



## **LUNAR ADAPTED CAR HIRE COMPANY**

I remember the date very well it was 18<sup>th</sup> February 1983, a day which would change the course of my life and that of my then girlfriend now wife forever.

That was the day that Noelle was 21 years old and waking with excitement tried to leap out of bed only to find she couldn't move. As it turned out this was her first attack of Multiple Sclerosis, some 21<sup>st</sup> birthday present!

At the time we were both students and this episode passed in a few weeks without a diagnosis being given. It wasn't until 3 years or so later after we had got married and moved to London that the second attack eventually resulted in us being told what it was, not that we really understood or wanted to understand what this meant.

Today, 24 years later, having gone through the pain, tears and hopelessness together and having emerged stronger and more in love than ever, we have used our experiences to establish this new business.

Over the years as Noelle's MS has progressed she has moved from being able to drive to being a wheelchair passenger in an accessible vehicle and has had various cars with hand controls in between. With our advancement in years and therefore experience we have come to realise that whilst it is relatively easy to buy an adapted car either privately or through Motability, it is impossible to rent a similar vehicle in the same way as other people in society can from the likes of Hertz, on a daily or weekly basis.

Finally, with the advent of part III of the Disability Discrimination act being implemented in December 2006, it seemed to us that from being something which ought to be available adapted cars were something that now had to be made available.

We realise that at present there is little demand for such cars but this is, in our view, only because the expectations of those with disabilities is so low and hence our job is to increase that expectation and ignite that demand from people who will never before have had this choice in their lives.

We consider that as people who have personal, first hand experience of the freedoms which these vehicles can give to an individual or family then we are perfectly placed to run this business efficiently and effectively but also with compassion and real understanding of people's needs. It's not about the vehicles we can provide but about the freedom and liberation which they can bring which is important to us.

Richard Emmerson (Director)