

Summer 2011

# Access

All Areas

**Allied Mobility**<sup>TM</sup>  
Driving for Perfection



## Harold Happy with New Horizon

***In this issue...***

***New treatment for MS Sufferers •  
New Drive-From Wheelchair Car • 2012 Paralympics  
Go Kids Go! • Win a £1000 Freedom Voucher***

# The Nation's Favourite WAVs

Allied Mobility is Britain's leading wheelchair accessible vehicle supplier. Call our mobility advisors today to arrange your free home demonstration, anywhere in the UK and see how an Allied WAV could change your life.

**Free home demonstrations nationwide**



"The lowered floor and FlexiFold ramp have made life 100% easier."  
Volkswagen Vista

Julie Keatings, Kirkcaldy



"Having a car which is designed specifically for wheelchair users has made our lives so much easier."  
Peugeot Horizon

Terry Mason, North Yorkshire



"In a matter of weeks we had our very own mobility car and it's made a massive difference to our lives."  
Peugeot Horizon

Julie Mostyn, Cheshire

"The Presto has given me much more freedom and makes transporting my scooter really stress-free."  
Peugeot Presto

Ron James, Lincolnshire



"Our new WAV allows Shayla and Oliver to sit beside each other, which Oliver just loves."  
Renault Autograph

Marie McVicker, Swindon

"The ramp folds down to the floor and transforms our vehicle into a standard car. You wouldn't even know it's a WAV!"  
Peugeot Horizon

Barbara Glew, Hampshire



"Now it takes just a few minutes to get Amy into the car, which is a lovely change."  
Peugeot Independence

Lynette Clark, Kent



**FREEPHONE 0800 916 0041**

**Allied Mobility**<sup>TM</sup>  
Driving for Perfection

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# New Treatment for MS Sufferers

## New drug to treat Multiple Sclerosis launched in the UK.



Fingolimod, also known as Gilenya, is a pill designed to treat people with relapsing-remitting MS who have not responded to current treatments.

Studies have shown that the new drug is twice as effective as existing medicines and reduces the relapse rate by 54% compared to those who haven't had the treatment.

Fingolimod is the first oral medication available for MS and represents a significant step forward in treating the

condition. The new drug will also give those who suffer from the more active form of the disease a new option.

### Advance

Dr Eli Silber, consultant neurologist at King's College Hospital in London, said: "This has the potential to be one of the most significant advances since first-line therapies arrived over a decade ago."

Amanda Cook, an MS sufferer who has been using the new treatment, commented: "Before

it was difficult to plan anything because I never knew how I would feel for 48 hours after my beta interferon injections. I couldn't go out or go to work. My life was planned around my injections, which I don't have to do now."

### Mobility Help

MS is the most common neurological condition that affects young adults, with around 100,000 sufferers in the UK. The condition can greatly reduce your mobility and impact on your life but

there are many sources of support and help. As well as medical treatments, help is also available through organisations such as the MS Society to help people to lead more independent lives.

**For further help or information contact the MS Society:**

Tel: **0808 800 8000**

Email: **helpline@mssociety.org.uk**

Web: **www.mssociety.org.uk**

# Super Swasie

**Access All Areas** has followed the exploits of the remarkable Swasie Turner MBE. Here we hear about his latest fundraising work.

Swasie, who has been wheelchair bound for the past 11 years, has just completed a massive 22 mile wheelchair push from Liverpool to Southport. Once again he was raising more money for the beloved charities he has supported since losing one of his legs in 1997.

In his standard issue NHS 47lb wheelchair Swasie, who is an honorary Green Beret, made the challenging journey through tough headwind and rain with the support of fellow Green Berets from the Royal Marines.

Swasie commented: "I myself managed to raise over £300 which went towards our total for the trip, which runs into thousands".

### One Man Mission

Swasie lost his leg when he was the victim of violent action whilst on duty as a policeman. Following this, Swasie also sadly lost his wife Marjorie to cancer. It was this second loss which spurred him on to start working for charity.

Swasie explains: "When Marj passed on, I decided to channel all the anger I had inside and throw myself into my crusade of raising money as a thank you to cancer research". Since starting on his mission Swasie has raised over one million pounds which has gone towards various charities including Cancer Research and the Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund.

He has now pushed his wheelchair an incredible 36,408 miles and is still going strong!



**If you'd like to add your support or find out more about the amazing work being done by Swasie visit:**

**[www.swasieturner.org](http://www.swasieturner.org)**

# Record Numbers for Mobility Cars



More people than ever are now enjoying the freedom gained from owning their own wheelchair accessible vehicle.

Wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs) are seeing a rise in popularity with the UK Motability Scheme reporting an impressive increase of 46% in the number of WAVs ordered in the first quarter of 2011, compared with 2010.

## **Access for All**

Wheelchair accessible vehicles offer wheelchair users and their families improved independence, in stark contrast to days-gone-by when wheelchair users would have to rely on community transport and services like "Dial-a-Bus" to get around. Nowadays families who own their own WAV have the freedom to go where they want, when they want.

Innovative vehicle converters, working in conjunction with Motability, have improved the choice and affordability of wheelchair cars in recent years, driving prices down to

reasonable levels. Appearance and driveability have also improved with many new WAVs looking very much like standard cars and not the stereotypically boxy vans which they once were. Disabled

Allied Mobility was also named Motability's Best Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles Partner in 2010. This is backed up by our wide choice of vehicles which include manual and automatic models, ranging

a WAV.

"We hope to see more happy customers in 2011 with the launch of another exciting automatic model this summer. We're also excited about

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## **"It's encouraging that so many people trust us when choosing a WAV."**

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motorists are finding it easier than ever to choose the right wheelchair car, with vehicle converters offering a wide choice of models.

## **Flying High**

Flying high at the forefront of this rise is Allied Mobility. We were delighted to receive orders for more than 500 new wheelchair accessible vehicles between January and March 2011, a record breaking period for any wheelchair accessible vehicle manufacturer.

from small cars to larger people carriers and minibuses. Mobility consultants are based throughout the UK and Ireland, providing home demonstrations to help customers identify their ideal wheelchair car.

## **Right Cars - Right Prices**

Sales director Peter Facenna comments: "We've been really delighted with the interest in our vehicles this year. It's encouraging that so many people trust us when choosing

the introduction of our new drive from wheelchair and wheelchair passenger upfront vehicle, the Peugeot Bipper Impulse."

### **For more information on Allied Mobility WAVs**

Tel:

**0800 916 0041**

Email:

**info@alliedmobility.com**

Web:

**www.alliedmobility.com**

## Welfare Reform Bill - Friend or Foe?

### SPARKING DEBATE

Since the Welfare Reform Bill's introduction in February it has become one of the most contentious proposals put forward by the coalition government.

The major aim of the bill is to streamline welfare provision and make savings. It deals with changes on welfare payments for housing, child benefits and disability as well as putting a cap on the maximum benefits that each household can receive. One suggestion which has sparked debate is that the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) would be cut in favour of an alternative Personal Independence Payment. This change would equate to a 20% cut to the amount of money paid out by the government.

In response to the Welfare Reform Bill's greater aims, there has been a show of support for what the government is trying to achieve. However the ways in which the government is trying to achieve its aims have drawn severe criticism. Disability groups have hit the streets of Westminster to protest about how the proposed changes stand to affect them.

Jane Asher, president of Arthritis Care, spoke at one such protest. She said, "The Government's cuts to disability benefits risk leaving the vulnerable people I represent impoverished, confined to their homes, and without access to appropriate services and support networks."



### PATRICK'S PORTRAITS

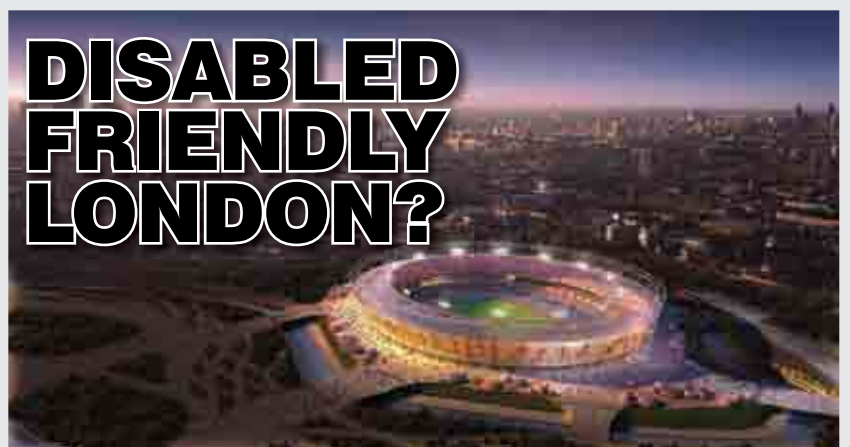
'Patrick the Optimist's' remarkable series of portraits is showing at The Royal Society of Medicine in London until 18th June for all to see and admire.'

#### RAISING THE PROFILE

Patrick the Optimist, or Patrick Joyce, has been fighting Motor Neurone disease since 2008 and has been working with the Motor Neurone Disease Association to raise the profile of the condition and increase fundraising income.

Artist Patrick has vowed to paint 100 portraits of fellow MND sufferers before he loses his ability to paint through his illness. Let's hope this exhibition helps further spread awareness of his inspiring work.

## DISABLED FRIENDLY LONDON?



London is aiming to become the most disabled friendly city in the world in time for the 2012 Olympics, according to Deputy Mayor Richard Barnes.

Mr Barnes commented: "By changing attitudes, bringing together people living with disability and mobility impairment, old and young - then we will truly begin to transform London and make it the best capital city in the world."

Mr. Barnes, however, did not comment on London's taxi fleet, which is among the least accessible in the UK, thanks to the lack of space in traditional London cabs to accommodate wheelchair users safely.

DRIVE FROM

# Let the Impulse™ Take You



Our latest new vehicle, the Peugeot Bipper Impulse™, is set to offer wheelchair users exciting new levels of freedom to travel.

The all-new Peugeot Impulse™ offers remarkable flexibility. You can drive from a powered wheelchair, travel as an upfront passenger in your wheelchair or make an internal transfer from your wheelchair to the driver's seat. It can even take two wheelchairs in the upfront position, side by side.

### Drive from Wheelchair

For anyone seeking a truly independent travel solution Impulse™ offers a handy remote control key fob which allows you to raise the automatic tailgate and lower the automatic ramp, even from the comfort of your own home.

The automatic tailgate and ramp let you drive into the car unaided and the addition of a locking station then holds your chair for the duration of your journey. When you think that all you could need after this is a few adaptations or hand controls to get you on the road independently it's an exciting prospect.

### Up Front Passenger

Your options with Impulse™ don't end there though. Impulse™ can

also offer a passenger WAV with a wheelchair user seated up front, traveling beside the driver.

Allied Mobility Sales Director, Peter Facenna, comments: "We're seeing more and more customers who want to drive themselves or travel upfront beside the driver. Impulse gives you this option without needing to trade up to a larger vehicle."

### Internal Transfer

For two people who are able to do so, internal transfer can be safer and more comfortable than cumbersome external transfers, especially in bad weather. Impulse™ comes with driver and front passenger seats included, both of which can be taken out, and easily put back again when needed. The flat floor is ideal for people who prefer to enter the vehicle in their wheelchair and then transfer to the driver or front passenger seat for their journey.

### Two Wheelchairs Up Front

"Impulse™ is compact, which makes it cheaper to run and easier to park but surprisingly it still has room for two wheelchairs up front,"

Peter continues. "This makes

Impulse™ a great option for families or couples where two people are wheelchair users. As a powerchair user, wouldn't it be great to be able to drive where you want, when you want, with your partner or friend alongside you in their wheelchair?"

To see Impulse™ for yourself why not arrange a home demonstration  
Tel: 0800 916 0041  
Email: info@alliedmobility.com  
Web: www.alliedmobility.com

## NEW PEUGEOT BIPPER IMPULSE™



Making independent travel possible

The new drive-from and wheelchair passenger up-front vehicle available exclusively from Allied Mobility.

FROM ONLY **£8,295** ADVANCE PAYMENT



0800 916 0041  
www.alliedmobility.com



# Muscular Dystrophy Campaign Update

The Muscular Dystrophy Campaign is the leading UK charity working to fight muscle diseases. It does this by funding vital research into treatments and cures, offering free information and advice about care and support, campaigning for better services, providing grants towards specialist mobility equipment and providing specialist education and development for health professionals.

## Lights, Camera, Access?

Over the past few months a dedicated group of young disabled people (members of Muscular Dystrophy Campaign's Trailblazers network) have been investigating cinema access across the UK and making a documentary film of their

journey, which is due to be launched this summer.

It's hoped that their findings will encourage more cinemas to learn from young disabled people and improve accessibility for everyone.

## A Question of Support



TV presenter and sportswoman Sue Barker MBE is encouraging people to step into her shoes and become a quizmaster for the evening, raising vital funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign.

*A Question of Support* is a quiz that everyone can take part in and couldn't be easier to organise.

When you register to take part, Muscular Dystrophy Campaign will send you a fundraising pack that contains everything you need, including top tips for organising your quiz night, posters to promote your event, ideas on how to raise additional funds, the quiz questions and the all important answers.

Find out all the recent news about the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign's awareness raising activities, as well as information about how to get involved with volunteering and fundraising, sign up for the free monthly eNewsletter at [www.muscular-dystrophy.org/enewsletter](http://www.muscular-dystrophy.org/enewsletter)

To find out more:  
Phone: 0800 652 6352  
Email: [info@muscular-dystrophy.org](mailto:info@muscular-dystrophy.org)  
Visit: [www.muscular-dystrophy.org](http://www.muscular-dystrophy.org)



## Improved Transport Rights for Disabled People

Disabled people throughout the EU set to benefit from new rights when travelling on buses or coaches.

New European Union rules mean that all bus drivers of both standard and wheelchair accessible vehicles will be required to undertake disability awareness training. In addition travel information will be made more accessible for all before and during travel.

to assist disabled people, will also now be entitled to free transport where necessary. The new guidelines also mean that, for longer journeys, disabled passengers will be entitled to free assistance when at stations and on board vehicles.

### Inclusion

Guy Parckar, acting director

of Policy and Campaigns at Leonard Cheshire Disability, said: "Restrictions when using transport are among the biggest barriers to social inclusion for disabled people. This change should help to build a transport network that is more user-friendly and accessible."

The new rules, which apply to

all public bus services, will come into effect from 2013. However, for the rights to apply, disabled passengers should inform travel companies of their intention to travel 36 hours in advance. This aspect of the new rules will still disappoint many disabled people - and *Access All Areas* magazine!



# Harold Happy with New Horizon

Harold and Valerie, from Sheffield, are finding their new Peugeot Horizon™ vehicle has made a big difference to their lives.

Like most people Harold Holmes, who is a wheelchair user, and his wife Valerie rely on their car for independence. Having struggled to transport Harold's wheelchair in their previous car, they decided it was time to get a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

Harold comments: "Our previous car wasn't very accessible for a wheelchair user like myself and Valerie found it difficult to drive.

"However Valerie works for our local council driving a minibus, picking up special needs children. She got talking to one of the parents who recommended Allied Mobility to us.

"We contacted Allied and after assessing our needs we chose to have a demonstration of the Peugeot Horizon. Richard, our local mobility advisor, brought the Horizon to our home to let us see it and try it out."

## Versatile

The Peugeot Horizon™ is the most popular wheelchair accessible vehicle in the UK. Based on the Peugeot Partner

Tepee, this versatile mobility car offers excellent accessibility without compromising on style and comfort. The vehicle comes with a unique FlatFold™ wheelchair ramp, lowered floor, air conditioning and free parking sensors.

"We were very impressed with the Horizon™," comments Harold, "The accessibility features were exactly what we were after."

"Valerie has no problems operating the clever wheelchair ramp and the electric winch makes it even easier for Valerie to guide me in and out. The lowered floor means the wheelchair ramp isn't very long which makes using it in smaller spaces easy. It's marvellous!

## Scooter Friendly

"As well as my wheelchair I also have an electric scooter, which is quite large. I was delighted to find out that we could remove the rear seating in the Horizon™ which makes it possible for me to use my larger scooter in the vehicle too. The flexibility of the car is excellent.



Valerie & Howard

"Our car is a big part of our lives, from everyday trips to going out for Sunday dinner and visiting family. Our six year old grand daughter thinks the car is great, she loves going out in it. We're going to Yarmouth on holiday and thanks to our Horizon we can easily transport my scooter when we go.

## Expert Service

"The help and advice we received from Richard and all the staff at Allied Mobility was brilliant. The car is perfect for us and has made travelling much

more straightforward than it was with our previous car. We couldn't be happier!"

The Peugeot Horizon™ is available to buy, rent or on the Motability Car Scheme with Advance Payments starting from just £695.

**For more information  
Allied Mobility's  
wheelchair accessible  
cars & MPVs:**

Tel: 0800 916 0041

Email: [info@alliedmobility.com](mailto:info@alliedmobility.com)

Web: [www.alliedmobility.com](http://www.alliedmobility.com)



The Emmett family with their new Vista

# Mobility Car Fit for All The Family

Gillian Emmett and her family from Reading, are delighted to have finally found a wheelchair accessible car big enough for all the family in the Volkswagen Vista.

Finding an affordable car big enough for a family of five can be a challenge for anyone. However, considering that Gillian uses a scooter and her daughter Charlotte is a wheelchair user, the Emmett family faced a bigger challenge than most.

## Searching for the Perfect Car

Amazingly the family had only ever owned a standard car. After doing some research Gillian was delighted to learn that they qualified for a wheelchair accessible vehicle through the Motability Scheme and so began their search.

## Discovering Allied Mobility

Gillian commented: "We had looked at Allied Mobility's cars and thought their prices were really competitive but we didn't think they would cover our area.

"We needn't have worried because after contacting them, we discovered that they cover the whole of the UK, which was great for us. Soon after, our local mobility advisor, Paul, came to visit us and gave us a demonstration on the Volkswagen Vista. The size and style of the car were just what we wanted - I can just drive my scooter into the back of the car then transfer to sit in the passenger seat.

"When my daughter Charlotte is travelling with us as well there's still plenty of space in the Vista for her folded wheelchair to fit inside the car beside my scooter. It didn't take us long to decide that this was the right mobility car for us."

## Friendly Service

"We simply cannot fault the service we received from Allied Mobility. When Paul came out

to demo the car I had a list of questions ready for him and he answered them all!

"When our Vista was delivered the driver took us through the demo again to make sure we were happy which we definitely are."

The Vista is available to buy or rent on the Motability Scheme with Advance Payments starting from £2,895. This impressive MPV, which is available in either manual or automatic transmission, offers the ideal solution for small groups or large families.

**For more information on the Volkswagen Vista**

Call: **0800 916 0041**  
 Email: [info@alliedmobility.com](mailto:info@alliedmobility.com)  
 Web: [www.alliedmobility.com](http://www.alliedmobility.com)

## Blue Badge Reform



The first phase of planned changes to the Blue Badge scheme, which has largely remained unchanged since its introduction in the 1970's, came into effect this spring, aimed at tackling abuse of the disabled parking system.

The Blue Badge Scheme currently helps over 2.5 million disabled people in Britain by enabling them to park their vehicles closer to their destination.

As part of the reforms, local authorities now have increased powers allowing them to refuse to issue or withdraw badges. A new design is making badges harder to copy also.

## More Badges for Disabled

The changes have also seen some disabled children between the ages of two and three, and disabled service personnel now qualify for badges.



# Hire Service Hits the Mark

**When Jackie McGuckin was struggling to find temporary transport for her disabled husband, Ken, she was delighted to discover that she was able to rent a wheelchair accessible vehicle from Allied Mobility which would help them get around.**

Ken McGuckin, who is paralysed from the waist down, spends most of his time in hospital. In December his family were keen to have him home so they could all spend Christmas together.

While visiting her husband in hospital Jackie came across an advert for our wheelchair cars rental service. After a short phone call she was delighted to learn that she could rent a wheelchair accessible vehicle through our *Open Road* hire service.

Jackie comments: "All our family really wanted Ken to be able to spend Christmas at home. However because he needs a wheelchair full time it's not possible to transport him without a car that has wheelchair access. To find out we could rent this was brilliant.

## Renting Mobility Vehicles

"Being able to hire a vehicle gave us much more flexibility as I could pick Ken up and drop him off whenever it suited us, rather than having to rely on a taxi.

"When I rented the Fiat Freedom I was worried about the accessible features of the car, but the demonstration I received showed how easy the ramp and wheelchair restraints were to use. I had no problems at all."

"The car really was great, his visibility was excellent and he felt very secure.

## Great Service

"Since our initial two week rental we have used the service again and would use it in the future.

"The service I received really was excellent, the staff were very keen to help."

*Open Road* rentals has a selection of mobility cars, MPVs and minibuses to fit a variety of transport needs. The vehicle can then be delivered direct to your door anywhere in the UK and special rates are available for regular or extended vehicle hire.

**For more information on wheelchair accessible and adapted vehicle hire:**  
 Tel 0800 916 0041  
 Email [info@alliedmobility.com](mailto:info@alliedmobility.com)  
 Web [www.alliedmobility.com](http://www.alliedmobility.com)

# Hire A WAV

- ✔ **Vehicles for short or longer term hire**
- ✔ **Wide range of wheelchair accessible cars and adapted cars & MPVs**
- ✔ **Delivery to you - anywhere in the UK**

**0800 916 0041**  
[www.alliedmobility.com](http://www.alliedmobility.com)

# NEWS ROUND-UP



## Which? Airport is Best?

An investigation by consumer group Which? Travel has found wheelchair users who require assistance while at the airport are receiving an unreliable service.

Two wheelchair users carried out an undercover investigation on domestic flights around the UK to test the assistance offered. Amongst other things one of the undercover wheelchair users was left outside in the cold for some time at Leeds Bradford Airport before being helped onto the plane.

The investigation has led to calls for UK airports to improve the assistance offered to disabled passengers.

## Ben Nevis Challenge

Twelve pairs of wheelchair users and able-bodied climbers are aiming to take on Britain's highest challenge by scaling Ben Nevis. The 2011 Bowmore Ben Nevis event is being organised by disability charity Capability Scotland, with support from whisky distillery Bowmore.

Taking place in August of this year, participants are being led by ex-SAS man and TV presenter Ken Hames.

The twelve teams of six will be led by disabled people who have various mobility impairments, including wheelchair users. The group are hoping to beat the £100,000 raised in the 2008 challenge.



## New Funding for Disabled Children

Families with disabled children in Scotland are set to benefit from an extra two million pounds worth of government funding. The money is being targeted to provide short breaks for parents and families living with disability.

The new funding will be available from this year and is aimed at improving the lives of disabled children and their families. Voluntary groups are being invited to come forward with respite proposals to be funded by the new investment.



## The Sound of Music

Researchers from the University of Edinburgh have developed a new instrument to make music more accessible for disabled children.

Colourful and squeezable, the Skoog is a robust cube that is sensitive to the slightest touch. The result of research carried out at various schools, the cube gives severely disabled children the opportunity to play music, something which many would be unable to do using traditional instruments.



# Have it Your Way

**The Peugeot Independence™ MPV from Allied Mobility has grown in popularity to become one of the most popular wheelchair accessible vehicles on the Motability Scheme. When you look at the options open to you with the Independence, it's clear to see why!**

*Independence™* is based on the spacious Peugeot Expert Tepee MPV. This popular people carrier makes an ideal choice for larger families or small groups who want a vehicle which is fully wheelchair accessible and offers plenty of room.

### **Choice is Yours**

The Independence™ offers handy solutions for many challenges facing those looking for the perfect vehicle as it offers a choice of seating layouts and vehicle lengths.

The seating in *Independence™* can be laid out in a number of different ways, depending on

your needs. The wheelchair space can be at the rear of the vehicle or further forward, next to the front seats. There is also an SE model which has a lowered floor section for the wheelchair user to sit on, which is perfect for those who need added head room. The *Independence™* is also available in a plus model which gives added space where needed.

Our specialist mobility advisors will help you choose the ideal model for you. This can include anything up to seven seats plus a wheelchair passenger. There's even a two-wheelchair option as well.



### **Safety is Paramount**

As with all wheelchair accessible vehicles from Allied Mobility, the Independence™ includes a wealth of accessibility features, no matter which option you go for. *Independence™* comes with lowering suspension and a lightweight EasyFold™ wheelchair ramp. Together these create an incredibly low ramp gradient, making it much easier to push a wheelchair into the vehicle. The *Independence™* also includes rear parking sensors, which Allied Mobility now includes as standard on all of our wheelchair accessible vehicles.

If you're looking for a larger vehicle which offers flexibility and safety then why not request a demonstration of the *Independence™*. Our nationwide team of mobility consultants is on hand to let you try any of our vehicles, at your own home, anywhere in the UK.

### **For more information on the Independence**

Call  
**0800 916 0041**  
Email  
[info@alliedmobility.com](mailto:info@alliedmobility.com)  
Web  
[www.alliedmobility.com](http://www.alliedmobility.com)

# Going for Gold at 2012 Paralympics



London is getting set to welcome the world's best Paralympic athletes next year as the city hosts the 2012 Paralympic Games. The Games are set to feature 20 sports ranging from volleyball and swimming through to judo and shooting.

With just over a year to go until the Paralympics games kick off we take a look at some team GB hopefuls as they aim for gold.



## GORDON REID

AGE: 17  
FROM: HELENSBURGH, SCOTLAND  
SPORT: TENNIS

**CAREER:** This young tennis player is already making a name for himself after becoming the youngest ever national wheelchair tennis champion in 2007. He also won the Junior Masters and qualified for the Beijing Paralympics in 2008.

Gordon is currently second in the junior world rankings. Gordon took up wheelchair tennis after suffering a spinal condition at the age of 12.

**GOAL FOR 2012 PARALYMPIC GAMES – TO BE ON THE MEDALS PODIUM.**



## ELLIE SIMMONDS

AGE: 16  
FROM: WALSALL, WEST MIDLANDS  
SPORT: SWIMMING (FREESTYLE)

**CAREER:** Ellie's medal list is impressively long. After winning two golds at the Games in Beijing in 2008, aged just 13, Ellie went on to win four golds, two silvers and a bronze at the World Championships in 2010.

Ellie currently holds the world record for the 400m freestyle, 100m freestyle and 200m medley. Following her success Ellie was awarded an MBE, making her the youngest person ever to receive this honour. This inspiring young athlete, who has achondroplasia, is hoping to add to her medal haul at the 2012 Games and is definitely one to watch.

**GOAL FOR 2012 PARALYMPIC GAMES – TO WIN GOLD**



## LEE PEARSON

AGE: 37  
FROM: STAFFORDSHIRE  
SPORT: DRESSAGE

**CAREER:** Since making his competitive debut in 1998, Lee has competed in three Paralympic Games and collected an impressive 27 gold medals.

In 2005 Lee was awarded an OBE and in 2009 was made a CBE. Lee was born with arthrogryposis, which limits movement in his legs and ankles, but this has not stopped him from becoming the world's most successful Paralympic dressage rider.

**GOAL FOR 2012 PARALYMPIC GAMES – TO WIN GOLD**



**A small national charity is helping to make a big difference to disabled children by providing young wheelchair-users with free training so they can lead more independent lives.**

With their motto 'Independence through Mobility', Go Kids Go! has highly skilled trainers who teach children essential skills for living with a wheelchair. The courses aim to develop skills in wheelchair control, dealing with difficult situations and improving awareness.

Go Kids Go!, or the Association of Wheelchair Children as they were formally known, has been a registered charity since 1990 and, over the years, has helped thousands of children across the UK and Ireland.

### **Happy Birthday**

The charity will celebrate its 21st birthday in June of this year and is proud that, in these difficult economic times, it has not only survived but also consistently increases the number of young wheelchair-users and their families it is able to help.

The skills and support offered by the charity are unique, helpful and fun. The courses bring together parents, carers, siblings and friends who are encouraged to take part in the training so everyone involved can benefit from the courses.

### **Life-changing Skills**

Dan Lucker, who has taken part in courses run by Go Kids Go!, commented: "At the age of seven I became fed up of being pushed around in my wheelchair by my parents. I went along to one of their training courses and by the end of the first day I was amazed at how much I could do myself. I believe that their courses really helped me gain the confidence I have today."

Now a talented wheelchair racer Dan continued: "When you want something in life you really have to go and get it and never let anything hold you back, especially your mobility. The London 2012 Paralympics is my goal now!"

Go Kids Go! also works with schools and professionals to highlight disability issues especially those relating to young wheelchair-users. The trainers and volunteers are available after training to provide advice and support. The charity does not charge the families who attend their courses and is entirely reliant on donations to fund its work. For more information visit [www.go-kids-go.org.uk](http://www.go-kids-go.org.uk)

*Allied Mobility is pleased to support Go Kids Go! by contributing towards their work.*



# Access for All

**FREE**  
PARKING SENSORS  
ON ALL NEW VEHICLES



**Motability**  
WHEELCHAIR  
ACCESSIBLE  
VEHICLE PARTNER  
**WINNER 2010**

## FREE Home Demonstrations



**UK WIDE**

**Now Available in Automatic**



INCLUDES ORIGINAL SEATS AND WINCH

**LOWEST WAV ADVANCE PAYMENT ON MOTABILITY**

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