

DRIFFIELD
M  **BILITY**

Newsletter

July - September 2023



Summer Update from Driffield Mobility

It's hard to believe how quickly the last three months have gone! We hope you enjoyed your summer, as it was certainly a busy time for us at Driffield Mobility. In this quarter's newsletter, we want to share some of our recent activities with you. Additionally, we've included some helpful articles and links to services and government schemes that we believe you'll find beneficial.

In this issue

- We are recruiting!
- Visit to Motability One Big Day
- The Little People UK conference
- Travelling abroad with a scooter - Team member Rich's blog
- Access to work - The government fund for disabled people
- Mobility Scooters -Special offers and getting ready for winter

Role - Apprentice Workshop Engineer

Profile

An opportunity has arisen for an apprentice to join a team of engineers in Driffield. Driffield Mobility specialise in vehicle adaptations for disabled drivers and passengers. You will be working for a well established, reputable and friendly business. The ideal candidate will be interested in engineering, fabricating and motor vehicles. Hours of work will be 8:30am – 5pm Monday to Friday.

Development Opportunities

You will be working towards a level 3 qualification as an engineering fitter, this will entail learning how to install adaptations to vehicles; such as wheelchair/scooter hoists and driving adaptations. You will learn how to fit specialist equipment direct into the vehicles electrical wiring, make and use bespoke fabrications and gain the ability to read and interpret engineering drawings and instructions. You will deal with our customers that need our adaptations to maintain their independence. Working with vehicles on a daily basis, you will be required to learn how to drive.

Key Interests

- Mechanical exposure working on vehicles
- Fabrication skills
- Vehicles
- Electrical wiring
- hand tools
- health & safety

Competencies

- Level 2 Engineering qualification
- Full driving license or working towards
- You will have good communication skills
- Keen interest in how vehicles work
- Previous customer service experience
- You will be computer literate
- Desire to learn Additional Information
- You will have a comfortable working environment with a friendly team.
- In-house and external training will be provided
- The Company believe in rewarding their staff well to retain and progress within the business.



CONTACT US

Damian and Rich from our team hit up this year's Motability One Big Day Events at the Yorkshire Event Centre in August. It's like a playground of mobility magic, where folks with mobility issues can scope out the latest in mobility innovations all in one spot.

In Hall One, over 20 car manufacturers showed off their wheels available through the Motability scheme, ranging from cute compacts like the GWM Ora Funky Cat to the electric Ford Mustang Mach E. Plus, there were plenty of suppliers of mobility aids, wheelchairs, and scooters, complete with a test track with ramps and obstacles to spin around on...contd



GWM Ora Funky Cat



Ford Mustang Mach E



Hall Two was packed with wheelchair-accessible vehicle converters like Sirius and Allied Mobility. And, we're not done yet! There were also tons of manufacturers and suppliers of vehicle adaptations, represented by companies like Lodgesons and Autochair.

It was great to see the event was so busy and well attended. with new Vehicle manufacturers being added to the motability list and we personally thought it was great to see a Drive from wheelchair WAV being displayed for the first time.

These Motability One Big Day events happen annually in Birmingham, Edinburgh, Harrogate, and Northern Ireland. And if you want to stay in the loop for the 2024 events, you can register for updates here:



Annual Conference

Earlier in the year we received an invitation to attend the Little People UK (LPUK) annual conference and Expo held over 3 days in Nottingham.

The LPUK is a charitable organisation whose main Patron is actor Warwick Davis. They provide support to people with Dwarfism and their families, They organise regular get togethers and events as well as disseminating helpful information on a wide range of lifestyle subjects including medical advances.



So on 26th August, Team members Charlotte, Damian, Rich and daughter Cherry took our adapted Ford CMAX to Nottingham to show the range of adaptations that can be done to vehicles for people of short stature.





Our team had the pleasure of attending an event where we were able to meet a diverse range of people. From experienced drivers who had questions about the latest adaptation technology, to younger members who were approaching driving age, we were happy to help both them and their parents by allowing them to sit in the CMAX and test out different adaptations.



Charlotte and Damian, with their years of industry experience, were able to provide helpful insights not just about adaptations, but also about wider subjects such as the Motability scheme and grants. Cherry enjoyed putting together the goody bags and handing them out to guests.



Rich was invited to participate in a Q&A session alongside a panel of experts in various fields including surgeons, geneticists and nutritionists. While there were questions about driving, Rich's background in powerlifting led to discussions about the benefits of exercise in pain management.



We were warmly welcomed and had a great time meeting all these wonderful people. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

[click here to visit the LPUK website](#)



Flying with your scooter

For those with mobility challenges, taking your mobility scooter or powered wheelchair with you may be essential in order to maintain your independence abroad. This may seem daunting if you have never travelled with a mobility aid on an airline before.

Team member Rich used to travel abroad with his manual wheelchair. In July he took a mobility scooter with him when he took his daughter on holiday to Tunisia at the end of August,

He sent us a video blog of his experiences which you can see by clicking the picture . There are quite a few rules and regulations regarding batteries etc when taking them on aircraft, so here are some handy tips to help you on your way to less stressful travel experience...





Travel Tips

- Firstly check the battery type of your scooter. Airlines have a limit of the Watt Hour output of around 300 wh. This is calculated by multiplying the voltage by the battery amps for example a 24v 10amp battery is 240wh.
- Dry cell batteries can remain attached to the scooter when it is put in the aircraft hold, lithium batteries must be removable and carried within the cabin.
- Check the height of your scooter in its folded position with your airline..for example Ryan Air's limits are: "The dimensions of the wheelchair when collapsed must not exceed 81cms (height), 119cms (width) and 119cms (depth). Size restrictions for Wheelchairs/Mobility Scooters are due to the aircraft maximum door opening dimensions."
- Let your airline know as early as possible that you will be travelling, no later than 48 hours prior.
- Book assisted service with your airline or airport. They will help check your scooter in and fast track you through security in the UK. You'll then be able to use your scooter up to boarding the aircraft where the keys will be taken out and handed to you before it is loaded into the hold.
- At your destination airport your scooter/wheelchair may be brought up to the aircraft door but you may have to use a wheelchair provided by the assisted service team whilst your scooter is unloaded. This will be brought to you in the baggage claim area.
- Final tips. The lighter and smaller the scooter the better, ideally a made for purpose travel scooter. As an alternative look into costs and ease of hiring a scooter at your destination



Access to work

If you are an employer of a member of staff or an employee that requires additional equipment or support in the work place, the Government Access To Work grant scheme may be able to help. We were recently able to gain funding to provide equipment and Taxis to and from work for a Team member whilst they were recovering and unable to drive following shoulder replacement surgery enabling a speedier return to work.

What is Access to Work?

Access to Work can help you get or stay in work if you have a physical or mental health condition or disability. The support you get will depend on your needs. Through Access to Work, you can apply for:

- a grant to help pay for practical support with your work
- support with managing your mental health at work
- money to pay for communication support at job interviews

Practical support with your work

Access to Work could give you a grant to help pay for things like:

- specialist equipment and assistive software
- support workers, like a BSL interpreter, a job coach or a travel buddy
- costs of travelling to work, if you cannot use public transport
- adaptations to your vehicle so you can get to work
- physical changes to your workplace

Your workplace can include your home if you work from there some or all of the time.

It does not matter how much you earn. If you get an Access to Work grant, it will not affect any other benefits you get and you will not have to pay it back.

You or your employer may need to pay some costs up front and claim them back later.

Mental health support

You can get support to manage your mental health at work, which might include:

- a tailored plan to help you get or stay in work
- one-to-one sessions with a mental health professional

Communication support for job interviews

Access to Work can help pay for communication support at a job interview if:

- you're deaf or hard of hearing and need a BSL interpreter or lipspeaker
- you have a physical or mental health condition or learning difficulty and need communication support



Click to read
our blog



click for more info, eligibility,
how and when to apply



DRIFFIELD MOBILITY

*Is your scooter
ready for winter?*



Read on for Tips 



Winter is coming

Maintaining Your Mobility Scooter's Batteries in Cold Weather

Your mobility scooter's batteries are crucial to its operation, but they're also vulnerable to the cold. These tips will help keep your batteries in tip-top shape and ready to take you on your winter's outings:

- Charge your batteries regularly. Failure to do so may result in damage and reduce the battery's maximum charge. Even if your mobility scooter is idle for an extended period, you should still check on the battery and charge it as needed.
- Leave your batteries charging up until you need to take your scooter out. Cold batteries are more prone to damage and have a reduced range. Charging the battery helps keep it warm when temperatures drop.

Tyres

During the colder months, tyres are more susceptible to damage. Here are some tips to keep them in top condition:

- Check your tyres regularly for wear and tear.
- If you have pneumatic tyres make sure that they have appropriate pressure so as to provide optimal grip in icy/wet conditions.

How to Keep Your Mobility Scooter Clean and Dry

As a mobility scooter owner, it's important to maintain your device's condition to prevent rust and other issues. Here are some helpful tips to ensure your scooter stays in top shape:

- After being out in the rain or snow, make sure to dry off your scooter to prevent rusting and water damage. It's best to avoid riding through puddles to prevent water from entering the electrical components, especially the battery compartment. Make sure to dry it out after use.
- Although the control panel may be water-resistant protect it with a waterproof cover to keep it dry and functioning properly.
- Clean your scooter after every use to remove any mud or dirt that can accumulate and potentially harm important components.

Storage Tips for Your Scooter

To prevent rust and damage, it's important to keep your scooter dry. Store it indoors in a dry space such as a shed or garage, or a mobility scooter garage if available. If indoor storage is not possible, protect your scooter from the elements with a scooter cover.

If you prefer to have your mobility scooter checked over by professionals, we offer full servicing and battery testing. Call our friendly team today



01377 252500



Tiller Cover



Scooter Cover



Seat Cover



Leg Cosy



Hand Muff



Poncho



Walking Stick
Ice Grip



Wheelchair/scooter
cup holder



Flashing Cane
Tips



Daylight
lamp



Introducing the Ignite:
The Ignite is the ultimate winter ride, featuring large 14-inch wheels and all-terrain suspension for maximum comfort. Additionally, it comes equipped with **heated seat**, dual USB charging sockets, a drink holder, and boasts an impressive range of up to 40 miles on a single charge.

Keep in touch...

You can keep up to date with all our news, information videos and more with the links below:



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