

# David Blunkett

**What magazines and newspapers do you take?** *The Independent, The Guardian, Financial Times, Daily Mirror, Scotsman, Tribune, New Statesman And Society* and a range of periodicals.

**What foreign languages do you speak?** Esperanto!

**What is your favourite tv/radio programme?** Television drama is at an all time low so I tend to watch current affairs programmes. Radio drama is better, but patchy.

**When do you listen to music?** Usually late in the evening or when travelling.

**When was the last time you prayed?** Prayer is personal.

**What was your first thought this morning?** Is it really 6.20am?

**What is your favourite meeting place?** My own home and garden, where I can get some privacy and quietness to start to think again.

**What is your worst piece of architecture?** The Odeon Cinema development in Sheffield city centre which is modelled on the Pompidou Centre in Paris.

**Who do you reveal your secrets to?** If I answered this question as someone active in public life I'd be a fool.

**What makes you feel secure?** Knowing that I have friendship which will not let me down.

**How regularly do you consult your horoscope?** Never.

**How do you envy your children's lifestyle?** I would love to be their age, knowing what I know now, and would get more fun from my early years than I did.

**You're driving through a hot, desolate expanse. What's playing on the stereo?** Delius - *Song Of Summer*.

**Which is your city of the nineties?** Sheffield, because it retains a sense of identity and social cohesion.



David Blunkett was born in Sheffield in 1947 and has been blind since birth. He joined the Labour Party at the age of 16, was leader of Sheffield Council for seven years, and has been the MP for Sheffield Brightside since 1987. In 1988 he was appointed to the opposition front bench and is currently Labour's spokesperson on local government and the poll tax as well as a member of Labour's national executive committee. He is the father of three children.

**Where is your favourite holiday destination?** I enjoy sun and sea, so the unspoiled north of Majorca or Yugoslavia.

**How has your diet changed in the past 10 years?** It has gone back to what I really like. The traditional wholesome food on which I was brought up. Little from a packet and rarely vegetarian.

**What physical exercise do you do?** Apart from a lot of walk-

ing, a small amount of regular exercises each morning.

**Under what circumstances would you use private medicine?** To save the life of a loved one, if I was denied access to NHS treatment in time.

**At what age do you want to stop working?** I would like to gently ease myself out of employment in time to enjoy a little leisure.

**Do you own shares?** No.

**How influenced are you by advertising?** Adversely! It tends to put me off things.

**What are you doing for the environment?** I am being very careful with my own life-style and habits. Arguing for a change in our transport systems and campaigning to reduce pollution from noise, both personal and public.

**What part of your life would you take into a next life?** I would not. The joy we have comes from the moment.

**What do you no longer believe in?** The involvement of everyone in political activity and tedious mind-blowing meetings.

**What current campaign do you most support?** Protecting the survival of our planet clearly over-rides immediate, if pressing, issues. But inevitably my prime political concern is to replace the poll tax and the values and principles which underpin it.

**What do you now own that you had never dreamt of owning?** A bidet.

**What is the most amount of money you've spent on an item of clothing?** A suit, not much more than £100.

**What hi-tech device scares you?** I sometimes think the world is going mad. Technology should be our servant, not our master.

**How much time do you spend each day on the phone?** An hour and a half.

**Complete this sentence: If I were dictator for a day...** I would extend democracy to give meaningful power and influence to people to exercise decision-making over their own and the lives of those around them.

**How do you personally hope to change by the end of the millennium?** I hope to become more tolerant and to see how best to get things done rather than simply satisfy my own ego.