

# Making Mobility Stylish

*By Grace Leighton-Carr*

Hello! My name is Grace, I am 23 and I have been living with M.E and Fibromyalgia for most of my teenage and adult life.

Over the years I have found many ways of coping with my disability, but as my symptoms have worsened over the last two years, I decided to take the plunge and invest in my freedom. Introducing, Madge! The glorious, bright pink mobility scooter who is lovingly named after Sheila Reid's Madge Harvey from the sitcom Benidorm.

Madge and I have an interesting relationship. If you had told me a few years ago that at 23 I would be driving around in a Bright pink 'Vogue' (yes, that is what it's called) I would not have thought for a second you meant a mobility scooter. But alas, here we are. As hard as it has been to accept that I am in need of this type of support, and to battle with my own internal judgements, it has undoubtedly been fundamental to the finding of my freedom.

I am finally able to go shopping, go on 'walks' and explore towns and villages in a way I was previously unable. I am once again in control of my own mobility, and I don't have to miss out on the things that I once used to love. I can even take my dog out to the local field which has helped her re-gain her freedom too.

Am I nervous about the looks and judgements I may get from others? Yes, of course I am. But honestly? People mostly just smile or laugh at the fact I have a shih tzu sitting on my knee! And at the end of the day, I have to remind myself that if it improves my life, it really doesn't matter what other people think.

**'Freedom lies in being bold' – Robert Frost**

