was commissioned a Deputy Lieutenant to the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside.

He was made an honorary Doctor of Laws (LL.D) by the University of Bristol and a Freeman of the City of London and became a member of the Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights.

He contracted polio in 1949 and spent his first five years receiving care at Liverpool's Alder Hey Children's Hospital.



NEW  
2017

## Kaliya Franklin

Disability rights campaigner, writer and speaker

Kaliya is an experienced disability rights campaigner, writer and speaker. She blogs at the 2012 Orwell Prize shortlisted blog Benefit Scrounging Scum and was voted as one of the top 10 most influential users of Twitter in 2011.

Kaliya founded the lobbying group The Broken of Britain and was an author of the Spartacus Report. She currently works as co-development lead of People First England – a self-advocacy organisation set up to use new online media to complement traditional ways of campaigning, helping people with learning disabilities develop an independent media presence and voice.

Kaliya has been a member of Labour's Task Force on Disability and Poverty since 2007, recently acting as lead on sickness and disability issues. She is also an Ambassador for the Brandon Trust, advocating for the people with learning disabilities supported by the charity. She was the co-creator of Easy News with the charity United Response. It is the first newspaper for people with learning disabilities and written in easy read format. The first edition was launched at the House of Commons in 2013.

Kaliya has Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, a condition which affects collagen in the body and causes multiple joint dislocations and chronic pain.



## Michael McGrath

CEO of the Muscle Help Foundation; inspirational speaker, explorer

After being diagnosed with muscular dystrophy aged just 18 in 1984, Michael made history 20 years later by becoming the first disabled person to lead expeditions to the North and South Poles.

He is the driving force behind the Muscle Help Foundation (MHF), a multi-award winning charity he co-founded in 2004. MHF delivers highly personalised experiences called Muscle Dreams for children and young people with MD and allied neuromuscular conditions. From interviewing Al Pacino to meeting the England football team, MHF's vision is to offer hope, inspiration and empowerment to beneficiaries and their families.

The charity's profile has gone from strength to strength under Michael's leadership, and in 2015 MHF was named as the Official Team Charity of the Mercedes AMG Petronas Formula One Team.

Michael was a torchbearer for the London 2012 Paralympics, an honour that preceded MHF's flagship programme that saw 75 beneficiaries fulfil their dream of attending the Games. MHF was the winner of the prestigious 'Inspiring Herts' Award for Best Social Enterprise of the Year in 2013, 2015 and 2016. He was recognised by the Queen for his "contribution to national life" at Buckingham Palace and included in the 2004 Christmas Day broadcast by Her Majesty reinforcing the importance of diversity as a strength.



## Professor Mike Oliver

Professor of Disability Studies, University of Greenwich; author

Mike Oliver is an academic, author and disability rights activist and Emeritus Professor of Disability Studies at the University of Greenwich. Much of his work has been centered around advocating and changing the social model of disability.

Mike was the first professor of disability studies in the UK and is also the author of many books and other publications on disability, including numerous newspaper articles.

A disability activist, Mike served on the governing council of several disability organisations including the British Council of Disabled People and the Spinal Injuries Association. He was also co-founder and executive editor of the international journal Disability and Society and was a member of the Social Research Advisory Panel of the National Lottery Charities Board.

He is known as the academic who first defined “the social model of disability”. He said: “We were the ones who escaped from our isolation and segregation, whether we were in homes or our families. No-one else did it for us.

“We created a strong and very powerful disabled people’s movement which promoted independent living as one of the central planks of our struggles for full inclusion into society.”



## Katie Piper

International author, inspirational speaker, TV presenter, charity campaigner

Katie Piper became an inspiration to the British public after she rebuilt her life following a brutal attack in which she was raped, had acid thrown in her face and then spent two months in hospital in an induced coma.

After surgery, she had to wear a plastic pressure mask for 23 hours a day for two years, and her injuries meant that she could only be fed through a tube in her stomach. The acid attack also left her blind in one eye.

Just over a year after the attack, Katie made the decision to share her story in a remarkable film for the Cutting Edge strand on Channel 4 called *Katie: My Beautiful Face*, which was watched by more than 3.5million viewers and nominated for Best Single Documentary at the BAFTA Television Awards in 2010. She went on to set up her own charity, The Katie Piper Foundation, whose vision is of a world where scars do not limit a person’s function, social inclusion or sense of wellbeing.

Katie’s life and career has gone from strength to strength, making a number of TV shows in the UK and internationally as well as writing three best-selling books. She was voted Woman of the Year 2011, and in 2012 received a special recognition award at the Pride of Britain Awards.



## Ruth Owen

CEO, Whizz-Kidz

A wheelchair user from the age of seven, Ruth believes passionately in the importance of independent mobility in a child’s life.

Ruth forged a successful career in the private sector, in technologies, eventually setting up and running her own IT company for 10 years.

For several years she was a Trustee of children’s charity Barnardo’s, and joined Whizz-Kidz as Chief Executive in 2004.

With 70,000 disabled children and young people in the UK waiting for a wheelchair that fits their young lives, Whizz-Kidz works to transform the lives of disabled children by supporting them to become confident and independent young adults.

Ruth has led the charity to become the biggest provider of powered and lightweight manual wheelchairs for disabled children outside of the NHS, and one of the leading campaigning organisations in the sector. Ruth was awarded an OBE in recognition of her services to disabled children and young people in 2012, and in 2013 she was named on the Health Service Journal’s Inspirational Women list as well as being honoured with a doctorate from Hull University. Under her guidance, Whizz-Kidz aims to ensure that every disabled child has an opportunity to be independent and indulge in being a kid.



## Sir Ken Robinson

Radical educationalist

Sir Ken Robinson PhD is an internationally recognised author, speaker and adviser on education in the arts to governments, non-profit organisations and arts bodies.

He was Director of The Arts in Schools Project and Professor of Arts Education at the University of Warwick and was knighted in 2003 for services to education. Despite contracting polio at the age of four, Ken went on to study at Leeds University and completed a doctorate in Drama and Theatre in Education at the University of London.

One of the world’s most respected speakers on innovation and human resources in education and in business, Ken has had a profound impact on audiences everywhere. The videos of his famous 2006 and 2010 talks to the prestigious TED Conference have been viewed more than 25 million times and seen by an estimated 250 million people in over 150 countries.

His 2006 talk “Do Schools Kill Creativity?” is the most viewed lecture in TED’s history and has been watched nearly 30 million times to date. In 2011 he was listed as one of the world’s elite thinkers on creativity and innovation by Fast Company magazine, and was among the Thinkers 50 list of the world’s top business thought leaders.

NEW  
2017

## Michele Scattergood

Chief executive,  
Breakthrough UK

Michele has nearly 30 years of experience working on disability issues and within disabled persons' organisations. She is currently the Chief Executive of Breakthrough UK, a successful disabled people's organisation, based in Manchester, which promotes independent living and employment.

In her role as CEO and driven by her passion and commitment to ensuring choice and control for disabled people, Michele aims to influence local, regional and national policy and practice and remove the barriers that prevent disabled people living independent lives.

Her recent interests include influencing the strategic and cultural shift in social care and health delivery in Manchester as part of Devolution. Michele is keen to ensure the barriers that prevent disabled people being in control of their health, wellbeing and independence within their own communities are addressed in the new approach to delivering health and social care. She is currently testing new ways of working with the public sector in Manchester.

Michele is a member of the Disability Committee at the Equality and Human Rights Commission, The Manchester Leaders Forum and is a co-founder of the North West Network of Disabled People's Organisations.

NEW  
2017

## Dr David Slingsby

Biologist, educator

An associate lecturer at the Open University, David is the former editor-in-chief of the Journal of Biological Education, where he organised a joint JBE/ERIDOB (European Researchers in Didactic of Biology) invited symposium at ESERA (European Science Education Research Association) in Cyprus 2013. He is also a member of the British Council's disability advisory panel, a member of the advisory panel of the Access to Elected Office Fund and a judge for the Royal Society of Biology book awards.

David was chair of education for the British Ecological Society for nine years, where he was in charge of developing the education strategy for the society.

He is a senior biology A-level examiner, and a tutor with the OU on three modules (evolution, ecosystems and human biology). He is a long-term student of ecological studies of international importance (since 1968) and the author of *Change and Stability: monitoring the Keen of Hamar: 1978-2006*.

David has more than 30 years' experience as a biology teacher and is the former Head of Biology at Wakefield Girls High School, where he was responsible for running a department of up to three specialist biology colleagues and a technician.



## Tom Shakespeare

Social scientist; worldwide  
authority on disability rights

Dr Tom Shakespeare has had a long involvement with the disabled people's movement in UK and internationally. He was born with the condition achondroplasia (a form of short-limb dwarfism) which he inherited from his late father, Sir William Shakespeare, who was a highly prominent medical scientist. Tom has a BA, MPhil and PhD in social sciences from the University of Cambridge and his doctorate research explored conceptualisations of disability.

During his MPhil, he wrote a book about the politics of disability and went on to write *Disability Rights and Wrongs* in 2006. His subsequent work at the universities of Sunderland, Leeds and Newcastle explored the sexual rights of disabled people, childhood disability, and quality of life in restricted growth. He joined the World Health Organisation in March 2008 and during his five years there helped produce and launch key reports such as the World Report on Disability (2011) and International Perspectives on Spinal Cord Injury (2013).

Tom supports the WHO's efforts to develop and implement policies which remove barriers to the participation of people with disabilities and is a member of the WHO Ethics Review Committee. He is a senior lecturer in the medical faculty at the University of East Anglia and is a consultant to several UN health agencies.



## Caroline Waters OBE

Vice Chair, Equality and  
Human Rights Commission;  
equality and diversity  
advocate

Caroline worked at BT for 34 years across a broad spectrum of roles after coming into the company as clerical assistant, and throughout the years she gained a distinguished record on equality, inclusion, and human resources.

After stepping down as Director of People and Policy at BT in 2013, Caroline has taken up roles as Associate at Marylebone Executive Search, founded CW Consulting Box and among other things is Vice President of Carers UK.

Caroline has been the driving force of many diversity-focused groups such as the Chair of Employers for Carers since 2001, helping to found the Employers' Forum on Belief and as Chair of the Lone Parents working group. She was awarded HR Director of the Year in the 2009 HR Excellence Awards and has also judged a number of prestigious diversity awards.

Caroline was awarded an OBE for services to diversity and equal opportunities in 2010. She is a Trustee of the Employers Network for Equality and Inclusion and also Vice Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. In 2015, Caroline became an executive board member of Project Fortis, an online matching platform that enables Armed Forces leavers and veterans to engage directly with corporates and large employers to find mentors and jobs.

# Media & Publishing



## Peter Apps

Global affairs columnist,  
Thomson Reuters and  
Founder/Executive  
Director, PS21

Three years into his journalism career with Thomson Reuters, in 2006, at the age of just 25, Peter broke his neck while covering Sri Lanka's civil war.

Paralysed from the shoulders down, he found himself back in the UK in hospital, and he taught himself how to use voice recognition software. He returned to work the day after leaving hospital, covering humanitarian affairs for the Reuters Foundation before making his way back to operational reporting.

Peter covered emerging markets during the 2008 financial crash before being appointed Thomson Reuters' first political risk correspondent for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. As well as reporting, he holds several other posts: he is founder and executive director of the Project for Study of the 21st Century (PS21), a non-national, non-partisan, non-ideological think-tank operating in London, New York and Washington, DC.

He is on the advisory council for Wilton Park, an executive agency of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and a trustee of the Stoke Mandeville Spinal Foundation, a research charity that also seeks to improve the standard of living for paraplegics and quadriplegics. He is also an officer in the British Army Reserve.



## Rebecca Atkinson

Journalist; co-founder,  
Toy Like Me

Rebecca is a freelance journalist, writer and creative disability consultant. She has been partially deaf since birth and has acquired tunnel vision in adulthood.

In 2015 she established the online #ToyLikeMe® campaign calling on the global toy industry to positively represent disability in toys for the 150 million children worldwide with disabilities. The campaign went viral and has received worldwide press coverage.

Almost a year after the campaign started, Lego unveiled its first ever mini-figure of a wheelchair user. The beanie-wearing figure features in Lego's Fun in the Park set, and is accompanied by a helper dog. Rebecca said: "For children without a disability, seeing a brand like Lego celebrate human difference helps to create a more positive attitude when they meet someone with an impairment in real life."

For the BBC, Rebecca has worked as an assistant producer on a range of factual and children's programmes, as well as producing content for soap, teen and music websites for BBC Online. In addition, she has contributed articles, columns and comment for publications such as The Guardian, Vogue, Marie Claire, BBC and the Huffington Post. She has also written three screenplays for Film 4 and a play for Soho Theatre in London.

## Cerrie Burnell

Children's TV presenter; author; playwright

Listed by The Observer as one of the top 10 children's TV presenters of all time, Cerrie's career as one of the faces of children's channel CBeebies has seen her break down barriers, challenge stereotypes and overcome severe adversity and discrimination to become one of the few visibly disabled presenters on TV.

The well-known author and playwright, who was born with her right arm ending slightly below the elbow, gained widespread public support for refusing to cover her arm while presenting the shows *Discover and Do* and *The Bedtime Hour* for the BBC channel aimed at children aged three to eight. Attracting negative comments from a minority of parents, Cerrie used the publicity as a platform to raise the profile of disability in a positive way, encouraging parents to talk about the subject with their children.

Cerrie is author of the two critically acclaimed children's books, *Mermaids* and *Snowflakes*. The latter is about a mixed-race child from the city sent to live with her grandmother in a magical village and was inspired by Cerrie's daughter, who is also mixed-race.

Alongside her work for CBeebies, Cerrie is a frequent panelist on *The Wright Stuff*, featured in Channel 4's *Diverse Nation* and has written for and performed in her own one-woman show, *The Magical Playroom*.

She is also an actress for screen and stage and has appeared in *EastEnders* and *Holby City* and on stage at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh. In 2016 she was named as a Patron of Wimbledon-based Polka Theatre.





## Gary O'Donoghue

Chief Political Correspondent, BBC Radio 4 and BBC News Radio 4's Chief Political Correspondent

Gary has been a reporter for the *Today* programme, a presenter for the BBC World Service, a presenter on BBC2's disability magazine programme *From The Edge*, and an occasional presenter of *In Touch* on Radio 4.

As well as covering British news, Gary has reported on events from Europe, Africa, Asia and most recently in the United States, and has made documentary and current affair programmes for TV and radio. Gary was born partially sighted and lost his full sight at the age of eight. After graduating from Oxford, where he read Modern Languages and Philosophy and also played blind football for England, Gary started work as a junior reporter on Radio 4's *Today* programme, before becoming a political correspondent based at Westminster. He reported across the media of radio, television and the internet and in 2007 he broke the story that Prime Minister Gordon Brown was returning early from holiday to deal with an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Surrey.

However, the story – which was a lead on the *BBC News at Ten* – was given to an able-bodied colleague, an action which resulted in an out-of-court payment to Gary on the grounds of disability discrimination. This led to hundreds of BBC employees being sent on disability awareness schemes.



## John Pring

Journalist; author; founder/editor Disability News Service

John launched Disability News Service (DNS) in April 2009 to address the absence of in-depth reporting in both the specialist and mainstream media on issues that affect the lives of disabled people.

The site provides in-depth coverage of all the important disability-related stories on equality, employment, independent living, disability hate crime, politics, benefits and poverty, as well as disability arts, culture and sport.

Crucially, the stories focus on the views of disabled people and those coming from organisations related to people and issues surrounding disabilities.

John is also the author of *Longcare Survivors: The Biography of a Care Scandal*, a book investigating the horrific abuse of adults with learning difficulties that took place at two residential homes in south Buckinghamshire.

John is passionate about the lives of disabled people particularly with regards to independent living. He champions disability-related causes and lobbies the government on a whole host of issues. DNS acts as a hub for this information as the only news agency specialising in disability issues.

An experienced journalist, John has been reporting on disability issues for nearly 20 years.

## Alison Walsh

Disability Lead, BBC

Alison Walsh is currently the disability lead at the BBC and she is the former Channel 4 Disability Executive.

Alison is in a unique position, as she has influence on the talent that is seen on-screen, as well as the production staff off-screen, shaping the feel of the output and the people who produce it.

At Channel 4, Alison worked with the commissioning team and C4's programme suppliers to ensure mainstream inclusion of disability in all programme areas and to develop disabled talent on screen and behind the camera. She also helped write the bid that won Channel 4 the rights to broadcast the 2012 Paralympics, and was also involved in writing the bid for Rio 2016.

Her biggest project to date has been helping to produce C4's coverage of the Paralympics games in 2012, where she had a senior editorial role with over 170 hours of live coverage showing disability as it's never been shown before.

She also helped roll out the channel's nationwide *Half Million Quid Talent Search* designed to identify the best new disabled sports reporters and commentators to front the London 2012 Paralympic Games. In addition, she was instrumental in introducing disabled trainee placements on the annual C4 Production Training Scheme (run in conjunction with production partners and training provider Think Bigger).





## Peter White

Broadcast journalist; DJ

Peter is a trailblazer for visually impaired people as the first totally blind person to produce reports for television news.

Blind since his birth in 1947, he began his broadcasting career working as a freelance reporter for BBC Radio Solent in 1971. He went on to edit and produce Channel 4's *Same Difference*, a programme on disability and Central Television's *Link*, a magazine for disabled people.

In 1995 he was appointed as the BBC's Disability Affairs Correspondent, a post he has held ever since. In 1998 he was honoured with an MBE for his services to broadcasting and disability.

In 2001 he won the Gold Sony Speech Broadcaster of the Year, and, in 2007 won (together with his producer Cheryl Gabriel) the One World Media Radio Documentary Award for their remarkable documentary, *Unseen China*.

Apart from broadcasting Peter is a contributor to a number of national newspapers including The Guardian, The Daily Mail, The Daily Express, Sunday Times and The Independent. He is constantly in demand for after-dinner speaking engagements, chairing conferences and keynote speeches for a huge variety of organisations, as well as voice-over work.

# Sport

NEW  
2017

## Steve Bate

Athlete

In June 2013, New Zealand-born Steve became the first visually impaired person to solo climb El Capitan in Yosemite, California. Following this achievement, Steve was introduced to para-cycling by fellow El Capitan conqueror and Great Britain para-cyclist Karen Darke.

Later that year, Steve was accepted on to the GB Development Squad, and with his sight pilot, Adam Duggleby, became the British Champion in the UK Road and Time Trial Championships, won the European Tandem Tour of Holland and came third in the Tandem Tour of Belgium. In December 2014, he was accepted onto the GB Paracycling Podium Squad and became a full-time athlete.

In 2015 he made his debut at the 2015 UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships where he and Adam finished sixth in the pursuit, posting a personal best time of 4:27.299 in the process.

After gracing the podium at the UCI Para-cycling Road World Cup in Maniago, Steve and Adam went on to take their first World Cup gold with a time-trial win in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

At the Rio Paralympic Games, Steve won two gold medals in the cycling track men's B 4,000m individual pursuit and the men's time-trial. He also won a bronze in the men's road race.

Bate was born and brought up in New Zealand before moving to Moray in Scotland in adulthood. He has Retinitis Pigmentosa. Diagnosed about five years ago, he has approximately 6-7 per cent vision.

"It's quite frightening when you get told..." he says. "I must have been borderline depressed because I was really angry. I was healthy, I didn't smoke or drink... But you come to terms with it."

## Hannah Cockroft MBE

Wheelchair sprinter

Hannah Cockroft MBE is a young wheelchair racing athlete who started racing at a BPA-run Paralympic Potential Day at Loughborough University in October 2007, and immediately fell in love with the speed of the sport.

Specialising in sprint distances, Hannah burst on to the scene when she broke four world records at the 2010 British Wheelchair Athletics Association International event.

Coached by Peter Eriksson, she continued to set the pace, and became GB's first athletics gold medallist of the London 2012 Games when she won the T34 100m in a Paralympic record time of 18.06s. Her second event, the T34 200m, took place on what would later become known as Thriller Thursday. After setting a Paralympic record of 33.30s in the morning heats, she set a new time of 31.90s in the final to take her second gold medal. She later reduced her 100m world record to 17.60s at the Swiss National Championships.

Awarded an MBE in 2013, Hannah won three golds in the 2016 IPC World Championships, and concluded her year with another three Paralympic gold medals and a world record in Rio.

In 2014, she set up Seventeen Sports Management. She says: "I want to help fellow sports people avoid the pitfalls and traps that I fell into. I want them to benefit from my unfortunate experiences."

Hannah was born with cerebral palsy. At secondary school, she competed in swimming, wheelchair racing, seated discus, wheelchair basketball and wheelchair rugby. Her father built her first racing chair.



# “I always said that I wanted to be tested on the biggest stage against the best in the world and I got that chance in Rio”

A British cycling success, Steve Bate has quickly become one of GB's most successful athletes. Winning two gold medals and a bronze in the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, Steve's great passion for adventure, challenges and his strong sense of humour all contribute to the success he has achieved in a short space of time. Steve talks to **Kat Deal** about his Paralympic experiences, his advice to younger people wanting to get into sport, and trading his gold medals for chocolate

**Q** You have very quickly risen to success in cycling – why did you decide to choose that sport over any other and what do you particularly love about it?

**A** I've always been really interested in what I could achieve with my body, it's our most valuable asset which most people take for granted. I wanted to have the full support of coaches, nutritionists and physiotherapists etc to see if I gave it everything, could I be the best in the world at something? It didn't matter what sport it was but cycling came along and offered me that first, but it could have been anything. It's just a great feeling riding a bike, whether it's on the world stage or off-road somewhere remote.

**Q** Why did you decide to climb El Capitan and what was that experience like?

**A** El Capitan was a goal I set myself to prove to myself and friends that I could still





**"I'VE ALWAYS BEEN REALLY INTERESTED  
IN WHAT I COULD ACHIEVE WITH MY BODY,  
IT'S OUR MOST VALUABLE ASSET WHICH  
MOST PEOPLE TAKE FOR GRANTED."**

live an adventurous lifestyle after being diagnosed as visually impaired. Looking back now it was a bit of a crazy thing to try to do. It was an amazing time once I started, and the highlight would have been sleeping hundreds of metres off the ground in the portaledge.

**Q Who has been your biggest influence?**

**A** My older brother Alan. But don't tell him that! Growing up, I followed him everywhere, he was always a lot better at sport and school and because he was so good it made things easier for me. He always looked out for me and led me in the right direction. He's a top bloke (most of the time!)

**Q If you were stranded on a desert island, what one book and one CD would you like to have with you?**

**A** The book would be the dictionary, you

will never learn all of that so it would keep things interesting, and how funny would the interview be after you were found years later using loads of profound words. If you were never found you have plenty of pages to perfect paper planes. The CD would be *John Butler Trio – Live at Red Rocks*.

**Q If you had to trade your Paralympic medals for one thing, what would that be?**

**A** That's easy, chocolate haha... To be honest, I'm not that bothered about the medals. People always tell me I should make more of a fuss over them. I'm pretty blasé about them really, I've never been a material kind of person. They are cool but they are just a lump of metal at the end of the day.

**Q What has been your favourite race?**

**A** I think the pursuit in Rio was the coolest

race I've done and not even the gold medal ride. Our qualifier was against the world champion and to beat him and break the world record was a pretty special moment. I always said that I wanted to be tested on the biggest stage against the best in the world and I got that chance in Rio – it couldn't have gone any better. The gold medal really was just a bonus.

**Q What advice would you give to disabled people wanting to get into sport?**

**A** Do it! It doesn't matter what you do just try loads of stuff and find something you enjoy. There are plenty of people that want to help disabled people like you and I get into sport and achieve things so don't waste any time. You never know, Tokyo is only four years away and if you start something now you could be a big star in 2020!


NEW  
2017

## Kadeena Cox

Sprinter; cyclist

Kadeena competes for Great Britain in athletics and in para-cycling. In Rio 2016, Kadeena became the first athlete to win gold medals in multiple sports since Isabel Barr in the 1984 Summer Paralympics.

After winning gold medals and breaking world records in the women's C4-5 cycling time-trial and the T38 400m sprint; winning a silver medal in the T35-38 4x100m relay and a bronze medal in the T38 100m, Kadeena was chosen to be the flagbearer for Great Britain at the Closing Ceremony.

Prior to her strokes and diagnosis of multiple sclerosis, Kadeena competed as a sprinter, clocking a personal best of 11.93s in the 100m at under-17 level and winning major national medals. She also competed in the winter sport of skeleton.

Studying physiotherapy at Manchester Metropolitan University, in her short career Kadeena has picked up three World Championship golds and one bronze and two Paralympic golds, one silver and one bronze.

She says: "I decided, MS isn't going to define me. My life doesn't revolve around MS, MS revolves around me.

Adding: "Running, you see, has been my big thing for years. I don't know what I would have done otherwise. I am sure that I would not have recovered anywhere near as well if I had not had this to strive for. It has helped me massively from a physical perspective, and it has also enabled me to control certain parts of my condition. I would have been a lost girl without my sport."



## Sir Philip Craven

President, International Paralympic Committee

Sir Philip Craven was a keen swimmer, cricketer and tennis player but in 1966, at the age of 16, he fell during a rock-climbing expedition at Wilton Quarries: an accident that left him without the use of his legs.

Having graduated with a degree in Geography at University of Manchester in 1972, Philip went on to represent Great Britain in wheelchair basketball at five Paralympics. Furthermore, he competed in athletics and swimming at the 1972 Games as well as several wheelchair basketball World and European Championships.

His yearning for self-determination and self-government in the sport paved the way for wheelchair basketball to become an independent federation in 1993. He was elected President of the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation in 1994, holding the office until 1998. A more productive working relationship with FIBA (the world governing body for basketball) was arranged under his charge, to further legitimise wheelchair basketball, and he was elected as President of the International Paralympic Committee in 2001, a position he continues to hold. In 2016 the committee under his charge launched Proud Paralympian, set up to help athletes find out more about their rights as a citizen and an athlete, anti-doping and how to transition to a career. Philip was knighted in June 2005.


NEW  
2017

## Jody Cundy MBE

Swimmer, cyclist

Jody started swimming at the age of 10, making his international debut at the world championships in Malta in 1994.

Jody would go on to swim for Great Britain at three Paralympic Games, from 1996 to 2004, winning three gold and two bronze medals. A year after the Athens Games, he rode on the track for the first time, at Newport Velodrome, and his potential quickly brought him to the attention of the Great Britain cycling team.

While still swimming on the Great Britain team, Jody was invited to a time-trial for a place on the 2006 Paralympic World Cup team and earned selection for the team sprint by setting a world record, alongside Darren Kenny and Mark Bristow.

That performance was enough to convince Jody to concentrate fully on cycling and a gold medal, and world record, in the kilo at his debut UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships in Aigle, Switzerland, in the summer of 2006 vindicated his decision.

That was the start of a decade of success on the track with a double gold medal performance following at the 2007 UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships in Bordeaux, France. At Beijing 2008, Jody won gold in the kilo and the team sprint, and after being disqualified at London 2012, he went on to win his sixth and seventh Paralympic golds in Rio 2016.

NEW  
2017

## Bethany Firth

Swimmer

Bethany is a swimmer who competes for Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Formerly competing for Ireland, Bethany has won four Paralympic gold medals and a silver over two Games – winning her first gold for Ireland in 2012 only three years after taking up swimming.

Bethany was the most successful Team GB athlete at the 2016 Rio Paralympics, breaking the S14 100m backstroke world record at just 20 years of age.

She became the fifth female Paralympian to claim a trio of gold medals at a single Games. No male Paralympian has yet achieved this distinction.

She had an impressive year in 2015 taking three medals at the British Para-Swimming International meet in Glasgow, coming away with two golds and a silver and qualifying for her second IPC Swimming World Championships.

Bethany, who competed in seven events at the 2014 Commonwealth Games, competes in the 100m backstroke, 200m medley and 200m freestyle at Paralympic level. She has a learning difficulty that causes short-term memory loss, therefore she competes in the S14 classification for athletes with an intellectual impairment.



## Ali Jawad

Powerlifter

Ali is a British Paralympic powerlifter competing in the 59kg class. Born without legs, he took up powerlifting at the age of 16. Having developed Crohn's disease in 2008, which ruined his dreams of competing in Beijing, Ali bounced back from a series of operations and treatments and competed in the 2012 Paralympics in London, finishing fourth.

The following year he took gold at the Asian Open Championships making a world record lift of 185.5kg. At the 2014 IPC Powerlifting World Championships in Dubai he became World Champion in his class, setting another world record with 190kg. He won a silver medal at the Rio Paralympic Games in the men's 59kg event and subsequently appeared in many media outfits including the television show, *The Last Leg*.

Ali is the British record holder in the 56kg, 59kg, 60kg, 65kg and 75kg classes, European junior and senior record holder in multiple classes, and a five-time world record holder.

Ali is an ambassador for Crohn's and Colitis UK, Get Kids Going, Access Sport as well as a UK Anti-Doping adviser and blogger for IPC Powerlifting. He regularly speaks at Crohn's and Colitis UK charity events, universities and summer schools and runs powerlifting masterclasses at weightlifting expos.



## Nicolas Hamilton

Racing driver

Nicolas currently competes in the British Touring Car Championship and races in a specially-modified car due to his cerebral palsy. He made his debut in June this year and is the first disabled driver to compete in the Touring Car Championship, the highest-level series of its kind.

Nicolas is following in the footsteps of his brother, Formula 1 World Champion, Lewis. But, unlike the Mercedes star, only a few years ago he was using a wheelchair and unable to push 20kg of force with his legs (now he pushes over 100kg).

In 2015 Hamilton secured a deal with AmD Tuning to race an Audi S3 in five rounds of the British Touring Car Championship, becoming the first driver with a disability to compete in the series.

Nicolas made his racing debut in the Renault Clio Cup United Kingdom in 2011 driving for Total Control Racing.

In 2016 it was announced that Nicolas would be part of Channel 4's Formula One presentation team. His personality and ability to push boundaries makes his career an exciting one to follow.

He says: "Being affected with cerebral palsy did not diminish my ambition to become one of the top racing drivers in the world. I pursued my dreams and went on to become the only disabled driver to compete in the BTCC series."



## Stephen Miller MBE

Athlete; managing director, SMILE Through Sport

In 1996, at the age of 16, Stephen became Britain's youngest ever track and field Olympic or Paralympic gold medallist at the Atlanta Paralympics.

He competes in field athletics, primarily the F32 club throw, although he has also competed in the discus and shot put in the past. He went on to be undefeated in all competitions until 2005 – nine years in total. He won gold at the Sydney and Athens Paralympics, silver in Beijing and bronze in Rio in 2016. At the London 2012 Paralympics he was the male team athletics captain.

Stephen was born with cerebral palsy and as a professional athlete he has represented Great Britain for more than 15 years, competing in five Paralympic Games, six World Championships and three European Championships – winning 25 international medals.

He is managing director of SMILE Through Sport – a Community Interest Company that aims to inspire, educate and promote enjoyment of disability sport throughout north east England. The firm's services include inspirational speaking programmes, disability awareness and sport specific courses.

Stephen is also a website developer, and secretary of Newcastle United Disabled Supporters Association (NUDSA). In addition, he is an acclaimed published writer and motivational speaker.

# Rio 2016 Paralympic Games

## A Brazilian and British success

Four years after the phenomenal London 2012 Paralympics, Rio de Janeiro had a lot to live up to. But, as **Yvonne Martin** explains, the city seems to have held its own

Historic double:  
Britain's  
Kadeena Cox  
won gold  
medals in two  
sports – cycling  
and athletics



**T**he London 2012 Paralympic Games were universally acclaimed as the best and most successful Paralympics ever held. Unsurprisingly, there was widespread concern that the 2016 Paralympics in Rio would be considered inferior, a step backwards and a great disappointment. Yet while they were undeniably different and not without controversy, they were anything but disappointing.

One of the biggest issues surrounding the Games was the classification system; there was widespread concern that it wasn't fair, that some impairment groups had an advantage over others due to placing athletes with different impairments in the same classification and that the system was open to abuse. The issues are likely to continue for many years to come with no easy answers; perhaps the system needs to be reviewed and major changes made to restore more confidence in the equity of it.

Other concerns circulating in the media before the Games were the lack of ticket sales, venue closures and whether, due to



Speed king: Former Formula One driver Alex Zanardi, of Italy, left, won gold in the hand-cycling

the financial overspend at the Rio Olympic Games, there would be enough money left for the Paralympic Games to go ahead. There was also the issue of the Russian athletes banned by the International Paralympic Committee from competing due to reports of Russia's state-sponsored doping programme.

But in reaching a view that the Games were a success, I believe the facts speak for themselves: it was the second-most attended Games in the history of the Paralympics with more than 2.1 million tickets sold, more than 200 world records were set and 432 Paralympic records were broken. More than 4,000 athletes competed across 23 sports, representing 163 countries.

In particular, the Games were a huge success for the British team. UK Sport gave the British team a target of winning 121 medals (one more than their London haul), but they finished with 147 and second place on the table. It was the first time since 1988 that Great Britain had won more than 50 gold medals at a Paralympic Games.

There were many standout moments for me: Kadeena Cox (cycling and athletics)

was the first British athlete to win gold medals in two different sports at the same Games since 1984, and Dame Sarah Storey (cycling) became the most successful British female Paralympian of all time with her 14th gold. Will Bayley (table tennis) celebrated his gold medal win in an exuberant fashion by jumping on to the table and then being issued with a code violation after embracing the umpire; this was moving, memorable and caught the attention of the media with clips of it being repeatedly played on the television.

At these Paralympics, the triathlon was included for the first time. Andy Lewis became Britain's first Paralympic champion; his team-mates won an additional three medals. Canoe sprint also made its debut, set against the awesome background of Copacabana beach, with the British team winning three gold and two silver medals.

Looking beyond the British team, one has to celebrate the outstanding performances in the men's T13 1,500m final where the first four athletes ran faster times than the gold medallist in the men's 1,500m at the Rio



Boy from Brazil: Swimmer Daniel Dias, above, won four golds in Rio, while Iranian powerlifter Siamand Rahman, below, smashed through the 300kg barrier



Olympic Games. Brazilian swimmer Daniel Dias won four golds in the pool, spurred on by the applause and adulation of the home crowd, and made history by winning his 24th Paralympic medal, making him the most successful male Paralympic swimmer of all time.

In the powerlifting, Iran's Siamand Rahman broke the massive 300kg barrier, the first Paralympian to do so. Former Formula One driver, Alex Zanardi from Italy, won a gold medal in hand-cycling on the eve of the 15-year anniversary of the crash that could have ended his life. Alex went on to win a further gold and a silver medal at the Games. American Tatyana McFadden competed in every wheelchair racing event from the 100m to the marathon; she won six medals from seven events and was given a special International Paralympic Committee award for exemplifying the spirit of the Games.

Weeks before the Opening Ceremony, many in the media and the sporting world predicted that the Games would be beset with problems, but they proved to be a resounding success.



## Mike Newman

World record holder; founder, Speed of Sight

Mike Newman is the fastest blind man on the planet – on land and water.

Those who know him will describe Mike as a modest man who combines his thrill for speed with a determination to increase the equality of opportunity for others.

Formerly a bank manager, Mike broke his first land speed record on a motorbike, going on to achieve four world land speed records in a car and more recently achieving the water speed record.

In 2011 he gained a world acrobatic record, flying the most

consecutive loop-de-loops.

Mike broke the world blind speed record in a truck again in October 2015, driving at more than 120mph. Mike is a Patron of Vision Charity and ambassador for Henshaws Society for the Blind.

He continues to represent various organisations, in particular Guide Dogs for the Blind, Action for Blind People and Children's Cancer Trust and runs the charity Speed of Sight an organisation committed to the promotion of opportunity for all, preferring to focus on "what people CAN do, rather than what they can not".

NEW  
2017

## Tim Reddish

Chairman, British  
Paralympic Association

A former GB swimmer with an impressive 43 medals under his belt, including three silver and two bronze Paralympic medals, Tim was appointed Chairman of the British Paralympic Association 2008 and was re-elected in 2013.

He was also on the board of LOCOG, the organising committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

During his 13-year international swimming career as an athlete, Tim competed in three Paralympic Games, three World and five European Championships.

Tim was awarded Freeman of the City of Nottingham in 2005 and an OBE in 2008 for Services to Swimming and Disability Sport.

He commenced his professional working career in sport at the age of 24, progressing from being a swimming instructor and coach to a sports development officer and facility pool manager for a local authority. In 1998 he took up an appointment at British Swimming as National Co-ordinator before being appointed National Performance Director for the Disability Swim Team in 2003, where he led the team at both the Athens and Beijing Paralympics. After a successful 15-year career with the governing body Tim has now established his own company, is a successful keynote speaker and is still Chair at the British Paralympic Association.

He was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa at the age of 31, and had lost all useful sight seven years later. In 2012, at the age 54, he agreed to take part in a trial for a retinal implant to help scientists perfect the device. He eventually had one fitted by Dr Robert MacLaren in October 2012.

NEW  
2017

## Gordon Reid

Tennis player

Gordon is the No.1 wheelchair tennis player in the world, a double Grand Slam champion and Paralympic gold and silver medallist. A keen tennis player throughout his life, Gordon relished the opportunity to remain in the sport when he discovered wheelchair tennis after developing a rare neurological condition, transverse myelitis, in 2004.

He first began playing wheelchair tennis in 2005, and was quickly acknowledged for his sporting credentials in 2006, when he was among the 10 shortlisted finalists for the BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year. In 2007, Gordon became Britain's youngest men's singles champion. A member of Great Britain's winning junior team at the 2007 World Team Cup, he subsequently led Great Britain to a first senior men's title at the World Team Cup in 2015, the same year he became the first British men's wheelchair player to earn a world No.1 senior ranking.

Gordon won the Australian Open singles final in 2016 as well as gold in the men's singles at the Rio Paralympic Games and silver in the doubles, with his partner Alfie Hewitt.

Gordon also enjoys wheelchair basketball and he previously represented Scotland in the under-25 team.

He says: "Winning a grand slam was never the goal when I started playing. I just wanted to get back involved in sport and get active again.

"I didn't even know wheelchair tennis existed. But as time went on I realised I could be quite good at this."




NEW  
2017

## Ellie Robinson

Swimmer

Ellie burst on to the swimming scene in 2015. Competing at the Internationale Deutsche Meisterschaften in Berlin on her GB debut, she broke the S6 100m butterfly world record and won a further silver and bronze. The following year, Ellie won three medals at the IPC World Championships and went on to win a gold and silver at the Rio Paralympic Games at the age of only 15.

She said of her wins: "I still can't believe it. I keep looking around to check they aren't going to take it off me, it is so weird.

"I didn't think it was possible and I don't think it is possible now ... I feel like I am going to wake up and it is a dream."

Having learnt to swim at age four, Ellie was inspired by watching now-teammate Ellie Simmonds at the London Paralympic Games. Ellie, who has the same condition as Simmonds – achondroplasia, a common cause of dwarfism – decided then that she wanted to follow in her namesake's footsteps.

Ellie has made sacrifices to get to where she is, training five days a week for 15 hours a day leading up to Rio.

She became a star of the Games, as well as a social media sensation, after her 'gangsta-swagger' entrance to the pool as she strutted in with her hood up.


NEW  
2017

## John Walker

Archer

John was inspired to get into archery after watching American star Matt Stutzman, who uses his feet to fire his arrows, compete at the London 2012 Olympics.

In 2013, he took up the sport as a hobby. John's talent soon began to show, and since he was selected to join the GB Paralympics squad in 2014 he has gone on to shoot two European records and four world records.

He then went on to win two gold medals in the Rio Paralympic Games, scoring a perfect 30 in the last set of the W1 individual final to win 141-139.

With two World Championship golds and a silver at the age of 42, John is just beginning in the sport and loving the challenge that archery brings.

Other career highlights include individual silver and mixed team gold at the 2015 Para World Championships in Donaueschingen, Germany and mixed team gold at the recent European Para Championships in Saint Jean De Monts, France.

He says: "During London 2012 I watched USA's Matt Stutzman and was so inspired by him I was desperate to give the sport a go and I've not looked back since."



## Ellie Simmonds

Swimmer

Eleanor 'Ellie' Simmonds OBE is a five-time Paralympic Champion and currently has 13 world records to her name.

Ellie has achondroplasia dwarfism. Her talent was spotted at a disability event and she was entered into the British Swimming talent programme. She worked her way through to be selected as the youngest member of a senior British swimming squad in the 2006 IPC World Championships at an incredible 12 years and three weeks.

Ellie shot to fame when she won her first Paralympic medal 18 months later at the age of 13 years and nine months. This was the start of a string of firsts for Ellie as she went on to become the youngest winner of the BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year in 2008 and then the youngest recipient of an MBE at the age of 14.

Since her meteoric rise, Ellie has continued to dominate her sport, winning 13 World titles, five European titles and breaking eight world records along the way.

She competed at the London 2012 Paralympics, winning four medals, including two golds, and broke a further two world records.

In Rio 2016, she added a fifth Paralympic gold to a collection that now boasts 26 Paralympic, World or European gold medals.



## Nick Webborn OBE

Professor of Sport and Exercise Medicine, University of Brighton; managing director, Sportswise

Professor Nick Webborn is one of the UK's leading sports medicine specialists with more than 25 years of experience in the sector. Nick established the Sportswise clinic in 1997 while working as the Medical Adviser to the National Sports Medicine Institute. He has a huge range of sporting expertise but specialises in football, swimming, tennis and athletics.

He is also the Clinical Professor (Sport and Exercise Medicine) at the University of Brighton.

Nick suffered a spinal cord injury in 1981 while he was a junior RAF doctor, and after an initial complete paralysis he made a partial recovery. He played wheelchair tennis for Great Britain in 2005 and continues to remain active.

He works with a variety of sports at elite level, including tennis and football, but particularly with Paralympians; he has attended eight Paralympic Games, either as GB Team Physician or as a member of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Medical Commission and the IPC Anti-Doping & Sport Subcommittees. In 2003 he became involved with the bid phase of the London 2012 Games and worked for LOCOG on the medical advisory group and at the Olympic Games as a sports physician. Nick was the Chief Medical Officer for the British Paralympic team at London 2012.



## Richard Whitehead

Marathon runner, sprinter

Richard Whitehead is not only a world record holder in the full and half marathons, but he also happens to be one of the world's best sprinters and is the current Paralympic, World Champion and world record holder in the T42 200m.

Born with a congenital double amputation condition, in 2009 he became the first leg amputee (single or double) to break the three-hour mark for a marathon: a world record he has since lowered to 2hrs 42mins 54secs. On top of that, Richard also broke the half marathon world record with a phenomenal 1hr, 14m ins 14 secs. However, he was told by the International Paralympic Committee

that he would not be able to compete in the marathon at London 2012 as there was no category for leg amputees.

Instead of dwelling on this, he stepped down to the 200m and won the gold against a quality field of seasoned sprinters.

Following gold medals at the IPC World Championships and Anniversary Games (200m T42) and recently a gold and silver in Rio, he has completed the challenge of a lifetime – running 40 marathons in 40 days, from John O'Groats to Land's End, for charity. He ran a total of 977 miles for his two chosen charities, Scope and Sarcoma UK.

# THE TOP 10



# 10

## Baroness Celia Thomas of Winchester

Life Peer

NEW  
2017

Baroness Thomas of Winchester was made a Life Peer in 2006 and is vice chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Muscular Dystrophy.

Baroness Thomas has limb girdle muscular dystrophy and is a trustee of the Muscular Dystrophy UK charity.

She has been a driving force behind tackling the impact of welfare reforms on disabled people. She worked in the House of Commons for Liberal Party Leader Jeremy Thorpe from 1975-76, and from 1977 to 2005 she was head of the Liberal (later Liberal Democrats) Whips' Office in the House of Lords and is a recognised expert on Lords' procedure.

For three years she was a member of the Merits of Statutory Instruments Committee and Liaison Committee. She is now Chairman of the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee, and a member of the Procedure Committee. She retains an interest in her former work as a spokesperson for work and pensions, having helped gain concessions in the most recent Welfare Reform Act.

Most recently Baroness Thomas has been focusing on the difficulties facing disabled people in accessing Personal Independence Payments and challenging the Government to change the mobility criteria for assessing claimants. In 2015, she was made the Liberal Democrats' Disability Spokesperson.

# 9

## Frank Gardner

Security Correspondent  
BBC News

Frank is a former Captain in the British Army and is the BBC's full-time Security Correspondent, reporting on a diverse range of events across the globe.

A graduate with a degree in Arabic and Islamic Studies, Frank was awarded an OBE by the Queen in 2005 for services to journalism.

He is the author of two bestselling books, *Blood and Sand*, describing his Middle East experiences, and *Far Horizons*, which is about his journeys to unusual places across the world.

During an assignment in Saudi Arabia in 2004, Frank survived an assassination attempt by a team of Al-Qaeda gunmen, during which he was shot six times in the leg and lower back and was left paralysed from the waist down. His cameraman, Simon Cumbers, was killed.

After 14 operations and several months in hospital, he returned to reporting for the BBC in mid-2005 and now uses a wheelchair or a frame.

His interest in travelling and sport has not subsided, and he re-learned how to ski using a bob ski, culminating in 2011 when he was elected President of the British Ski Club.

His recently published spy thriller, *Crisis*, has been lauded by the likes of The Sunday Times and James Bond actor Sir Roger Moore.





8

## Andrew Marr

TV presenter,  
journalist

Andrew Marr is one of the most influential broadcasters on television, and his self-titled *The Andrew Marr Show* is the place where top politicians make news, cultural icons inform and entertain and the UK's most influential commentators share their analysis and insights.

Nearly two million viewers watch the show every week and its success has been recognised with awards from the Broadcasting Press Guild (Best Presenter) and the Plain English Campaign, which chose it as the Best National TV Programme. Andrew has also won two British Academy Television Awards (BAFTAs).

As a political commentator, Andrew has worked for various publications including *The Scotsman* and *The Economist*. He was part of the team which launched *The Independent* in 1986 and returned as its editor between 1996 and 1998. He was political editor at BBC News between 2000 and 2005.

Other TV credits include BBC 2's *Andrew Marr's History of Modern Britain*, the excellent *Andrew Marr's Megacities*, and, in early 2012, he presented *The Diamond Queen*, a three-part series about Queen Elizabeth II.

He suffered a severe stroke in January 2013, which left him physically impaired. He has since battled back from the debilitating effects to smoothly resume his career.

7

## Henry Fraser

Mouth artist and  
motivational speaker

NEW  
2017

Henry is a young mouth-painter and motivational speaker. A rugby-playing teenager, Henry's life was changed when an accident on holiday left him paralysed from the neck down.

Soon after his accident Henry decided to adopt the attitude of "getting on with life" and that is exactly what he has done. With many high-profile fans including Piers Morgan, Thierry Henry, David Beckham, JK Rowling and Jonny Wilkinson to name a few, Henry's first exhibition was a star-studded event.

He recently appeared in a video on Arsenal FC's YouTube page challenging England footballer Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain to a drawing contest, which he won.

Henry is a popular speaker and has been courted by the likes of the England sevens rugby squad, Saracens Rugby Club, Wolverhampton Wanderers FC, Cambridge University and social inclusion and sports charity the School of Hard Knocks.

CNN, BBC 2 and The Daily Telegraph have all featured Henry and The Times commissioned him to paint the cover of their Rugby World Cup special.

Henry officially opened Saracens RFC's new Allianz Park stadium, and received the Blyth Spirit Award 2016 by the Rugby Players' Association in association with England Rugby.





## 6 Ade Adepitan

Presenter, athlete

Adedoyin “Ade” Adepitan is a presenter and athlete who was born in Lagos, Nigeria.

He moved to the UK when he was three, and discovered wheelchair basketball when he was 12, after being spotted by two physiotherapists as he was being pushed down the streets of Plaistow in a shopping trolley. They took Ade to Stoke Mandeville in Buckinghamshire and introduced him to wheelchair basketball. From that moment Ade had one burning ambition – to win a Paralympics medal for Great Britain.

He was selected to compete in the Sydney 2000 Paralympics. The Games boosted Ade’s profile, and he starred in a documentary called *Hoop Dreams*, featured in the world-famous PlayStation double life advert, as well as presenting a wildlife show on national television.

Ade continued to represent Great Britain, winning bronze and silver medals at the 2002 and 2005 European championships, and captaining his country to a silver medal at the 2002 World Championships in Japan. In 2004, Ade achieved his lifelong ambition, winning a bronze medal at the Athens Paralympics.

As his sporting career began to wind down, his TV career took off. He presented the 2012 London and 2016 Rio Paralympics, and was awarded an MBE for his contribution to disability sport.

## 5 Dame Evelyn Glennie

Musician

Dame Evelyn is the first person in history to successfully create and sustain a full-time career as a solo percussionist. As one of the most eclectic and innovative musicians in the world today, Dame Evelyn has made more than 30 recordings, including three Grammy Award-winning discs.

Dame Evelyn, who became profoundly deaf at the age of 12, was chosen to take a lead role in the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games. In collaboration with Underworld, she led 1,000 drummers for the world premiere of Underworld’s song *And I Will Kiss*.

Dame Evelyn was awarded the 2015 Laureate of the Polar Music Prize and was congratulated by Barack Obama for the prestigious honour, considered the Nobel Prize of music.

In 2016, she was announced as the first King’s Cross musician-in-residence.

The residency has been created by the King’s Cross Central Limited Partnership, in partnership with the PRS for Music Foundation. The residency, which will run from January 2017, involves Dame Evelyn working with people in the area to create new music, culminating in a performance at the end of the residency.

Dame Evelyn is also constantly exploring other areas of creativity such as designing her own jewellery range to presenting and appearing on television and radio programmes around the world.



**“It’s funny because without that illness I would never have rediscovered my love for drawing, painting and creating. Adversity has given me a gift”**

Henry Fraser is an incredibly motivational and gifted individual. An accomplished mouth-painter, Henry has A-list fans from Thierry Henry to JK Rowling. Henry was a 17-year-old rugby-playing school prefect when an accident holiday left him paralysed from the neck down. He is a new entry on the Power 100 this year and it is clear to see why he has come straight in at No 7. Here he speaks to **Kat Deal** about his journey, rugby and Alan Partridge



**Q Where does your love of rugby stem from and why do you love it so much?**

**A** My dad loves rugby so we used to go and watch him when we were young. I also have three brothers so we used to play a lot of two versus two, in the garden, on our gravel driveway or even indoors.

**Q Why did you choose to be a painter?**

**A** In January last year I had an illness that meant I was bed-bound for a few weeks. I was getting rather bored and found an app on my iPad that I could use for drawing by holding a stylus in my mouth and touching the screen. I loved it. When my health improved, I was able to get out of bed and I taught myself how to draw and paint with actual pencils and paint by attaching the



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STRENGTH HAS GONE  
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TO OVERCOME THINGS..."**

utensils to a mouth stick. Being able to move on to physical pieces using pencils and paint felt brilliant. I've opened up a thoroughly enjoyable new chapter in my life. It's funny because without that illness I would never have rediscovered my love for drawing, painting and creating. Adversity has given me a gift. I may not be able to use my hands to do any of the work but sometimes you just have to adapt to life's challenges. We cannot change the cards we are dealt in life. It's all about how you and I play the hand.

**Q Who is your biggest inspiration and why?**

**A** Matt Hampson inspires me every day. He is a higher-level injury than me, he is permanently ventilated yet lives a fuller

life than anyone I know. He shows such independence and strength as well as running his own charity to help others.

**Q How does it feel having so many incredible people supporting you?**

**A** It is very, very humbling but quite weird at the same time. To have these people supporting me without being asked is amazing.

**Q You have an extremely positive outlook on life and its challenges – where do you think that comes from?**

**A** Before my accident I was very physically strong but mentally weak. I use to shy away from a challenge in case I failed. But now my physical strength has gone, I must use

my mental strength to overcome things. Plus, I've been shown that life's too short not to take on challenges.

**Q You're still extremely young, what do you want to be known for in 50 years' time?**

**A** I'd like to be known as someone who never gave up.

**Q If you were stranded on a desert island, what one book and one CD would you like to have with you?**

**A** Alan Partridge's book of his scripts that I own, because no matter how many times you read it, it's always funny. And the Red Hot Chilli Peppers' *Californication*, my favourite band.



4

## Liz Sayce OBE

CEO, Disability Rights UK

Liz is the Chief Executive of Disability Rights UK, the UK's leading pan-disability organisation. From 2000 to 2007, Liz was the Director of Policy and Communications for the Disability Rights Commission, where she led on creating a new disability agenda for policies covering areas such as skills, employment, housing, health, social care set to be implemented over the course of the next 20 years.

She led an Independent Review into disability employment programmes for the Government in 2011 and has published widely on mental health, disability and social participation, including

the book, *From Psychiatric Patient to Citizen*. Previously, Liz was Director of Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Action Zone, Policy Director of Mind for eight years and member of the Government's Disability Rights Task Force (1997 and 1999).

She is a member of the Committee of Healthwatch England, a Trustee of the Equality and Diversity Forum and a member of the Social Security Advisory Committee. Liz has also recently joined the board of the Equality and Diversity Forum. She was awarded an OBE in 2009 for services to disabled people, and an honorary doctorate from the University of Kent in 2014.

3

## Martyn Sibley

Writer/blogger

NEW  
2017

Martyn is a blogger on important issues such as “independent living”, “assistive technology”, “accessible travel” and “disability in the media”.

The media and business consultant to charities, media, travel and business organisations, Martyn has spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), a genetic disease that causes muscle weakness and progressive loss of movement.

A TV and online video presenter, Martyn has been on BBC *Breakfast*, BBC London *Inside Out*, Channel 5 and writes regularly for the Guardian, The Independent, Huffington Post, BBC Ouch, Disability Now and many others.

He also wrote the book *Everything is Possible* – a travel biography explaining his journey in overcoming life’s barriers while travelling to the US, Mexico, Europe, Japan and Australia. He co-founded

Disability Horizons and Accomable which raised £300,000 in angel investment. Billed as “Airbnb for people with disabilities”, the online booking service offers more than 500 adaptive properties in over 36 countries worldwide.

Accomable, which was co-founded with Martyn’s Disability Now co-founder Srin Madipalli, offers a wide range of accommodation, from cool apartments in Barcelona to country houses in the United Kingdom, and clearly lists and verifies the accessible features available, such as step-free access, roll-in showers, height-adjustable beds, bathroom commodes and mobile or pool hoists to ensure users have a brilliant, stress-free holiday experience.

With a degree in Economics and a masters in Marketing, Martyn has a mission to inspire, inform and change the world around disability issues.





## Alex Brooker

TV presenter

Alex's career as a TV presenter began when he successfully auditioned for Channel 4, after seeing their advert for the Half Million Quid Talent Search to find talent for the 2012 London Paralympics.

After filming for *That Paralympics Show* and the IPC World Athletics Championships, he joined Channel 4 fully in March 2012 and reported at the Paralympics Opening Ceremony, interviewing the then-London Mayor Boris Johnson and the then-Prime Minister David Cameron, in front of a TV audience of 11 million people.

Alex also featured on the 2012 debut series of award-winning show *The Last Leg*, as a co-presenter alongside Adam Hills and Josh Widdicombe. Following its success, the show returned for 2013,

2014 and 2015, picking up a Royal Television Society Award for Best Entertainment Show in 2014. Alex has also co-hosted Channel 4 entertainment shows such as *The Jump* as well as fronting his own documentary *Alex Brooker: My Perfect Body*.

Due to his sharp wit and antics, Alex has become a panel show favourite, appearing on *8 Out of 10 Cats*, *Fake Reaction* and *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*.

Before his TV career took off, Alex was a journalist, working as the chief writer on the official guide to the 2012 Paralympics. He did a degree in Journalism and then worked for the Liverpool Echo as well as the Press Association. In 2016 Alex was a contestant on popular panel show *Would I Lie to You?*





## Dame Sarah Storey DBE

Athlete

NEW  
2017

Sarah Storey is a British road and track racing cyclist and former swimmer, multiple gold medal winner at the Paralympic Games in both sports, and three-times British (able-bodied) national track champion.

She is the most decorated female Paralympian in Great Britain's history, having won 14 gold, eight silver and three bronze medals across an impressive seven Paralympic Games in an international career that has spanned more than 20 years.

Sarah's list of major achievements includes being a 27-time World champion (five in swimming and 22 in cycling), a 21-time European champion (18 in swimming and three in cycling) and holding 72 world records.

In London 2012, at the biggest Paralympic Games of all time, Sarah topped the medal table for the British team with four golds

from four events including an impressive world record in her first event, the C5 Women's 3,000m Individual Pursuit.

Sarah's dominance of her C5 class at the London Games put her way above her rivals and further established her as a true heroine of Paralympic sport. In the build-up to her success in London, Sarah rode several professional women's road races and most notably stood on the podium alongside Marianne Vos, seven days before Vos won the Olympic Games Road Race.

Sarah is the most highly ranked Paralympic athlete in world sport and only missed out on selection for the Great Britain Olympic team due to the strength in depth of talent of British cycling.

Following the London Games, Sarah gave birth to her first child and subsequently made an impressive comeback, winning a stage of the Tour de Bretagne, four Para-Cycling World titles, a bronze in the National Time Trial Championships and the able-bodied National Points Race title. She went on to win three golds in Rio.

**“I am very committed to ensuring everyone, regardless of their situation, has the opportunity to live an active and healthy lifestyle”**

As Britain’s most successful female athlete, cyclist Sarah Storey is a force to be reckoned with in the velodrome and on the road. With a career that has seen her sustain the highest level of achievement over 20 years, Sarah is an expert when it comes to success but she’s not ready to retire yet. **Kat Deal** talks to her about her aspirations, being a new mother and her plans for Tokyo 2020

**Q How does it feel to be judged as the most influential disabled person in Britain this year?**

**A** It is a big surprise but obviously a huge honour, and while I may not have as many challenges to face as the vast majority of the population who have a disability or impairment, I am very committed to ensuring everyone, regardless of their situation, has the opportunity to live an active and healthy lifestyle.

**Q What inspires you?**

**A** I find inspiration from many different sources, such as being an active part of the primary school in our village and being able to attend assemblies and other events which expose you to the simple delights of childhood, to the young people I meet at the Children’s Adventure Farm Trust or Francis House Children’s Hospice, who have greater challenges in their lives than





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most people would imagine. In sport I am lucky to be surrounded by incredible athletes on a daily basis but then also have the fortune to work alongside retired athletes, such as Tanni Grey-Thompson and Chris Boardman, who have carved a new and incredibly influential path for themselves in their post-athletic careers.

**Q What do you feel are the major differences between non-disability and disability sport/races?**

**A** I don't think the physical racing is very much different at all. Para-sport is incredibly hard-fought, just as any sport is, but the main differences lie in the perceptions created by the media, the commitment of the media to cover para-sport equally and the opportunities available to para-sport athletes with commercial sponsorships, brand endorsements and marketing their careers.

There is also a complete division of sports who are governed by the same international governing body as the non-para sports, which creates different opportunities for the individual sports in different ways. For those that are governed by the same international governing body, there are those which enjoy complete integration and are without doubt a genuine parallel sport; whereas in a sport like cycling, the para-cycling arm is very segregated and remains a second thought in the wider body of the organisation.

**Q What have been the challenges and positives of pursuing your career while being a mother?**

**A** Becoming a mother was better than I could have ever imagined, my life has been enriched in a way I could never have imagined. To be able to share the sporting journey I am on with Louisa in tow is a

privileged position. The challenges have centred around the logistical changes that had to take place to allow me to continue to be away from home for long periods while not neglecting my role as a mother. Sports teams don't generally accommodate family particularly well and like to keep that aspect of an individual's support network at arm's-length. As a result, it creates integration challenges for a mother returning to a team environment and understanding as to why she can no longer be present 100 per cent any more, especially in the evenings and overnight when her role as a mother doesn't stop and can't always be handed over to another person for an indefinite amount of time.

**Q If your friends/family described you in three words, what would they be?**

**A** I guessed at dedicated, driven and daft but my husband said loyal, determined and modest!

**Q If you weren't a sportswoman, what other career path would you take?**

**A** I was going to be a PE teacher!

**Q How would you advise other disabled people wanting to get into sport?**

**A** Give it a try! Every sport can be adapted in some way and it is not necessary to follow the rules of Olympic or Paralympic sport. If you can only swim with the aid of a flotation device then that's fine. There are bikes with three and four wheels, recumbent hand bikes and devices can be accessed to help make sport easier. When I was a child there was a place called the Limb Centre, which has a new name now, but it was for creating adaptations and prosthetics to assist with activities that an impairment or disability made more tricky. The people I met there as a child were brilliant at coming up with solutions for making activities easier and more accessible.

**Q If you had to trade your Paralympic gold medals for one thing, what would that be?**

**A** The eradication of childhood poverty globally.

**Q What are your aspirations for the future?**

**A** For the time being I am focused on success in Tokyo and the path I need to establish to create that. Beyond that, I'm not sure how long I can compete at the highest level, but whatever I do it is certain to involve sport and hopefully include the support of lots of people to be healthy and active. I also want to be able to support Louisa with her endeavours and provide as many opportunities for her to seek her potential in the pathway she chooses.

# Disability in History:

Who are the trailblazers who helped change perceptions and stereotypes regarding people with disabilities? **Kat Deal** investigates

**S**ocietal acceptance and provision for people with disabilities is an ever-growing and changing process. Where there is change, there are change-makers. Throughout history we see many examples of people, disabled and not, who have positively contributed to the lives of disabled people around the globe.

Change has occurred across many centuries in the form of inventions, social mindset transformations and political activity. Though the Old Testament view of disabilities as well as mythology have had a greatly negative effect on how disabilities are seen by certain groups, the New Testament's 2,000-year-old depiction of Jesus as a befriender of the disabled has influenced countless communities and individuals. Monasteries and other Christian groups became the main source of hope and comfort to those with disabilities for centuries, especially before hospitals and other medical provision for the disabled existed.

Another huge area of development has been in education. Throughout history, education for people with disabilities was largely unheard of and unsought. A breakthrough occurred when Spanish monk Pedro Ponce proved in the 1530s that there is no connection between people's hearing and their intelligence. He

proceeded to teach deaf children how to read, write and speak.

Louis Braille's 19th-century invention has allowed blind people all over the world to read and receive an education through a series of raised bumps representing letters; before this time, blind people had to rely on others to read to them.

Then came the extraordinary Helen Keller, born in 1880. Helen was left deaf and blind after a childhood illness; she couldn't talk, she couldn't communicate with the outside world. That is until a remarkable woman named Anne Sullivan entered Helen's life and transformed it, helping her gain access to the world and all its possibilities. Helen was the first deaf-blind person to gain a college degree and went on to write seven books, star in a film about her life and fight for the rights of disabled people. She has changed, not just non-disabled people's perceptions of disability, but disabled people's perceptions of themselves and proved that even the most sensory-deprived people can attain the same level of education as others.

A more recent figure has completely redefined our academic expectations of even the most severely disabled



**Classic: Ludwig van Beethoven**

people. Born in 1942, Stephen Hawking has one of the greatest intellectual minds in recent history. Diagnosed with a type of motor neurone disease aged 21, Prof Hawking eventually became unable to speak and walk and is now almost entirely paralysed. As his physical health declined, his scientific discoveries continued to grow and he has been the recipient of many academic awards, the author of top-selling books and has established himself as an intellectual force to be reckoned with.

As well as in education, pioneering disabled figures have changed the way that other talents are connected with disability. Music and disability have been intricately linked from as far back as Ancient Greece where, in Homer's *Odyssey*, Demodocus is granted the gift of music when his sight is taken away. This link between blindness and musical ability would become very apparent in the 20th century with the global figures of Ray Charles and Stevie Wonder. Suddenly, blind musicians were being seen and heard and their music enjoyed. As lyric-writers, they invite us to



**Brilliant mind: Stephen Hawking**

# The Change-Makers



Music legend:  
Stevie Wonder

## 'LOUIS BRAILLE'S 19TH-CENTURY INVENTION HAS ALLOWED BLIND PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD TO READ AND RECEIVE AN EDUCATION'

experience the world as they see it. Another famous figure proved that deafness and musical creativity/ability are not mutually exclusive: pianist and composer Ludwig van Beethoven. He began going deaf aged 31 and proceeded to write some of his most famous compositions. Beethoven proved he didn't need to hear externally to create great musical works. Today, we see a similar spirit in percussionist Dame Evelyn Glennie and rapper Sean Forbes.

There is a similar attitude in the development of disability sport. Being a sportsperson is all about being the fastest, strongest, fittest – traits not naturally associated with disabilities. Nevertheless, one man paved the way for these determined and strong human beings to have their own competition in 1948. His

name was Ludwig Guttman. Now known as the Paralympics, the competition has become the second biggest sporting event in the world and we have seen incredible athletes do incredible things. They are showing non-disabled and fellow-disabled people alike that, with the right mindset, physical greatness is possible.

Many of these athletes can only do what they do because people have developed equipment to allow them to compete comfortably. In recent times we are seeing the positive effect technology is having on the lives of everyday people with disabilities. Take the wheelchair for example; in 1655 the first self-propelled wheelchair was invented by a watchmaker with a disability, named Stephen Farfler. This was a giant leap in independence for

those with limited walking abilities. After this, many steps in design and technology have been accomplished by people such as George Klein, who initiated the design of the wheelchair, and Jennings & Ernest, who built the first powered wheelchair in 1956.

Ralph Brown, a muscular dystrophy sufferer, created the first wheelchair accessible minivan with hand controls, allowing those in wheelchairs and with limited lower-body mobility to drive.

Some change-makers worked behind the scenes. Ben Purse set up the National League of the Blind in 1899 which later became the National League of the Blind and Disabled. Seventy years later in America, Frank Bowe contributed to seeing the implementation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act of 1973, outlawing discrimination to the disabled.

Despite differing rates of progression in different areas, there is a global upward trend towards positive change, better education and a better level of understanding, all aided by the change-makers, and those who came before them.

# Tanni Grey-Thompson: Induction into the Power 100 Hall Of Fame

Last year's Power 100 No.1, Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, is a national treasure and a woman who has made a huge impact in the sporting and political arenas. **Charlie Haynes** takes us through the achievements that have made Tanni such an inspirational and influential woman. This year she Chairs our judging panel and is inducted into the Power 100 Hall of Fame

**B**aroness Caryl 'Tanni' Grey-Thompson of Eaglescliffe, DBE, DL is considered one of Great Britain's finest athletes of all time. With 11 Paralympic gold medals, six London Marathon wins and 30 world records, there are few who can match her achievements.

Born with spina bifida, Tanni tried a range of sports in her youth, but at the age of 13, wheelchair racing became her sport of choice. She quickly excelled and by just 17 she was a member of the British Wheelchair Racing squad. Before she turned 20, she won what was to be the first of many Paralympic medals with a bronze in the 400m at the 1988 Seoul Games.

Since beginning her racing career, Tanni had set the goal of winning the London Marathon. She achieved this in 1992 and

subsequently continued her winning streak at the 1992 Barcelona Paralympics, where she won gold medals in the 100m, 200m, 400m and 800m and a silver in the 4x100m relay. She also set a huge record at the Games by becoming the first woman to break the 60-second barrier for the 400m.

Four years later in Atlanta, Tanni won a gold in the 800m, and three silvers. She went on to reclaim her Paralympic titles at the Sydney 2000 Games, winning four golds. Athens 2004 was to be her final Paralympics before retirement, where she went out with a bang, winning golds in the 100m and 400m.

As well as her 11 gold, four silver and one bronze Paralympic medals, she won five gold, four silver and three bronze World Championship medals, firmly cementing herself as one of GB's greatest sporting





**NOT ONE TO SHY AWAY  
FROM MAKING AN  
IMPACT, TANNI'S  
CAMPAIGNS HAVE BEEN  
UNFORGETTABLE AND  
INCLUDED HER  
SWAPPING A  
WHEELCHAIR  
FOR A PAINFUL  
WHEELBARROW TO  
DRAW ATTENTION  
TO THE POOR  
WHEELCHAIR SERVICES  
IN ENGLAND**

heroines. But Tanni has had more to give to the world than her outstanding sporting achievements. Since leaving the sport, she has become a highly respected sports commentator, television personality and political figure.

A fierce disability rights campaigner, Tanni was appointed as a Life Peer in the House of Lords in 2010, a momentous achievement for a disabled sportswoman. Tanni provides a strong voice for the disabled and other marginalised members of society.

During heated debates in the House of Lords she has been instrumental in moving several amendments to the Welfare Reform Bill, pushing the Government to make concessions.

An impassioned opponent of the Assisted Dying Bill and staunch campaigner for the rights of wheelchair users in Britain, Tanni's voice has been one of strength due to her many experiences and successes. Not one to shy away from making an impact, Tanni's campaigns have been unforgettable and included her swapping a wheelchair for a painful wheelbarrow to draw attention to the poor wheelchair services in England. She hasn't left the world of sport behind entirely, having coached wheelchair racer Jade Jones since 2008.

A member of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Women's Sport and Fitness, Disability Sport and Athletics among others, Tanni's ability to get disability rights put on the agenda makes her one of the most influential political campaigners of the 21st century – and her work in the House of Lords means her impact in the world of disability is sure to continue.

Tanni, we salute you.

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# DISABILITY



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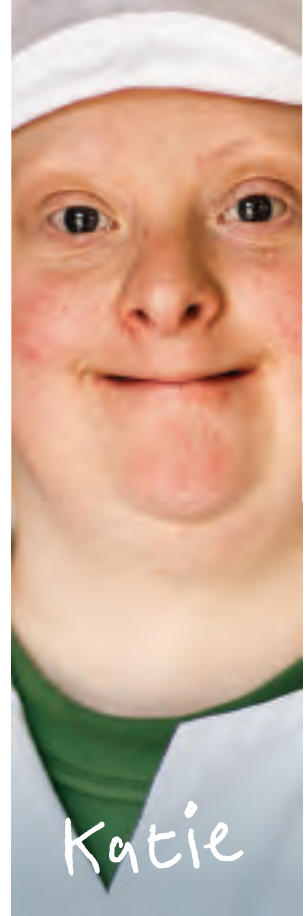
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Danny



Francis



Katie

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