

# Motoring Motability

sponsored  
by



OF  
WINDSOR

01753 800600



■ **DECISIONS:** Francis Gahan with the model he thinks he'll go for – another Vauxhall Corsa.

2099/a

MANY people are under the misapprehension that in order to qualify for a Mobility allowance or a Motability vehicle that a driver needs to have a severe disability requiring a specially-modified vehicle.

This is not the case. People with any nobility difficulty who receive the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance receive an allowance towards the additional cost of their mobility needs.

Many choose to use this 'Mobility' allowance towards the cost of obtaining a vehicle through the Motability Scheme.

Motability is a national UK charity, which helps disabled people and their families to become more mobile.

It was set up on the initiative of the government in 1977, to provide vehicles and powered wheelchairs to people with disability.

The first Motability vehicle was supplied in 1978 and since then more than .28 million cars and powered wheelchairs have been provided.

The Motability Scheme now has more than 390,000 customers driving, or being driven on the road to freedom.

Francis Gahan, from Cippenham, drives a Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 GLS modified

***CARS for people with disabilities make up more than 10 per cent of the UK car market. Last weekend Richard Hill went along to the Mobility Roadshow to find out more and to meet Francis Gahan, from Cippenham, who was there to choose his next car.***

for hand control.

He is due to renew his vehicle in January next year so took the opportunity of visiting the Mobility Roadshow, the world's largest outdoor mobility event, held at the Transport Research Laboratory in Crowthorne last weekend.

This is his fourth visit to the Mobility Roadshow because it's one of the few opportunities where adapted vehicles can be test driven.

"There's absolutely no pressure here," he says. "I'm here with a totally open mind.

"I can come and have a look at the whole range of vehicles and take my time.

"Quite a few are already fitted with the sort of controls that I need, so I can take

a test drive. Everyone here understands the needs of people with mobility problems. I need people to be aware of my needs.

"On a bad day, a cold day, a wet day, where my circulatory problems cause extra difficulty, the car I've chosen is really important.

"I'm looking at cars today, with those bad days in mind.

"I've whittled my choice down to about three or four models already in the first day. "In January I'll visit my local dealer in Slough or Windsor, based on the decision I've made here."

■ **Richard Hill looked at a few of the vehicles on offer and met the people promoting them. His report starts on page 86.**

