

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We will be taking part in the following exhibitions during 2009. We look forward to welcoming you onto our stand and showing you the best of the world's mobility and seating solutions.

PMG
Warwick University
16/17 April

NAIDEX
NEC, Birmingham
28/30 April

Mobility Roadshow
Kemble Airfield
4/6 June

NAEP
Blackpool
16/18 June

Kidz up North
Bolton
26 November

**BENGT ENGSTRÖM
MAKES A STAND FOR
SITTING**

Gerald Simonds recently presented a series of free, one day seating seminars for therapists and other specialists, featuring Bengt Engström, the world renowned physio-therapist in the field of ergonomics and the principles of seating. Having committed much of his life to seating and mobility for people with disabilities, Bengt Engström now specialises in educating professionals and other individuals on long term seating for wheelchair users, through his interactive and stimulating seminars, which have taken him all over the world.

The seminars, presented to capacity audiences of OTs and other mobility and seating professionals in Manchester, Nottingham and York, covered ergonomic principles in seating, practical biomechanics in analysing sitting positions and active and inactive seating with



Bengt Engström with a full audience at the Nottingham seminar focus on pressure relief. They were followed by practical, hands on workshops which explored the Vicair range of wheelchair seating products. The seminars were welcomed as a source of new information and a new way of thinking about wheelchair seating.

If you are an OT, mobility or seating specialist and would like details of this year's programme of Bengt Engström seminars, please contact us on 01296 380239.

LIGHTWEIGHT WHEELCHAIRS

POWERCHAIRS

STAND UP WHEELCHAIRS

COMFORT WHEELCHAIRS

POWERDRIVES

WHEELCHAIR SEATING

PRESSURE AREA CARE

WALKING AIDS

The
SPOKESMAN



Aids to daily living, designed to make life easier.



**GS DIRECT IS
NOW ON LINE.**

Log on today and **save 10% on everything!**

The on-line source for ADL products, with the same standards of quality, service and value you expect from Gerald Simonds.

Welcome to **GS Direct**, the online face of Gerald Simonds. As the leading UK supplier of the world's best mobility and seating solutions, we don't sell our assessed, rehab products on line. However, we are often asked if we can supply everyday items to assist daily living, so we created **GS Direct**, your on-line source for ADL products, with the same standards of quality, service and value you expect from Gerald Simonds.

Our aim is to be the most reliable single source for rehabilitation solutions; everything you need to make life easier, with the best customer experience and most personalised service available. **GS Direct** is designed for people with disabilities, older people,

people with injuries or those who look after people with difficulties. We supply a wide range of aids to daily living, including kitchen equipment, clothing, toileting, moving and handling and adapted bathroom equipment and many other devices designed to help people maintain their independence. We also supply a range of orthopaedic supports to assist in recovery from a range of physical injuries.

GS Direct is now up and running. Log on to **www.gs-direct.co.uk** and take a look at our catalogue. For the first four weeks, every item is reduced by 10%, so come on in and grab yourself a bargain.

Log on to **www.gs-direct.co.uk**

RE: CYCLING



The **Bromakin** range of specialist handcycles is now available from Gerald Simonds, allowing customers to experience the sense of freedom and well being that comes from getting out and about. Visit our website on **www.gerald-simonds.co.uk** for more details.



THE ULTIMATE, ULTIMATE RIDE

New, and ultra exclusive, only 110 **Z10s** will be built, as a celebration of **TiLite's** 10th anniversary. Created for those who appreciate fine design, the limited edition Z10 is hand-crafted from seamless, aerospace-grade titanium and exists as a platform to showcase cutting-edge technologies not seen on any other TiLite, let alone any other wheelchair.

The Z10 stands as testimony to the innovative and creative designs that have made TiLite the ultimate ride, making it the *ultimate*, ultimate ride. Contact us for more details or visit **www.1of110.com**.

IT'S TIME YOU SPOKE UP!

We've always intended **The Spokesman** to be a dialogue, between us at Gerald Simonds and you, our current or future customers and friends. We see it as an opportunity for us to tell you about new developments in mobility and seating and for you to tell us about how you use them. Or how they could be improved. Or what else you would like to see.

We want to hear from you, whatever you have to say. This is your part of The Spokesman and we want you to use it. You can contact us by writing to The Editor, Spokesman, Gerald Simonds Healthcare Ltd., FREEPOST, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 3BR or by emailing: **spokesman@gerald-simonds.co.uk**.



GERALD SIMONDS

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LATEST IPOD WINNERS

Lucky winner, David Davis, with grandson Oliver

In recent months two lucky visitors to our website (www.gerald-simonds.co.uk) have won iPods, simply by completing our on-line customer survey.

Ian Denison of Cheltenham, until recently a civil servant with the Job Centre before retiring for health reasons, was very surprised to hear news of his win. 'I was actually thinking of buying an iPod', said Ian, 'so it was very good timing. It's the first thing I've ever won.' Ian now listens regularly to his music collection, mainly 70s rock from artists such as Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin.

David Davis of Ibstone near High Wycombe was also delighted with his win. His wife Jenny tells us: 'we were so pleased to have won it. Things like that don't usually happen to us'. Jenny kindly sent us this picture of grandson Oliver showing David how to use his iPod.

For your chance to win an iPod, log on to



our website, click on 'Win an iPod' and complete the simple on-line customer survey. The information we receive is very useful to us and helps us to continually improve the service we offer to our customers. Good luck and we look forward to hearing from you.

ADVENTURE ON THE ROCKIE ROAD

Canada's Rockies Mountains may not seem the most accessible place to visit, but Kathy Longley from Bath found that her Alber Adventure gave her the freedom to access and explore the heart of the Canadian wilderness.

Kathy has had her Adventure for about eighteen months. 'I read about it in a magazine and thought it would be ideal for my lifestyle,' she explained. 'I absolutely love travelling.' Kathy is a freelance writer, mainly on medical and scientific issues. 'I had to go to a medical conference in Canada,' said Kathy, 'and decided to add on some time to travel round the area with Paul, my partner. I take every opportunity I can to explore and I was determined to take the Adventure with me.'

On the long haul flight to Calgary the Adventure was stowed in the hold in one piece. On other, more local flights, such as on Kathy's recent trip to Dublin, the Adventure was easily disassembled to go in the hold.

'When we arrived we had some trouble finding a hire car big enough,' went on Kathy. 'However, I'd taken my ramps with me and we eventually found a large 4 x 4 vehicle, put the seats down

and ramped the Adventure in. We then left it in the car, taking the batteries into where we were staying, for security and to recharge overnight.'

Kathy's first site of the Rockies made all the travelling worthwhile. 'The views left me speechless,' she said. 'Majestic, snow capped mountains rising from vast expanses of forest and emerald green lakes.' The province of Alberta is leading the way in making the Canadian wilderness more accessible. There were many well-maintained trails and wheelchair-friendly facilities in even the remotest of carparks.

'Using the Adventure meant we could go out all day on really long walks. It was great, really easy. It allowed me to be completely independent. My partner Paul goes roller blading and jogging and, at eight miles an hour, the Adventure allows me to keep up,' said Kathy. 'We even went up a mountain by Lake Louise, the highest accessible point in the area. I needed a bit of help to get over logs and other big obstacles but the Adventure was superb. I am now in a lot of photo albums as other people on the trail couldn't believe that I could get to such remote places and took lots of pictures of us. The Adventure gave me the freedom to travel on any trails and the batteries lasted all day.' And the Adventure didn't only perform in the great outdoors. 'It was fine around town as well,' said Kathy. 'I used the 'Home' setting in places like museums and restaurants. It truly gave me freedom and independence. It was brilliant.'



Photograph by Paul Ip

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MORE POWER TO YOUR ELBOW

The new Alber **e-motion M15**, the latest version of the e-motion powerdrive from Gerald Simonds, combines ease of mobility with therapeutic benefit. **e-motion M15** fits most commercially available manual wheelchairs, so even users with limited strength can move around independently in their own customised chair. Powerful, wheel mounted motors mean that minimal effort is required to push the chair and users can travel longer distances, negotiating slopes and ramps easily and without assistance.



State of the art lithium-ion batteries give massively increased range - up to 15 miles depending on conditions. Each push on the wheel is detected by **e-motion's** intelligent sensors and converted to the required degree of power assistance, while power assisted braking makes driving down a steep slope a safe and relaxing experience.

e-Motion's small fixing brackets do not affect the dynamics of the chair when in manual mode and the wheels with integrated batteries can be detached and stowed away in the boot of a car in a matter of seconds.

Contact us FREE on 0800 220975 for more details or to arrange a demonstration.



SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH SEES ASSESSMENT FOR WHIZZ-KIDZ

Whizz-Kidz
move a life forward

Secretary of State for Health, Alan Johnson recently visited the Whizz-Kidz centre at Mile End Hospital in London to see how they carried out paediatric assessments on children under 16.

Whizz-Kidz is a national charity dedicated to giving disabled children and young people the independence to enjoy an active childhood. They are contracted to run the centre on behalf of Tower Hamlets PCT

and Alan Johnson wanted to see for himself if the model could be applied elsewhere.

Gerald Simonds' Seating and Mobility Specialist Andy Roberts was invited to carry out the assessments and the Health Secretary saw him set up young clients in a Levo LCEV standing chair and in two manual wheelchairs with Alber e-Motion add on power wheels.

Mr Johnson commented that he was very impressed with the assessment procedures and that the visit had opened his eyes to an important area of paediatric care.



Secretary of State for Health, Alan Johnson

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