

COLLECTED COMICS OF CRIPPEN

THE FULL COLLECTION OF COMICS
WITH DESCRIPTIONS BY DAVE LUPTON
AKA CRIPPEN, COMPILED FOR THE
NATIONAL DISABILITY MOVEMENT
ARCHIVE & COLLECTION

NDMAC / The National Disability
Movement Archive
& Collection

Made possible with

 **Heritage
Fund**

ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



CARTOON 1 – 1980

The United Nations launches a Plan of Action at National, Regional and international level which many disabled people dont have a problem with. However, when they focussed on the last line of the declaration which spoke of "... the prevention of disability", this is where the problem arose.



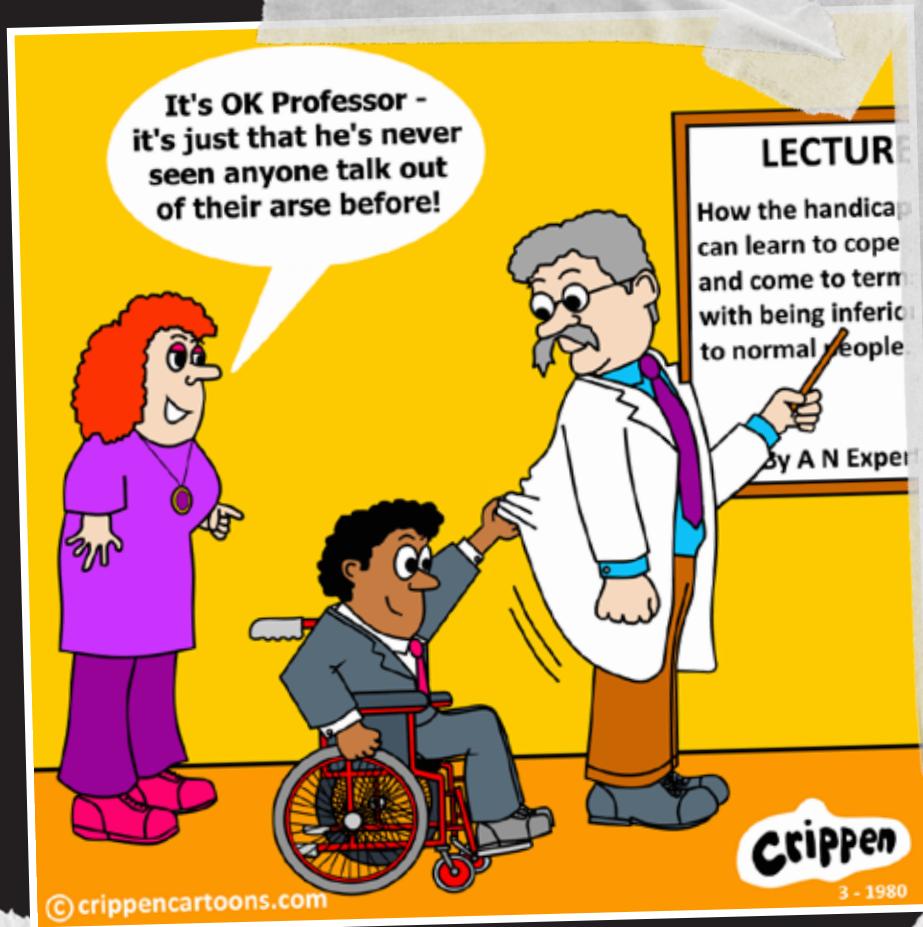
CARTOON 2 – 1980

Once again disabled people were being seen as "the problem" with the UN failing to use the Social Model understanding of disability but falling back on the Medical Model understanding where disability, or a person's impairment(s) was seen as the issue to address. If they had used the term "... and the prevention of barriers within a disabling society", then they would have been on safer ground.



CARTOON 3 – 1980

Disabled people were getting increasingly frustrated with the way in which so called non-disabled disability experts expounded on their lives. This cartoon was presented at a talk by these 'experts' at which Crippen had been invited to show some of his cartoons during the break. This one managed to get by the censors and brought the house down ... much to the delight of the other disabled people there!



CARTOON 4 – 1980

Nabil Shaban (a disabled student and aspiring actor) and Richard Tomlinson (an English lecturer at Hereward College in Coventry) co-founded Graeae Theatre Company. It was the first D/deaf and disabled-led professional theatre company in the UK. Despite its struggles, especially regarding funding the organisation has gone from strength to strength.



CARTOON 5 – 1981

The United Nations designates 1981 as The International Year for Disabled People, (IYDP) although disabled people did not play a large part in most of its key events. Their response is to challenge the 'for' of the Year and insist on the 'of' aiming at self-organisation.



CARTOON 6 – 1981

By using the term "THE disabled" the UN has reinforced the belief that Disabled people were a homogeneous group, all being the same, with the same aspirations and with no individuality. This was the concept that the disability status quo in the UK used and which was being challenged by Disabled people almost daily.



CARTOON 7 – 1981

Disabled singer-songwriter Ian Dury created a unique song in protest against the outdated language and approach of the United Nations to Disabled people in the UK. This was especially focussed on the 1981 'Year of the Disabled'. The song was initially banned by the BBC but due to disabled people purchasing the record and forcing it up the charts, it was eventually reinstated to the BBC play lists.



CARTOON 8 – 1981

The British Council of Organisations of Disabled People (BCODP) was set up as a national coalition of organisations controlled by disabled people to campaign for equality and human/civil rights. Although BCODP closed due to funding issues, the ethos of the organisation is still active in the form of the UK Disabled People's Council.



CARTOON 9 – 1982

Disabled People's International (DPI) was formed in the International Year of Disabled People. Disabled people from many groups and organisations around the world attended a conference run by Rehabilitation International - a worldwide organisation for disabled people. BCODP became one of the first UK DPOs to join.



CARTOON 10 – 1982

The big charities and other organisations run and controlled by non-disabled people were starting to see the 'dangers' of Disabled people self-organising.

The more cynical Disabled activists saw this as their losing, not just power and control over Disabled people, but also losing their jobs and their nice fat salaries.



CARTOON 11 – 1982

Many of the Charities representing disabled people with physical impairments would endeavour to 'normalise' them, making them more acceptable to the general public and conforming more to societies norms. Failing this, the disabled people that they considered 'abnormal' in appearance would be kept out of sight.

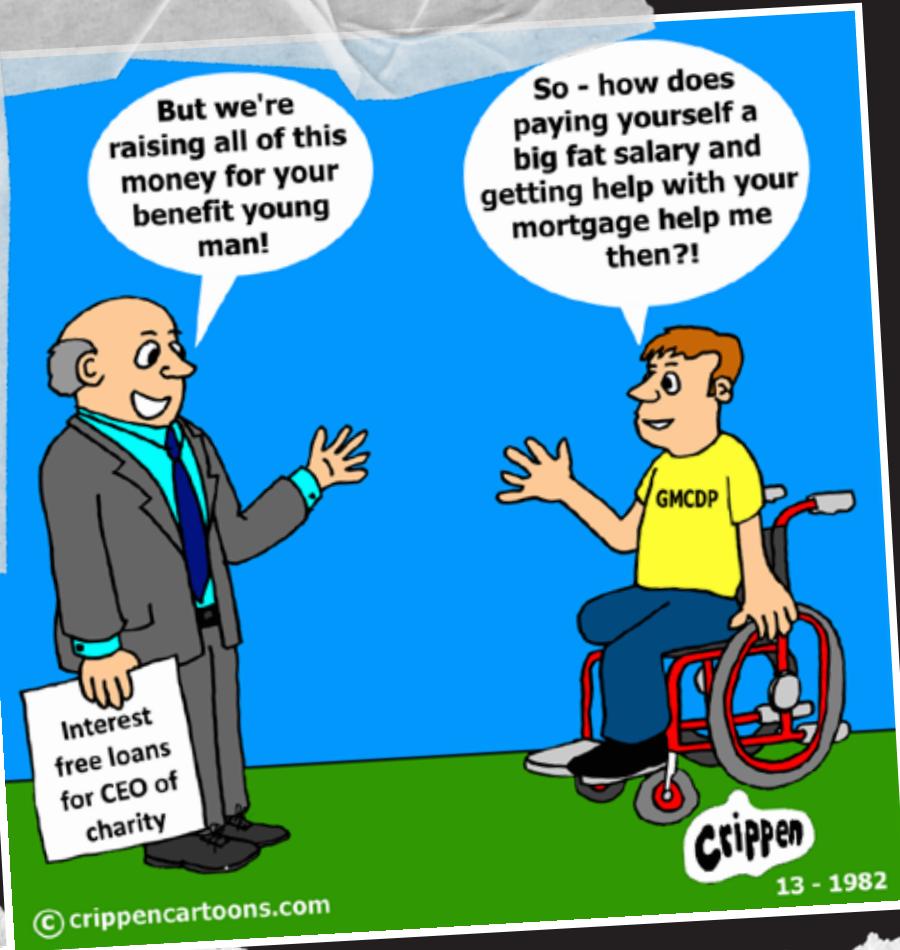


CARTOON 12 – 1982

The Commission of Restrictions Against Disabled People (CORAD) report advised that there should be legislation and a Commission to implement it. This was turned down by the Government, but CORAD began the campaign for civil rights legislation and to challenge the so-called non-disabled disability professionals who supported the disability status quo.



CARTOON 13 – 1982



It was alleged that the Directors of one of the largest charities had given themselves zero interest bridging loans when buying property for themselves.

This added fuel to the fire, lit by Disabled activists who were questioning the role of the big charities and how much of their income was used to pay the non-disabled people involved.

CARTOON 14 – 1983

BCODP have to cancel their annual conference due to lack of funds whilst the Millennium Dome gets another £47 million in funding!

Disabled people viewed this as just another example of the way in which society viewed Disabled people as being way down the pecking order.



CARTOON 15 – 1984

An event focussing on self-determination for disabled people is held in July 1984 at County Hall, Manchester. It is attended by more than 100 disabled people. It results in the formation of the Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP).



CARTOON 16 – 1984

Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP) continues to grow as more disabled people are attracted to joining something that is run and controlled exclusively by Disabled people.



CARTOON 17 – 1985

Manchester Town Hall is picketed by the Steering Group of the Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled people (GMCDP) as it was not accessible. The team were eventually invited to undertake an access audit of the building and to make recommendations about improving the access and removing any barriers that existed. This set the stage for other disabled people to challenge the inaccessibility of their own local facilities.



CARTOON 18 – 1985

Disabled people from GMCDP also successfully lobby for the Greater Manchester Council's Equal Opportunities Unit posts to be reserved for disabled people.

This is possibly the first instance of such designation of posts in the country, prior to the enactment of equalities legislation.



CARTOON 19 – 1985

Disabled people begin to focus on challenging the many charities that claim to represent them.

It is thought that the Tragedy/Charitable Model understanding of disability began to be used around this time. The Model showing how the charities portrayed disabled people as objects of pity, unable to represent themselves.

Disabled people counter this by forming their own organisations (DPOs) and encouraging other disabled people to join them.



CARTOON 20 – 1985

Disability charities identify the disabled individual as having a problem, as a victim or object of pity, their impairment being their main identifier. This is used by the charities to obtain donations from the general public - tugging on heart strings - and being responsible for creating such a negative view of disabled people.



CARTOON 21 – 1985



Crippen joins the fight to weaken the hold that disability charities have over disabled people. His character 'Captain Prat' begins to appear, representing those well-meaning, but misguided people who perform ridiculous acts to raise money for the charities. This includes sitting in a bath of cold custard or even pretending to be a disabled person, spending a few hours using a wheelchair!

CARTOON 22 – 1986

Many disability charities continue to refer to disabled people as handicapped or even crippled, using outdated collection models that reinforce societies perception of disabled people. Some of these, such as the figure depicting a young "Polio victim" wearing a calliper on its leg and holding a collection box, are 'liberated' by disabled activists and used as a counter measure against the charities. One of these figures is named 'Chip' and used by Wanda Barbara (Barbara Lisicki) in her stage act.



CARTOON 23 – 1986

The Disabled Person's Act (1986) strengthens the provisions of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 and requires local authorities to meet the various needs of disabled people. Section 2 of the Act enabled the appointment of representatives for people with physical and learning disabilities, as well as those with mental illnesses. It was not considered appropriate to offer this role to Disabled people!

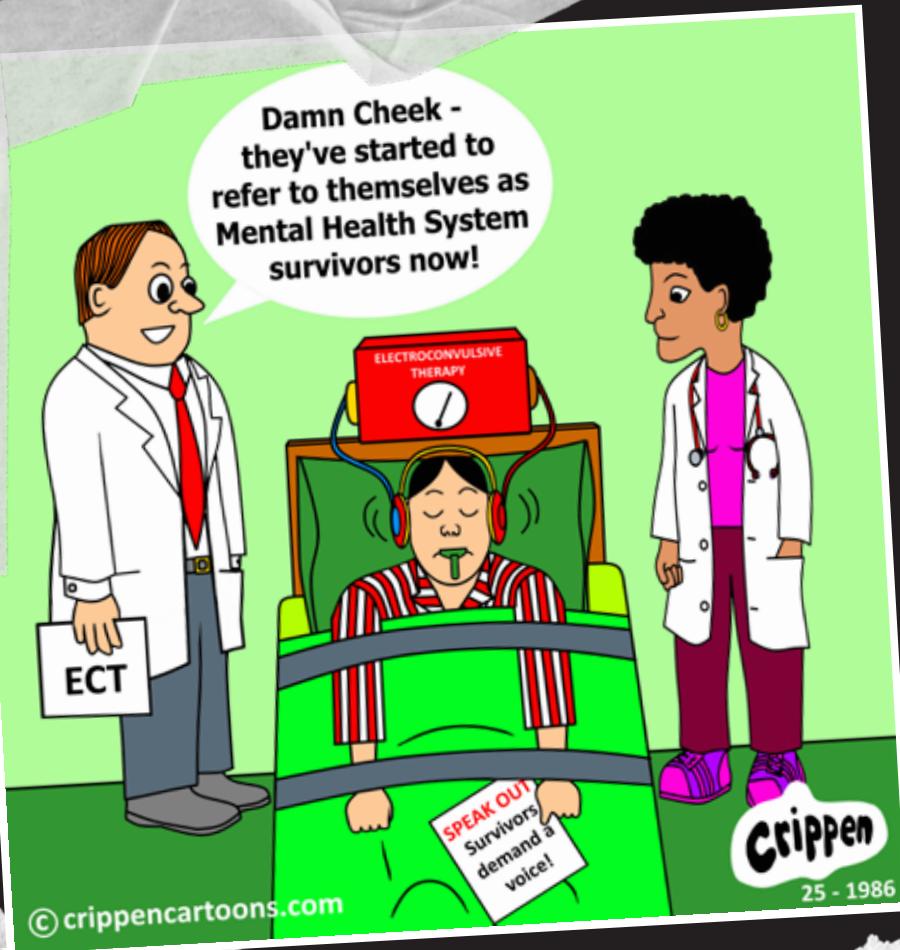


CARTOON 24 – 1986

Artability Conference planned for Sept 1986 had to be cancelled due to disabled people protesting about the lack of accessibility. This was one of the earliest instances of Disabled protesters in the UK using a placard with the slogan 'Nothing about us – without us!'. Two years later in March 1988 the Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP) organised the Disabled People's Arts Conference in its place. Needless to say, as this conference was organised by disabled people, it was fully accessible.



CARTOON 25 – 1986



Survivors Speak Out is founded, an important networking organisation for the mental health system survivor movement in the UK. The initial objectives of the organisation are to produce a newsletter and to organise a national conference.

CARTOON 26 – 1986

London Disability Arts Forum (LDAF) is founded, following the 'Disability – Our Arts, Our Culture' conference which was planned and executed by disabled people. SHAPE Arts list some seventeen separate arts events that took place in 1986 and which can be found [here](#).



CARTOON 27 – 1986

The Spastic Society invites disabled speakers to their annual conference but object to the language and stance taken by some of them who challenged the Societies representation of disabled people. The following cartoon depicts an actual response from a member of the Spastic Society's board when one disabled speaker suggested that all Disabled people should work together.



CARTOON 28 – 1987

The Arts and Disabled People seminar at the Albany Centre, Deptford, came to a stop when the seven disabled people present, led by Anne Rae, Chair of LDAF, withdrew to consider their position. It was to reinforce the stance taken by disabled artists that they should be the ones to organise their own exhibitions, etc., and that if there wasn't sufficient disabled people available with the necessary skills then they should be offered funding for training.

CARTOON 29 – 1988

Disabled actor Nabil Shaban was denied work on Granada's *Microman* children's TV series, because executive producers are worried that children would find him "too frightening". Over sixty Disabled people demonstrated outside Granada studios including members from the Derbyshire Coalition of Disabled People and Ian Stanton from GMCDP. Nabs went on to play Hamlet the same year (having portrayed Jesus in 1986 and The Emperor in 1987).



CARTOON 30 – 1988

Launch of Cabaret Club at the Diorama. (Later to become the Workhouse) Allan Sutherland comperes with Isobel Ward and Keith Armstrong. Many Disabled artists appeared here including the late Disabled singer-songwriter Ian Stanton, who performed his ironic 'Tragic but Brave' protest song.



CARTOON 31 – 1989

There is outrage among disabled people when they find that the Arts Council is applying for exemption from employment quota. An open letter in DAIL magazine to Luke Rittner, Secretary General of the Arts Council, by Disabled artist Allan Sutherland, takes issue with their application for exemption from the employment quota for disabled people.



CARTOON 32 – 1989

The Derbyshire Direct Action Now Network (DDANN) was formed by local disabled people to protest against the pedestrianisation of Chesterfield. These protests resulted in police arrests and court hearings, where disabled people refused to plead guilty. All charges were later dropped.



CARTOON 33 – 1989



Disabled people were becoming increasingly angry about the fact that most of them could not use any of the public transport due to its inaccessibility. Following on from the Derbyshire Street Protests, it was becoming more obvious that if they wanted society to take notice of this situation, they would have to start making a nuisance of themselves ... This was to start in 1990 when an organisation called the Campaign for Accessible Transport (CAT) was formed.

CARTOON 34 – 1990

The launch of the irreverent Tragic but Brave Roadshow, with Wanda Barbara, aka Barbara Lisicki, Johnny Crescendo aka Alan Holdsworth and the late Ian Stanton. The show also incorporated their iconic mascot 'Chip', a plaster statue of a young boy wearing a calliper and used as a collection box for the Polio Society.



CARTOON 35 – 1990

The first Black Disabled People's Network and several black mental health user groups are founded. However, it is noticed that the main core of disability activism in the UK does not involve many Black or Asian people.

The main core still being white middle class wheelchair users. Approaches are made to the disenfranchised disabled people of the Global South, one group of which becomes the Association for Comprehensive Empowerment of Nigerians with a Disability (ASCEND) who become a strong voice for the disabled people from the Global South.



CARTOON 36 – 1990

The Campaign for Accessible Transport (CAT) was one of the first Disabled people's groups to use direct action in the UK with Disabled activists chaining themselves to buses and blocking roads and pedestrian crossings with their wheelchairs. Once again Disabled protesters were arrested but then released without charge.

CARTOON 37 – 1991

Professor Colin Barnes' book *Disabled People in Britain and Discrimination* is published. The book uses official statistics to prove that disability discrimination in the UK exists, denied by the Government of the day.



CARTOON 38 – 1991

In Leeds a protest by 150 disabled people and allies outside the BBC studios picketed the Children in Need live broadcasting under the banner of the Rights Not Charity Group. Eight people were arrested, four were disabled people who were released without charge.



CARTOON 39 – 1991

Regard is founded to challenge homophobia in the disabled people's movement and the exclusion of disabled people from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community.



CARTOON 40 – 1992

The Shaken Not Stirred installation by disabled artist Tony Heaton was originally commissioned by LDAF for its Euroday event on 21st September 1991. The installation was a large pyramid of charity collection cans being destroyed by a false leg being thrown at them by Tony.



CARTOON 41 - 1992

On 18 July 1992 in London, over a thousand disabled people hold a protest outside the ITV studios (London Weekend TV) picketing the Telethon live broadcasting under the banner of Block Telethon. ITV later abandon this approach and create Comic Relief in consultation with disabled people and other oppressed groups.



CARTOON 42 - 1992

At the 1992 AGM the Spastic Society decides to change their name after a survey amongst members and volunteers stated that they didn't like the term Spastic. Ideas for over 400 new names were submitted with the winner being ... SCOPE!



CARTOON 43 – 1992

Between 1990 and 1993 the London-based Campaign for Accessible Transport (CAT) held street demonstrations including Oxford Street. Its organisers included Tracey Proudlock, Sue Elsegood, and Alan Sutherland as the press officer. This is when it is thought that the expression 'Piss on Pity' was first used in the UK having been brought over from the States by Allan Holdsworth who later went on to form the disabled people's Direct Action Network (DAN).



CARTOON 44 – 1992

Disability Awareness in Action (DAA) is launched as an international organisation of disabled people. It aims to provide support and information to people with disabilities (sic), to organise on a national and international level and to raise awareness of disability issues with governments and policy makers. However, their use of non-social model language remained an obstacle with disabled people in the UK who are reluctant to join.



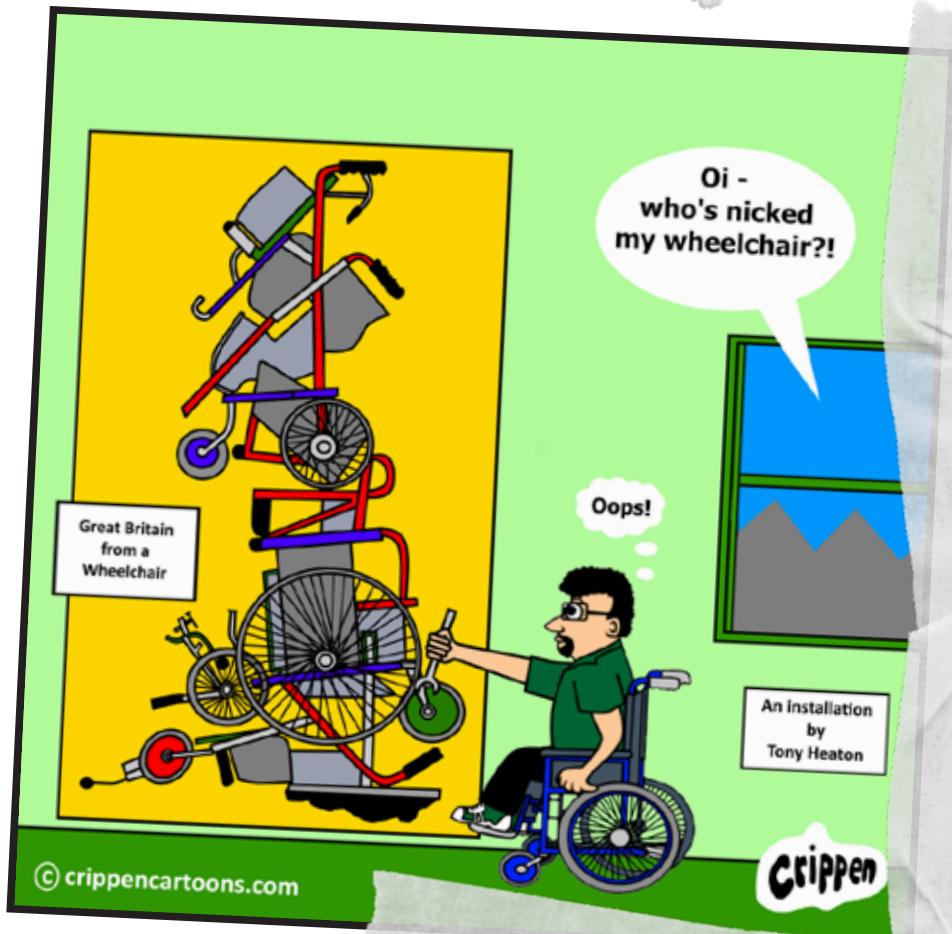
CARTOON 45 – 1993

The Trades Union Disability Alliance (TUDA) is formed consisting of the disabled members councils of the many Trades Unions within the UK. Disabled activist and Civil Rights lawyer Caroline 'Cabs' Gooding is appointed Chair. Cabs, who played a crucial role in pushing through the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 sadly died from breast cancer on 19th July 2014, aged 55.



CARTOON 46 – 1994

Tony Heaton's iconic sculpture, *Great Britain from a Wheelchair* is a key artwork within the history of disability arts - pointing to the aspiration to make the UK an accessible place for wheelchair-users.



CARTOON 47 – 1994

A survey shows that disabled people are only paid ¾ of average pay.



CARTOON 48 – 1994

Sir Nicholas Scott, Minister for Disabled People, defeats the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill by procedural means (filibustering) at report stage. Public outrage at these tactics forced the Government to introduce its own proposals - the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995. During the filibustering session his daughter Victoria Scott, a co-ordinator of Rights Now raced between television studios rubbishing the governments conduct.



CARTOON 49 – 1994

Minister for Disabled People William Hague launches a consultation document and attempts to reach out to disabled people.



CARTOON 50 – 1994

Accessible transport demos commenced across the UK organised by Disabled People's Direct Action Network (DAN). These took place throughout the summer of 1994 in several major cities in the UK. Disabled protestors also daubed red paint on themselves and the areas in which they protested, symbolising blood. This included the entrance gates to Downing Street. One of the main organisers was Sue Elsegood who helped build up a following of hard-core Disabled activists who succeeded in blocking inaccessible transport by road and rail.



CARTOON 51 – 1995

Disability Discrimination

Act (DDA) came into being following protests by disabled people. This made it illegal to discriminate against disabled people in connection with employment, the provision of goods, facilities and services or the disposal or management of premises. However, many disabled people felt that it was a 'toothless' bill with too many loopholes.



CARTOON 52 – 1995

The National Disability Council, which was the forerunner to the Disability Rights Commission, was seen as a toothless body when compared to the Racial Equality Commission and the Equal Opportunity Commission.



CARTOON 53 – 1995

Under the DDA Service providers also had to make reasonable adjustments to enable disabled people to access their services. This could often be interpreted in favour of everyone else but the disabled person. What some service providers saw as a 'reasonable adjustment' was seen as a poor compromise by disabled people still unable to access many services.



CARTOON 54 – 1995

Railtrack's station regeneration programme criticised by disabled rail users as being a purely cosmetic job with no real thought given to access!



CARTOON 55 – 1996

Disabled People's Organisations (DPO's) criticise fat cats in society who profit off the backs of disabled people.



CARTOON 56 – 1996

The National Archive published an online guide on how to search their records for 'Disability History' by using such key words as: Deaf/dumb/blind/lunatic/imbecile and idiot.



CARTOON 57 – 1997



Disabled activists protest at the Tory Party conference, necessitating a strong Police presence. It was later fed back to one of the organisers of the protest that many of the Police on duty were in fact sympathetic to the protester's stance against unnecessary deaths of disabled people due to cuts in services.

CARTOON 58 – 1997

A disabled man attending the Labour Party Conference was forced to remove his artificial leg during a security search.



CARTOON 59 – 1997

Tony Blair elected as next Prime Minister with organisations of Disabled people, including the Trades Union Disability Alliance waiting to see if he'll fulfil his promises regarding proper Civil Rights legislation for Disabled people.



CARTOON 60 – 1998

Ian Stanton, disabled singer/songwriter and active member of the Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP) died on 26th November 1998, aged 48.



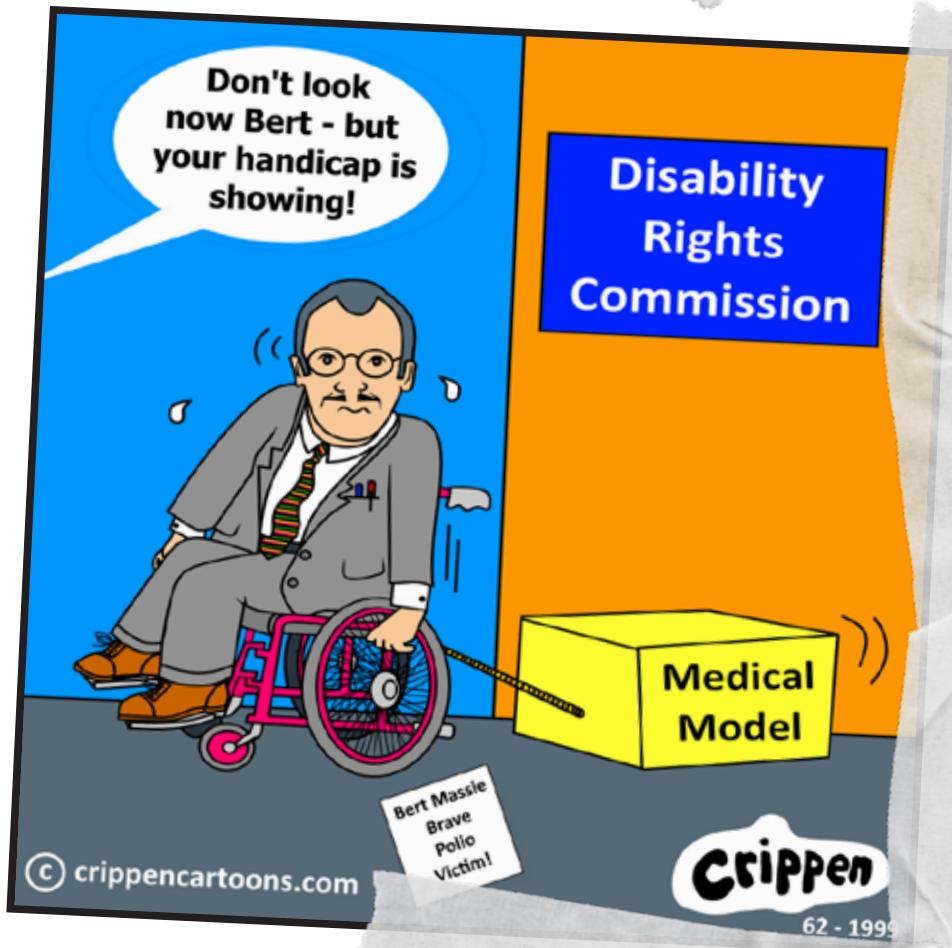
CARTOON 61 – 1998

Blind MP David Blunkett is satirised by disabled people due to his distancing from the movement and his reluctance to identify as a disabled person.



CARTOON 62 – 1999

The Disability Rights Commission is established to investigate and enforce disability legislation, and to advise employers on how to secure equal treatment of disabled employees. Many disabled activists feel that the Chair, Bert Massie had sold out to the disability status quo by accepting this role and going along with a press release that describes him as a "brave, polio victim". However, after his death in 2017 it is revealed that he was instrumental in providing vital information to disabled activists and their groups and organisations.



CARTOON 63 – 1999

Lambeth Centre for Independent Living (LCIL) had their funding cut by Lambeth Council. However, they refused to admit defeat and joined with other organisations who occupied the 121 Centre in Brixton and continued to provide services for those Disabled people who wanted to live independently. Max Clifford was one celebrity who approached them, offering to create publicity for them.



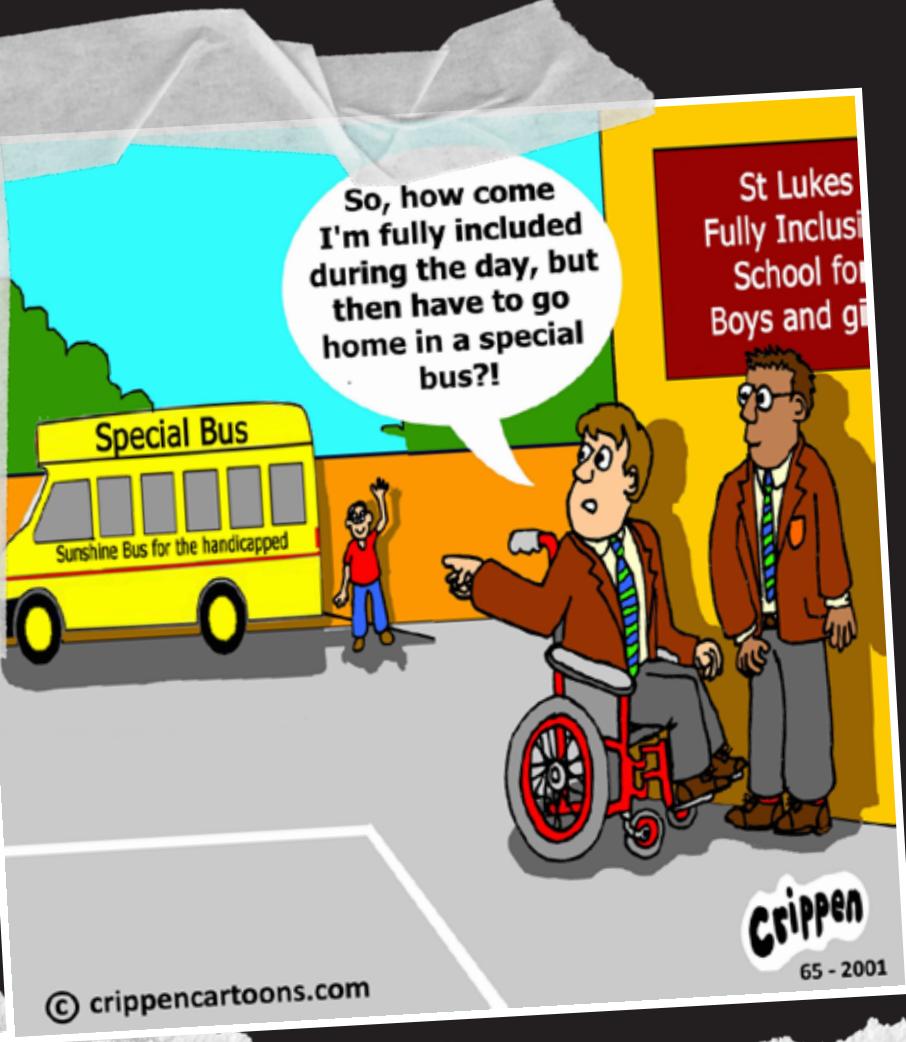
CARTOON 64 – 2000

The newspaper of the Trades Union Disability Alliance (TUDA News) changes its format and is now distributed to all MP's and Lords on a bi-monthly basis. Crippen becomes their resident cartoonist.



CARTOON 65 – 2001

The Special Educational Requirements and Disability (Send) Act 2001 stated that discrimination occurred when the educational establishment/body either fails to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate individuals with special needs or a disability, or when they give them less favorable treatment.



CARTOON 66 – 2002

'Not Dead Yet', an organisation of disabled people who oppose the proposed euthanasia legislation is formed by Baroness Jane Campbell and Disabled actor and activist Liz Carr. They not only challenge the euthanasia movement but also those hospitals who automatically put up a 'Do Not Resuscitate' sign on a disabled person's bed without any prior consultation.



CARTOON 67 – 2003

British Sign Language (BSL) is officially recognised by the government as being a full, independent, language. This raises the status of BSL and leads to training more Deaf BSL tutors and interpreters.



CARTOON 68 – 2004

Nelson Mandela launched the Scope 'Time to Get Equal' campaign. This was one of the first times that the organisation had highlighted the social model of disability in its campaign literature, despite continuing to use the term 'people with disabilities'! It was noted however, that the organisation still relied heavily on non-disabled people to run it.



CARTOON 69 – 2005

The Prime Minister's Strategy Unit published its report 'Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People' setting out recommendations for achieving equality for disabled people by 2025. This report marks the first official recognition by the government of the social model understanding of disability.



CARTOON 70 – 2006

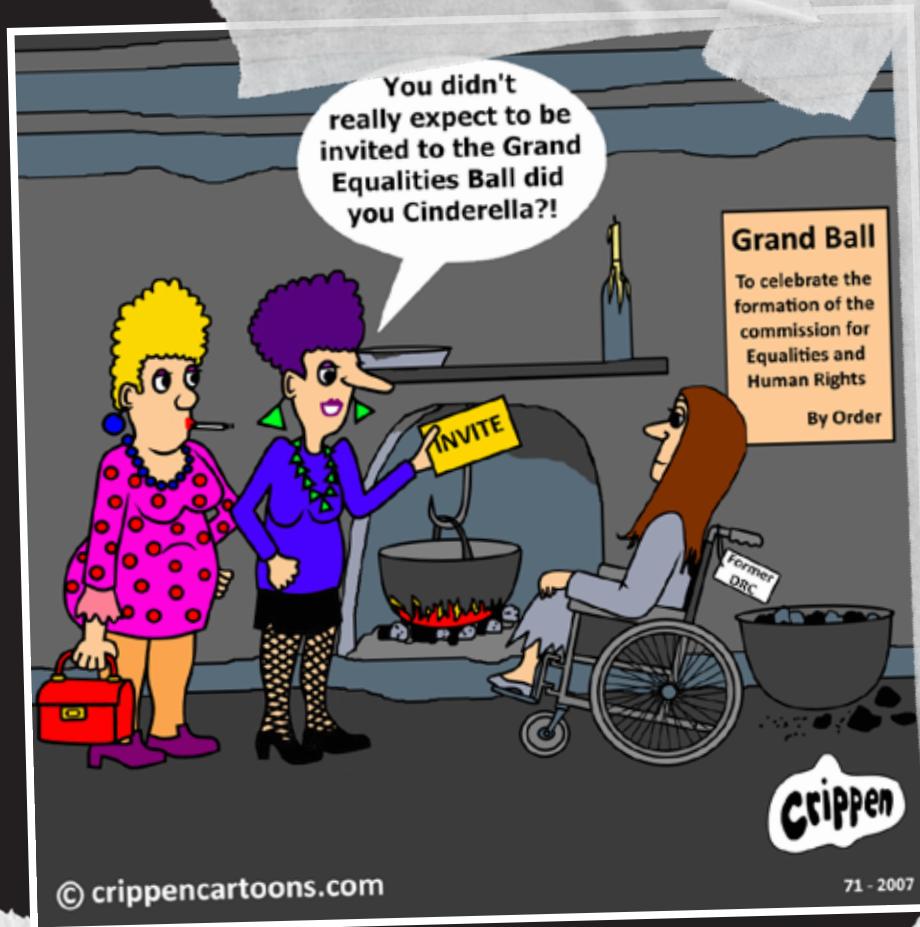
Hosted by the University of York, international scholars gathered to provide a pioneering historical perspective on disability where they examined how perceptions and experience of disability from the Middle Ages onwards affected modern attitudes to disability.

An example of this was that in 1880 the First international Conference of Deaf Educators declared that oral education was superior to manual education and passed a resolution banning the use of sign language in schools. In 1890 the British Deaf Association was formed.



CARTOON 71 – 2007

The role of the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) is transferred to the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), which has powers to issue guidance on, and enforce all the equality legislation, covering race, gender, disability, religion and belief, sexual orientation and age. It was felt amongst many disabled people that this was the government's way of relegating disabled people back to being the Cinderella of equality.



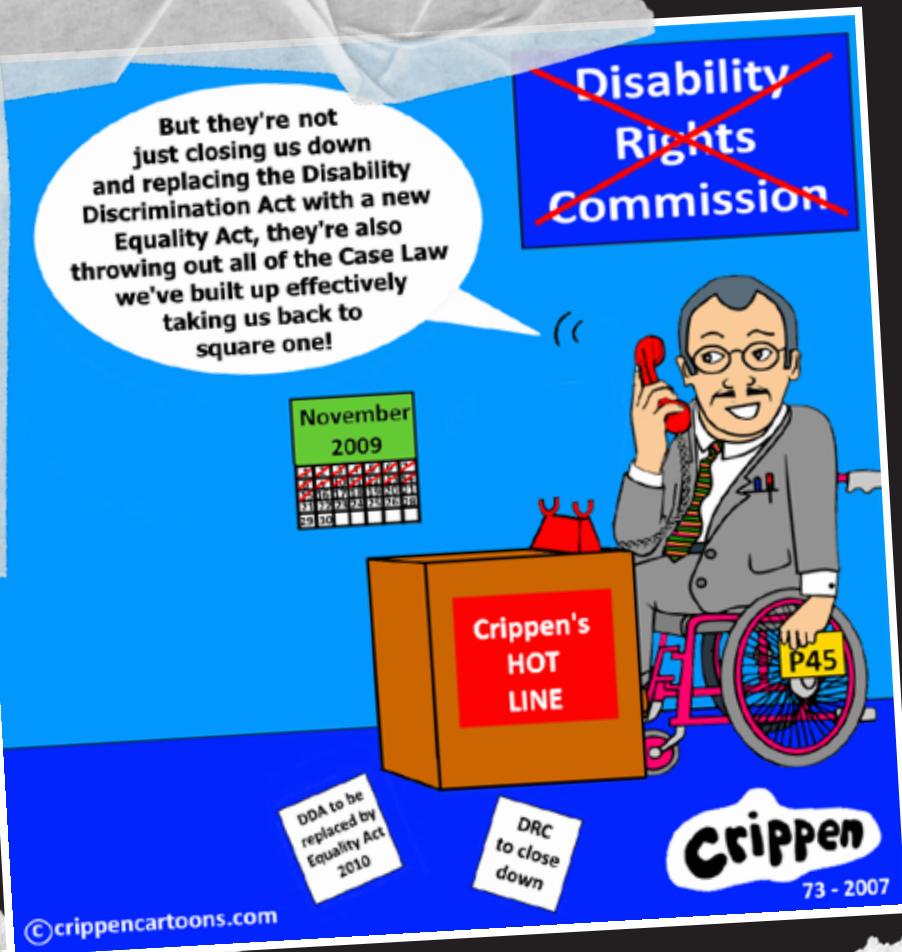
CARTOON 72 – 2007

When the government closed the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) and brought Disability under the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), it was felt that they destroyed a great deal of the work that had been undertaken by the DRC. This was not only the networking and sharing of information with other Disability focussed organisations, both inside and outside the UK, but also all the case law accumulated by the DRC legal team.



CARTOON 73 – 2007

Bert Massie joins with the DRC legal team and their allies to warn that all case law from the Disability Rights Commission will be 'lost' when it comes under the remit of the Equality Act and that we should all act now to safeguard this important material. However, this was ignored, and no action was taken.



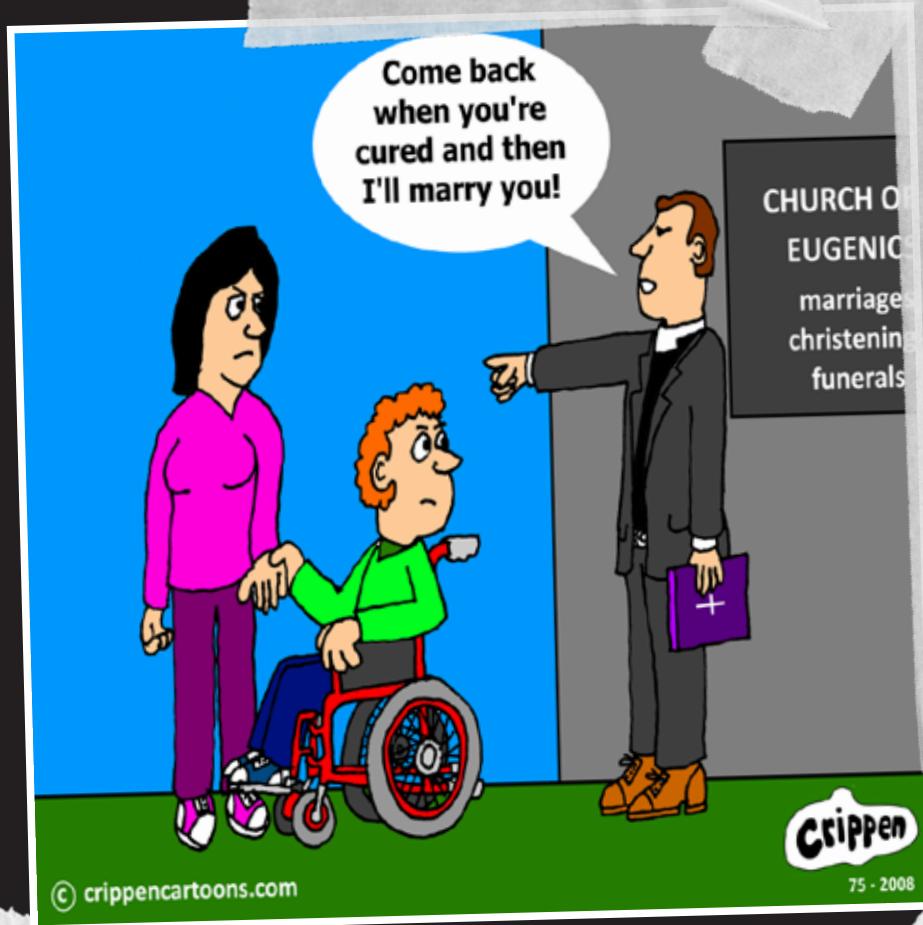
CARTOON 74 – 2007

Former teacher and disabled activist Richard Reiser commenced his research into running a UK Disability History Month. The event, which would run from 16th November to 16th December is scheduled to start in 2009. This month-long celebration focuses on three elements: ableism as an oppression; what is required to achieve true equality; and the celebration of that equality when it is achieved.



CARTOON 75 – 2008

Eugenics, which was first introduced in Plato's Socratic dialogue 'Republic' in 375 BC rears its head again as part of the assisted suicide debate. It wasn't all that long ago that disabled people faced forced sterilisation and weren't allowed to marry.



CARTOON 76 – 2009

The UK Labour government ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which had been adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2006. By doing this, the UK government agreed to protect and promote the human rights of disabled people. However, due to the damage done to the Labour Party by Tony Blair, it was considered inevitable that the Tory's would return to power the following year. Therefore, some cynics felt that this was Gordon Brown's way of forcing the issue onto the next Tory Leader, David Cameron.



CARTOON 77 – 2010



Formation of the Black Triangle Campaign to “galvanise opposition to the current vicious attack on the fundamental human rights of disabled people by the Government”, and in memory of disabled activist Paul Reekie. The symbol was also used by the Nazis during the 1940's to identify disabled people and make it easier to process them through the gas chambers.

CARTOON 78 – 2010

The Equality Act is passed by Parliament days before the general election. It outlaws direct or indirect discrimination and harassment in employment, vocational education and the provision of goods and services, for a total of nine protected characteristics including disability. However, much has yet to happen to make these Rights a daily reality for the 12 million disabled children and adults in the UK.



CARTOON 79 – 2011

Welfare Reform Bill proposed the replacement of the Disability Living Allowance with Personal Independence Payments (PIP). This was to cause complete upset for disabled people reliant upon benefits when the DWP brought in outside contractors to make assessments of their needs. Protests followed with Iain Duncan Smith being pilloried by disabled activists as the architect behind this move which allegedly claimed the lives of thousands of disabled claimants. (Ironically, in 2020 he was to get a knighthood for services to the Tory Party!).



CARTOON 80 – 2011

Launch of the Hardest Hit campaign, organised jointly by the Disability Benefits Consortium and the UK Disabled People's Council. It lobbies the government about the impact of welfare cuts. Around 8,000 disabled people march on Parliament in May 2011.



CARTOON 81 – 2012

TV celebrity Jimmy Saville charmed a nation with his eccentricity and philanthropy, but an investigation following his death in 2011 prompted more than 450 allegations of sexual assault and abuse against young disabled people, with his youngest victim being just five years old.



CARTOON 82 – 2012

Responsible Reform, also known as the Spartacus Report, is published in January 2012. The report which analyses the UK coalition government's changes to Disability Living Allowance fails to meet its own codes of practice; and that its report presents a highly misleading view of the responses it received. The report is widely circulated on Twitter using the hashtag #spartacusreport. On the date of publication, it becomes a trending topic and receives backing from thousands of users including Stephen Fry, John Prescott, Alastair Campbell, Billy Bragg, Sue Perkins and Tim Minchin, as well as various disability rights campaigners.



CARTOON 83 – 2012

Disabled activists target Atos at the London 2012 Paralympics. They are exposing the widening gap between disabled athletes and disabled activists. Activists cannot understand why the athletes compete and accept sponsorship from a company that has been linked to the deaths of thousands of disabled people (many having died after being found "fit to work" following their DWP benefits assessment). Equally the athletes, who rely on corporate sponsorship to compete, cannot understand the animosity from the activists.



CARTOON 84 – 2013

11 October - DPAC co-founders persuade the UN disability committee to carry out an investigation into the UK under the optional protocol of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



CARTOON 85 – 2014

The Care Act 2014 is an Act of Parliament of the UK that received Royal Assent on 14th May 2014, after being introduced on 9th May 2013. The main purpose of the act was to overhaul the existing 60-year-old legislation regarding social care in England. The Care Act sets out in one place, local authority's duties in relation to assessing people's needs and their eligibility for publicly funded care and support.



CARTOON 86 – 2015

The closure of the Independent Living Fund (ILF) took place despite protests by disabled people who tried to storm the House of Commons chamber during Prime Minister's Question Time. The protest was unsuccessful despite support from cross-party MPs and a campaign led by Baroness Jane Campbell in the House of Lords.



CARTOON 87 – 2016

The theme for the UK Disability History Month (UKDHM) in 2016 focussed on the language used to describe disabled people and the language disabled people use to express themselves.



CARTOON 88 – 2017

The first ever UK Disability Pride event took place in the city of Brighton and Hove on 9th July 2017. It consisted of a proud celebration of the Disabled gay community with live music, street food, education, arts and comedy.



CARTOON 89 – 2018

Outcry over deaths by suicide of UK disabled veterans who claim that they received little or no support for their mental health issues. Criticism is levelled at Prince Harry who focusses people's attention on the physically disabled veterans through the Invictus Games. This perpetuates the 'Super Crip' perception of disability, relegating those unable to participate as invalid.



CARTOON 90 – 2018

The launch of the National Disability Arts Collection and Archive (NDACA), a £1-million digital archive chronicling the history of disability arts in the UK, takes place in 2018. Alongside the website, the accessible NDACA research facilities at Buckinghamshire New University (which includes the NDACA Learning Wing and Repository of physical deposits) was also opened. With over 3,500 images of artworks, photographs, films, articles and exhibitions telling the story of disability arts and the battle for disability rights in the UK.



CARTOON 91 – 2019

Dolly Sen curated Art & Protest: What's there to be mad about? for the Bethlem Gallery in London - situated on the grounds of The Bethlem Royal Hospital which dates back to 1676. Artworks included her own parody of the charity collecting can Help the Normals, turning the notion of disabled people as objects of pity on its head. She also included banner-sized artworks from a series by Vince Laws called DWP Deaths Make Me Sick - which documented the deaths of individual disabled people following the impact of the stringent assessment procedures brought into force by Ian Duncan Smith.



CARTOON 92 – 2020

UK leave the EU and Boris Johnson PM literally tears up the European Convention of Human Rights and cuts all funding to learning disability and autism services.



CARTOON 93 – 2020



Tomlinson appointed Minister for Disabled People, joining the procession of ineffectual MP's 'promoted' to the same role before him.

CARTOON 94 – 2020

Covid sweeps across the UK with figures soon indicating that older and disabled people are the hardest hit, compared to the rest of the population. The figures (as off 2021) indicated that 6 out of 10 people who died from Covid were disabled people. Boris Johnson is accused of gambling with the lives of disabled people.



CARTOON 95 – 2020

The National Disability Unit Survey was constructed with very little input from disabled people and the way it was implemented was considered to be far from accessible. Disabled people challenged the government's findings through the courts, and it was effectively labelled an own goal!



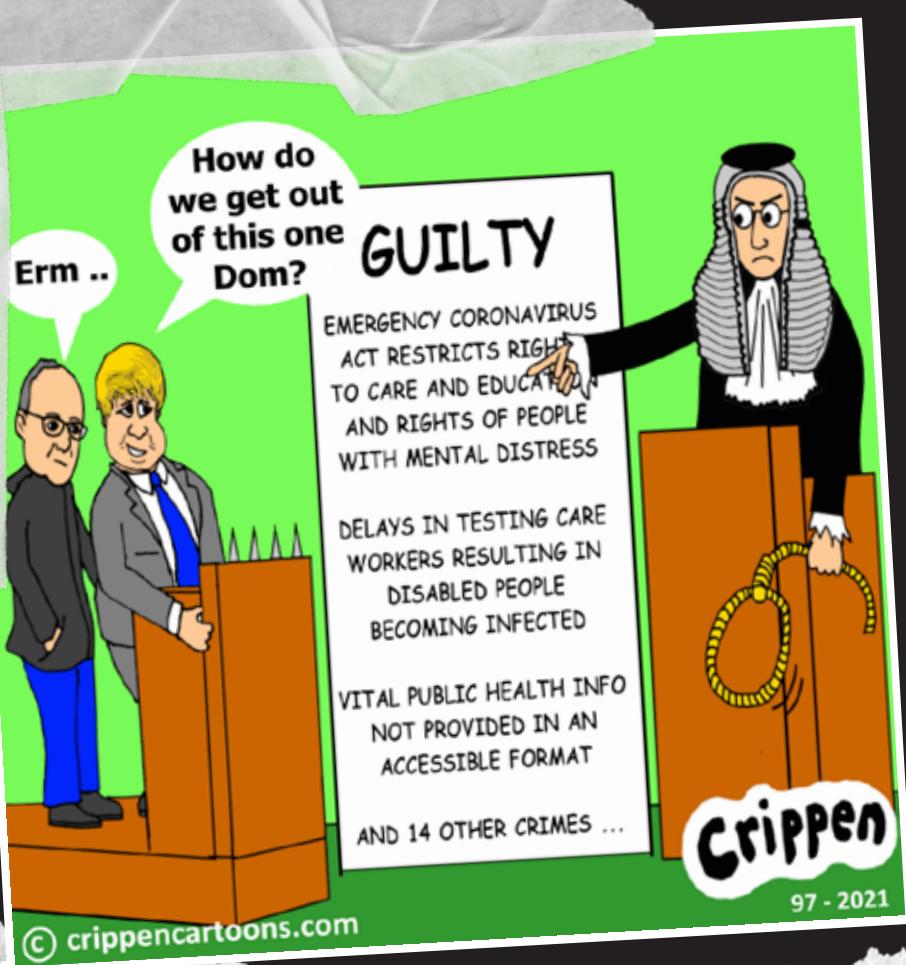
CARTOON 96 – 2020

Covid Virus Bill sees the Care Act torn up - The Bill effectively freed local authorities of their duties to provide social care support under the Care Act 2014 and only obliged local authorities to provide support in cases where the Human Rights of Disabled people will be breached. (We know from experience that for human rights to be breached in social care context the situation has to be very critical or severe!)



CARTOON 97 – 2020

Boris Johnson accused of 14 'crimes' against Disabled people during the Covid Lock-down. These include creating the Emergency Coronavirus Act which took away vital aspects of the Care Act resulting in a restriction of the rights of disabled people. Also, the delays in testing care workers which resulted in many disabled people becoming infected and then dying.



CARTOON 98 – 2021

Disabled people, especially disabled women felt that the government had effectively altered their status during the Covid pandemic from Vulnerable to Expendable. Disabled women were twice as likely to die from the virus yet the government failed to offer any further protection.



CARTOON 99 – 2022

Labour Party accused of institutional discrimination by its disabled members (Disability Labour) who called on the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) to investigate their allegations. The Party are warned that legal action is likely to follow if it does not improve its treatment of its disabled members.



CARTOON 100 – 2023

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) are accused of failing to consult its own board members and disabled advisers before deciding to delay an inquiry into the government's work capability assessment and its links with the deaths of disabled benefit claimants. The decision was taken only by the senior staff members on its executive group, with no attempt to consult the watchdog's chair, its other commissioners or its disability advisory committee (DAC). The only member of the EHRC board involved in the decision was its chief executive, Rebecca Hilsenrath.

