

TGA and TV stars help 'Access the Dales' open up Yorkshire to mobility scooter users

THE COURTYARD MEADOW BANK,
BOURNE END BUCKS, UNITED
KINGDOM, March 29, 2022

/EINPresswire.com/ -- Supported by mobility scooter specialist TGA, Debbie North, influential rambler and wheelchair user, has founded the charity Access the Dales which launches on 2nd April at the TV-famous farm of Clive and Amanda Owen.

Inaugural Yorkshire Dales Accessible Festival, 2nd - 10th April 2022:
Including the launch of Access the Dales at 'Ravenseat', home of Channel 5's TV programme 'Our Yorkshire Farm'. Richmond DL11 6LP. From 9:30am onwards.

Despite having a spinal condition and walking difficulties, Debbie remains mobile and independent by using manual and powered wheelchairs. She is also able to confidently ramble across the stunning Yorkshire countryside thanks to all-terrain mobility vehicles. Debbie's new charity Access the Dales aims to: "break down the barriers that prevent people living with disabilities enjoying the great outdoors either independently or with their friends and family."

Alongside campaigning for change, Access the Dales will be helping to provide all-terrain mobility vehicles for hire in several locations in the National Park. Working with the local authority and manufacturers such as TGA, Access the Dales will initially manage four 'Hubs' where wheelchairs, powerchairs and mobility scooters will be available to borrow free of charge. The Hubs will be



Supporters of Access the Dales, Debbie North driving a TGA WHILL powerchair. Behind Debbie from left to right: Steve Glibbery and Daniel Stone from TGA; John Kitching and Lisa Maloney from Northern Rail; Joanne Oakey and Katie Chesworth from Settle-Carlisle Railway.

located at:

- Ravenseat Farm, Richmond – enjoy the Fells
 - Settle Station – see the town or walk along the river to Giggleswick
 - ‘Cottage in the Dales’, Newbiggin – to ramble around Aysgarth Falls, Cotter Force and Hawes.
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- Hill Top Farm, near Malham – ideal for seeing Malhamdale and to help any disabled schoolchildren who visit

WHILL powerchairs, Minimo Plus mobility scooters and wheelchairs from TGA will be available at Settle Station and ‘Cottage in the Dales’.

The charity Access the Dales has been created as a legacy to Debbie’s late husband Andy North who passionately shared her love of the great outdoors. Together they blogged for many years about their accessible adventures in the Yorkshire Dales and were dedicated enablement ambassadors. Tragically, local deputy headteacher Andy passed away last year following a short battle with cancer which has compelled Debbie to set up the charity in memory of his commitment to accessibility.

Access the Dales is supported by many organisations including TGA, Yorkshire Dales National Park and Northern Rail. The charity is also proud to have Paralympian Rachel Morris MBE as its ambassador and patron Amanda Owen, TV star of ‘Our Yorkshire Farm.’

Debbie’s relationship with TGA is important for the success of Access the Dales as she explains: “Andy’s last wish was for me to raise funds to purchase an all-terrain mobility vehicle for local disabled children to use. I raised over £16,000 which was the start of Access the Dales. Since then the charity has gone from strength-to-strength thanks to the support of companies such as TGA. Their kind donation of wheelchairs and scooters for tourists to use is hugely appreciated and will ensure everyone can enjoy a great day out, whatever their capabilities. TGA shares my inclusive vision and their relationship with Northern Rail has only added to the awareness we are all achieving. Starting with our festival which celebrates accessibility across the Dales, I believe by working together we can make a huge difference to everyone’s mental health and wellbeing.”

The launch event will be very informal and will be an opportunity to meet the Access the Dales patron Amanda, see our all-terrain vehicles and join us for a short walk on the Fells.

Refreshments will be served after the ramble. For more details about the charity visit:

www.access-the-dales.com.

* ENDS *

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We keep our customers moving, their way. For over 30 years we’ve committed ourselves to providing quality mobility scooters and wheelchairs of the highest standard to help our customers not just get by, but thrive. We also pride ourselves on the quality of our service with a

dedicated caring team – totally committed to providing customer-focused assessments and dependent support. Alongside the trustworthy products we provide, TGA is proud to enable more people through its partnership with leading organisations such as Parkinson's UK, Northern Rail and Lake District National Park.

For further information please contact:

Jon Nock

Director

iDIS Creative Marketing Limited

6B (First Floor), The Courtyard

Meadow Bank, Bourne End

Bucks. SL8 5AU

Mob: +44(0)7786 245896

Email: jon@idiscreativemarketing.co.uk

<http://www.idiscreativemarketing.co.uk>

Issued on behalf of:

Tia Corquaye

Marketing Co-ordinator

TGA Mobility Limited

Woodhall Business Park

Sudbury. Suffolk

CO10 1WH

Tel: +44(0)1787 882244

<http://www.tgamobility.co.uk>

Jon Nock, Director

iDIS Creative Marketing Limited

[email us here](#)

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