

The Lord Morris of Manchester Memorial Lecture

[The University of Manchester's Disabled Staff Network](#) is very proud to present our first public lecture focussing on the **rights and equality of disabled people**

The inaugural **Lord Morris of Manchester Memorial Lecture** will be held on **Thursday 3rd November 2016** from 6.30pm at [The University of Manchester](#)

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<https://nadsn-uk.org/LMMML2016>

[#LordMorrisMcrLecture](#)

About Lord Morris of Manchester

Alf Morris was born and brought up in Manchester and served as the Labour Co-op MP for Wythenshawe, Manchester, between 1964 and 1997 - 33 years! He campaigned tirelessly to challenge the barriers that disabled people face in everyday life. In 1970 Alf successfully brought in the **Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act**, a ground-breaking piece of legislation - the first in the world to recognise the rights of disabled people and set down specific requirements for access and support. In 1974 he became the world's first **Minister for Disabled People** and introduced a Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill in 1991. He also went on to establish the **Motability Scheme** which transformed the lives of so many people. In 1997, Alf was elevated to the Peerage as the **Baron Morris of Manchester**. He continued to scrutinise the government and campaign for the rights of disabled people in the House of Lords. The Victoria University of Manchester conferred an honorary doctorate degree on Alf in 1998. He died on 12th August 2012, survived by his wife Irene (Lady Morris) and four children.

You can find out more about Alf [here](#)



Lord Morris of Manchester
AO QSO PC
(1928-2012)

About the Memorial

The Lord Morris of Manchester Memorial Steering Group was formed in September 2014 with the aim of establishing a permanent memorial to Alf Morris in Manchester to commemorate and celebrate his life and pioneering work in disability rights legislation. The Steering Group brought together the following parties:

- Alf's family: Lady Morris and [Gill Morris](#)
- [Mike Kane MP](#)
- [Manchester Trades Union Council \(MTUC\)](#): Annette Wright, Tony Short, Chris Rea
- [North West TUC](#) Disability Forum
- [Manchester City Councillors](#)
- [The University's Disabled Staff Network](#): Hamied Haroon and Melanie Sharpe
- [University of Manchester Students' Union](#): Wellbeing and Diversity Officers

It was decided that the only fitting memorial to Alf would be to initiate practical projects in Manchester that would keep Alf's legacy alive of putting disability rights and equality at the centre of politics and policy making. The memorial must remind the world of the example that Alf set in Manchester!

The Steering Group suggested that the University should hold a public lecture in Alf's honour (annually, if possible) on the subject of disability equality and politics with a high-profile speaker. The lecture should aim to inspire University students and today's younger generation, but appeal to everyone. Our Disabled Staff Network agreed to lead on organising this with input from Lady and Gill Morris, Mike Kane and the MTUC. Hence, this event! This lecture event is distinct to the annual [Alf Morris Lecture](#) held in London by the [Disabled Living Foundation](#).

The Steering Group also suggested that the University should provide support (financial etc) and recognition each year for a deserving and talented student from Greater Manchester or the North West region who aspired to study politics at our University (probably at postgraduate level, perhaps focussing on disability) and follow a career in politics. This would be named the Lord Morris of Manchester Memorial Stipend. Our Disabled Staff Network agreed to look at this, possibly with support from the University's Alumni, as a future goal.

Alf's family and the MTUC wanted to dedicate a new stained glass window in the [Manchester Mechanics Institute](#) to Alf's memory. Our Students' Union and the MTUC agreed to work together to run a competition amongst University students to design the window. The competition has now closed and the result will be announced soon!

Members of the Group have met several times to ensure the progress and support of the memorial projects.

About our Speaker

Baroness Grey-Thompson

will deliver the inaugural lecture, as our special guest speaker



Baroness Grey-Thompson
DBE DL

Tanni Grey-Thompson graduated from Loughborough University in 1991 with a BA(Hons) in Politics and Social Administration and went on to pursue a famous and decorated career in para-sports as a wheelchair racer. Tanni was made a Dame in 2005 for “services to sport” and entered the House of Lords in 2010 as a Life Peer on the Crossbenches. Tanni was installed as [Chancellor of Northumbria University](#) in July 2015 and was named Number 1 on the [Power 100 list of Britain’s most influential disabled people in 2016](#)! Tanni is currently Patron of the [Snowdon Trust](#), which supports disabled students to access further and higher education and training. Tanni has spent summer 2016 in Rio de Janeiro to coach and support the latest generation of [ParalympicsGB](#) competitors! Tanni is a renowned public speaker. We are thrilled that Tanni accepted Gill Morris’s invitation to deliver the inaugural lecture in Alf’s memory.

You can find out more about Tanni [here](#)

Programme

Please note: **Entry to this event is by ticket only** – please see “Registration” below

Date: **Thursday 3rd November 2016**

Time: **18:30 – 21:00**

Venue: [Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall](#),
[Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama \(MHC\)](#),
The University of Manchester

This event is listed on the MHC “What’s on” pages [here](#)

Special guest MC:

[Victoria McDonald](#), Health and Social Care Correspondent at Channel 4 News

Time	Session
18:30-19:00	Registration, Meet & Greet in MHC Foyer - Student Ambassadors on duty - Arts Exhibition and Videos by Venture Arts and DaDaFest - Café Arts open for attendees to purchase refreshments
19:00	All members of the audience seated in the Concert Hall
19:00-19:10	Choral Performance by Ad Solem Chamber Choir and Seashell Trust Signing Choir
19:10-19:15	Official Welcome from The University of Manchester by Prof Clive Agnew , Vice President for Teaching, Learning & Students
19:15-19:55	Inaugural Lecture by The Rt Hon The Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE DL
19:55-20:30	Interactive Q&A session with a Panel of Distinguished Guests: - Baroness Grey-Thompson - Jane Cordell - Kate Nash OBE - Tom McAlpine OBE
20:30-20:35	Reflections by Lemn Sissay MBE , Chancellor of The University of Manchester
20:35-20:40	Vote of Thanks by Mike Kane MP
20:40-21:00	Event ends and audience departs

Please note: There will be photography and video capturing during this event. Please inform us if you would prefer not to feature in any of these.

Inclusion, Access and Assistance

Information about visiting the Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama can be found [here](#).

DisabledGo provide an online access guide for the Martin Harris Centre [here](#).

The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall is a modern, accessible and popular location for a range of events all year around on the central campus. The Hall has a large seating capacity (approx 250) and can accommodate a significant number of wheelchair-users. An infra-red induction loop is fitted in the Hall and receivers are available on request. A 360° view of the Hall can be seen [here](#).

Student Ambassadors from The University of Manchester will be on duty during the whole event to provide assistance wherever required. They will all be wearing University-branded purple tops and ready to help!

Venture Arts and DaDaFest are both organisations that nurture, promote and showcase the extraordinary talents of disabled artists in Manchester and the North West region. The artworks on display will depict Alf Morris's campaigns and the lived experiences of local disabled people. The exhibition will be on display in the foyer of the Martin Harris Centre from Monday 31st October to Friday 4th November 2016.

The University's Ad Solem Chamber Choir and the Seashell Trust Signing Choir will perform together, side-by-side! This will be a fully inclusive performance that we hope everyone will enjoy!

Remote live captioning (real-time speech-to-text) will be provided by Ai Media throughout the talks and discussions. The captioning will be displayed on large monitors positioned on the stage area. We have not arranged BSL interpretation.

During the interactive Q&A session, members of the audience will be encouraged to ask their own questions to the panel. This can be done verbally in person, or via a Student Ambassador, or via Twitter using the event's hashtag. At least one of the panel members is fluent in BSL so it would be possible to ask a question by signing.

Please inform us of your access or support requirements when you book your ticket.

Online Features

“**It happened first in Manchester**” – a historic account of Alf Morris’s era and the height of the disability rights movement, written by [Lorraine Gradwell MBE](#) especially for this event, will be made available online in early October!

Videos and photographs from the event will be posted online.

Social Media

This event’s hashtag on Facebook and Twitter: [#LordMorrisMcrLecture](#)

Twitter: follow [@UoMDSN](#), [@DisabilityMcr](#), [@nadsn_uk](#)

Facebook: updates will be posted by [Dis-Ability Manchester](#) and [NADSN](#)

Our Sponsors

We are indebted to the following organisations for their generous financial support towards this event:

- **[The University of Manchester](#)**

- [Equality & Diversity](#)
- [Office for Social Responsibility](#)
- [Office of the President & Vice-Chancellor](#)
- [Student Recruitment & Widening Participation](#)
- [The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama](#)
- [The Manchester Museum](#)



- **[Ai Media](#)**



- **[Manchester Airport Group](#)**



- **[Randstad UK](#)**



- **[The Co-operative Party Manchester & District](#)**



- **[DisabledGo](#)**



- **[University of Manchester Students' Union](#)**



- **[The Co-operative Group](#)**



- **[UNISON Transport for Greater Manchester Branch](#)**



Our Supporters

The following organisations are supporting this event:

- [DaDaFest](#) and [Venture Arts](#)
- [Manchester University Music Society](#) and the [Ad Solem Chamber Choir](#)
- [Seashell Trust](#)
- [Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People](#)

- [National Association of Disabled Staff Networks](#) ([NatAssDSN](#) | [@nadsn_uk](#))
- Dis-Ability Manchester ([DisAbilityMcr](#) | [@DisabilityMcr](#))
- [Equality and Human Rights Commission](#)
- [Disabled Living Foundation](#)
- [Snowdon Trust](#)

Registration

Entry to this event is by ticket only – one ticket per person

ALL WELCOME!!! (please note that this event is not suitable for children)

Tickets are on sale at **£1 each**, plus an **optional donation**, via The University of Manchester's Estore [here](#)

Ticket sales will end on 1st November 2016

When booking your ticket we will ask you to specify which organisation you are based at and what your status is (i.e. a member of staff, a student, a volunteer, or other). We will also ask you to specify any access or support requirements, and if you will require a Blue Badge/accessible parking space.

Parking for those without a Blue Badge will be available in the multi-storey car park nearest to the venue ([Booth Street West Car Park D](#)) at a specially discounted cost of £2 for the evening.

Contact Us

If you have any enquiries about this event, please do not hesitate to contact the Co-Chairs of the University's Disabled Staff Network, Dr Hamied Haroon and Mrs Melanie Sharpe, by email:

DSNetwork@manchester.ac.uk