

## SNOW JOB FOR ANYONE

Despite the onset of global warming, we still seem set to have some hard winters but, with Gerald Simonds, you will be well equipped to face the snow.

The new **Joy On the Beach (JOB)** - the original beach wheelchair - is equipped with innovative balloon wheels, making it easy to move on every kind of surface - EVEN SNOW! Great fun to use, the JOB comes apart easily so it can be transported in small vehicles.

The **Alber Adventure** power chair is durable and reliable at the best of times but can now provide the benefits of comfort, driving safety and traction even in the depths of winter, with the addition of optional snow chains.

Get ready for the white stuff. Call us FREE on 0800 220975 for more details.



A scene from the JOB winter video

## BENGT ENGSTRÖM SITTING SEMINARS

Bengt Engström, world renowned physiotherapist in the field of ergonomics and the principles of seating, recently presented another series of Gerald Simonds Seating Seminars for therapists and other specialists.

Presented to capacity audiences of OTs and other mobility and seating professionals in Belfast, Liverpool, Maidstone Gatwick and Swindon, the seminars covered ergonomic principles in seating, practical biomechanics in analysing sitting positions and active and inactive seating with focus on pressure relief. They were welcomed as a source of new information and a new way of thinking about wheelchair seating.

Subsequent hands on workshops also explored the full range of Vicair wheelchair seating products.

Bengt Engström at the Swindon seminar



## 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](mailto:spokesman@gerald-simonds.co.uk).

LIGHTWEIGHT WHEELCHAIRS

POWERCHAIRS

STAND UP WHEELCHAIRS

COMFORT WHEELCHAIRS

POWERDRIVES

WHEELCHAIR SEATING

PRESSURE AREA CARE

WALKING AIDS

# The SPOKESMAN

With best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year from everyone at Gerald Simonds.

## NEW WEBSITE TAKES TO THE AIR

Following the successful launch of GS Direct, the one-stop, on-line source for ADL products ([www.gs-direct.co.uk](http://www.gs-direct.co.uk)), we have revisited the existing home website for Gerald Simonds and given it a complete makeover. The new site ([www.gerald-simonds.co.uk](http://www.gerald-simonds.co.uk)) is lighter, brighter and easier to use. It's full of useful information on our full range of products and services and you will be able to download brochures with full specifications.

We will also be adding a range of interactive options including a dedicated Gerald Simonds blog where you will be able to have your say.

Log on to [www.gerald-simonds.co.uk](http://www.gerald-simonds.co.uk)



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Lara in her new TiLite - pre-pimping!

**Lara Masters is a freelance writer, actress and presenter, and co-owner of a burlesque fashion label. She has worked in the media for several years as the first disabled presenter in mainstream television, from the BBC's Summer Holiday through to That's Esther on ITV, which she hosted with Esther Rantzen and disabled model Heather Mills. Lara was also a judge on the BBC series 'Britain's Missing Top Model'.**

Lara has been an active spokesperson on disability matters both on screen and in print, discussing perceptions of disability and the social and cultural problems faced by disabled people. She has spoken about disability rights in places such as the European Parliament in Brussels, and the House of Lords.

Gerald Simonds are pleased to be supporting Lara, who recently took delivery of a TiLite 2GX chair with e-Motion wheels. Lara writes a regular lifestyle column for the on-line version of Marie Claire, the monthly women's magazine, and it wasn't long before the TiLite made an appearance. . . !

## LARA MASTERS TRAVELS LIGHT WITH TILITE

Extract from Marie Claire on-line

I went to Nice in the south of France. It was the first time I've been on a plane for over 3 years. The reasons I haven't flown for so long are a) I have fear of flying and, b) my power wheelchair was too cumbersome to travel with.

I solved these problems by a) alcohol and b) getting a lightweight wheelchair. It took time to find a chair to meet my requirements but voila my sexy new wheels (see photo) - a made-to-measure TiLite 2GX from Gerald Simonds with an E-Fix power pack so it can switch from manual to electric. This is it pre-pimping - the reflectors are so gone and it's being covered in skulls and roses.

Things have changed considerably since my last flying experience. I was especially surprised by the

erotic massage I received at security before I was whisked off to a private room for a more thorough prodding. I felt a bit cheap when I wasn't asked for my number.

At the airport on the way back our flight was delayed due to "technical difficulties". French airport security did not like the cut of my jib at all. They took my chair apart, put it in an x-ray machine, called in the Army and sniffer dogs to examine it and took me off to a private "cabine" for 3rd-date style feeling up. French friskers are certainly, shall we say, committed to their job - how I got out of there without a marriage proposal I don't know.

Now when I fly, if I don't get 'searched' I shall think I'm losing my touch! 'Scuse the pun.

## CUSTOM AND EXERCISE



Stuart Wheeler, with colleague Ryan Pritchard, gets off-road with his TiLite All-Terrain chair.

Part of the Gerald Simonds difference is that every wheelchair we supply is specified and built to the requirements of each customer. Stuart Wheeler (left) recently took delivery of a specially built **TiLite All-Terrain** chair. Stuart loves the outdoor life and wanted a chair that would allow him get off the beaten track. Working as an advisor with the Back-Up Trust, a national charity that aims to rebuild confidence and independence following devastating spinal cord injuries, Stuart often accompanies people with SCI on outdoor courses to National Parks.

Based on the TiLite TR, the All-Terrain chair has bigger, off-road tyres and an extended frame to help with balance. It takes the same time to build as a standard TiLite chair.

'I love getting out in the country, by rivers and into woods,' said Stuart, who is paralysed T4/5/6. 'The new TiLite really helps. The front castors roll over any obstacles and the large back wheels give a good grip. It's a different movement to push, but you soon get used to it.'

Nesad Causevic, Mobility and Manual Product Specialist at Gerald Simonds worked with Stuart to assess his specific requirements. 'We can supply these very specialised chairs which are built precisely to meet the needs of the customer,' he explained. 'And it's not just for manual chairs. I'm currently working with customers on two All Terrain chairs, one with Alber e-Motion, and one with Alber e-Fix, add-on power drives. That will give them the best of all worlds.'

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## I'LL SECOND THAT E-MOTION

At last you can have your cake and eat it. Yes, thanks to the great God Technology, it's possible to have all the manoeuvrability, lightness and compactness of one of today's set-you-free wheelchairs, with the power of shoulder-protecting, energy-saving electric motors.

The idea, like most beautiful breakthroughs, is simple – so simple it only took a group of German engineers a decade or so to get right.

The new **Alber e-Motion M15** is for those who still want the exercise of pushing their chair (albeit with power assistance) while the **Alber e-Fix** is for those who want their help served up complete with a joy-stick, so they can have control without the effort of participating in moving along.

I'm stunned by how little is really understood about the primary Alber benefit. Its great virtue is that it delays the onset of having to have a big, old, heavier than a horse, regular power chair. I know they are not all out of the ark and as backward as the pre-digital age, but even the new super duper models do a pretty good imitation of a tank.

I've nothing against them, if you need that level of help, but I reckon

too many people abandon the relative freedom of a manual chair for the virtual imprisonment of a heavy-duty humper, long before they need to. It's a shame, especially when there's the problem-solving relief and oomph of Alber at hand.

I've enjoyed the early Alber wheels for a few years now and I owe them many a happy trip to pastures new and places familiar, through which I could never have pushed without power assistance.

The new Alber M15 is a remarkable advance. It's got the same old dependability. I never had so much as an electric sneeze in five years. It still fits easily to most makes of wheelchair, rigid or folding. All it takes is the fitting of a cleverly designed bracket for each axle, and your new Alber quick-release wheels can be slipped on and off and speedily revert to normal wheels should you ever want to.

The M15 has a vastly improved battery life. It's more powerful and goes up to 10 miles before needing a recharge. And it charges quicker too. All thanks to long lasting lithium-ion batteries. The new wheels come as complete units, integrated battery and powerful motor in one. They are lighter by over 2lb a wheel and thinner so they take up less of your chair's precious width space.

There's been precious little since mother love that actually adds to the quality of wheelchair user's life. All right, there have been all sorts of aids that have made our lives more bearable, and I'm appreciative of them. But for me, maintaining independence with my mobility comes top.



Three weeks before his seventeenth birthday Barry Brooks broke his neck, C6/7, and became paralysed. He went on to specialise in writing TV commercials, having worked on some of the world's top brands and eventually running his own agency in the heart of London. He also found time to travel widely and win a couple of Olympic swimming medals! He now sits on government tribunals and still finds time to write. He recently sent us his (completely independent!) views on the new Alber e-Motion M15.

## NEW JAY J3 BACK - TO THE FUTURE

**When buying a back, most people expect it to work without complication.**

The shell to fit just right, the hardware to mount easily, contouring to match exactly and moving the back on and off the chair to be effortless. For many products, this is the ideal not the reality . . . until the new **Jay J3 back**, now available from Gerald Simonds.

The new J3 back is the most comprehensive combination of individual shell sizes, positioning capabilities and adjustable hardware ever assembled. Designed for users from the active to the elderly, the J3 Back features an extremely versatile hardware package and flexible

positioning system dedicated to eliminating compromises such as towel bars that interfere with the mounting hardware, backrest contours that fail to match the user or even back heights that are too tall or too short. This incredible range eliminates compromises and guarantees a correct fit almost every time.

Fitting the back to the user not the user to the back is the goal of the Spine-Align Posture Conforming system. This is accomplished by combining a wide range of individual foam components to create unique shapes that optimise postural support, evenly distribute pressure, and maximise function. Velcro strips attach to each shape so they can be placed into hundreds of configurations. The flexibility of the system is boundless. Call us FREE on 0800 220975 for a demonstration or more details



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