



# Musical Motorhomes

How the life of Thomas Blumire... a talented musician has been changed by Middlesex Motorcaravans... the dream makers

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**T**homas Blumire is a very special young man. No doubt he has inherited his considerable musical ability from his parents Jerry and Karen. All the family (including sister Anna) enjoy singing, both in chors and solo. Jerry is a professional harp maker and Anna plays the harp! They are keen and active motorcaravanners and enjoy travel, bird watching and painting.

Thomas is a handsome and likeable young man with a highly developed sense of humour. By the time you read this, music he has composed will be performed by professional West End stars in a show and at the Royal Festival Hall, a remarkable achievement for any young composer, but even more so for Thomas as he suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a progressive muscle wasting and life limiting disease.

For many years the Blumire clan enjoyed motorcaravanning in their elevating roof

Biibo's Volkswagen conversion. Sadly, as the disease progressed, Thomas became unable to hold himself upright, even in his special wheelchair, so he had to have two steel rods inserted along the full length of his spine. This had the effect of 'straightening him out' (his words) so he suddenly grew by six inches in height when sitting - making it impossible for him to fit in the Vee-dub.

It was essential that they had a new, larger specially-adapted motorcaravan to enable Thomas to lead as independent and fulfilling life as possible and for the whole family to carry on camping. To help finance the project, the Blumires arranged a music concert entitled 'Music for Wheels'. As well as raising a proportion of the cost of the motorcaravan, it also resulted in a substantial donation to 'Wheels for the World', an international charity supplying wheelchairs to those who can't afford one.

The Blumires selected specialist converters Middlesex Motorcaravans to undertake the design and build. The company's approach is a simple and effective one. The prospective purchaser is asked to make three lists, one with everything they must have in their motorcaravan, another listing the features they want to have, plus finally one detailing the love to have. Middlesex Motorcaravans aim to tick all the items on the first list and as many as possible on the other two. Unbelievably, the featured motorcaravan ticks every single box on the Blumire's lists... a dream come true!

**Dream on**  
Good craftsmen and women don't need fancy premises or the very latest CAD CAM software to build a good motorcaravan. Nor do they necessarily need a large R&D department, or a customer focus group, or even a brand manager. What is essential though is a flexible

approach and the ability to think of solutions where none previously existed, plus the skills to turn a three dimensional sketch into reality. Successful bespoke motorcaravans are usually a synergy between the ideas provided by the customer and the construction and use experience of those trusted with the design and build. Communication between the parties and regular appraisals ensure that everything goes smoothly... or more realistically... as

Those with mobility impairment require all of the above plus a means of getting aboard, safe seating and access to all the onboard facilities. Many volume motorhome manufacturers can't or won't rise to the challenge to build a specially-adapted motorcaravan. Luckily for the Blumires, the proprietors of Middlesex Motorcaravans are made of sterner stuff.

I've always been very impressed with their stock VW T4 and now T5 conversions when

visiting their stand at the National Motorhome Show. Thus, it came as no surprise to find out that not only have they built bespoke conversions on more makes of panel van than you can shake a stick at, they've also designed and built several mobility specials.

**A glance backwards...**  
Middlesex Motorcaravans was born of necessity. Graham and Hilary were both keen motorcaravanners frequently making use of their own bay. Four children later and they found that there was a serious lack of VW campers which could safely carry four children and still be used for weekends away and the annual holiday. So they designed and built one and, as the children grew, they built another and then another and... then a local dealer bought one they had outgrown and made one of those life-changing, throw-away comments. It was 'Got any more like that?' I'll take any you

can build'. The rest, as they say, is history. Ten years ago they moved to their current premises, just two minutes from Canons Park Underground Station, in the London suburb of Edgware. Success has meant that they are now on the look-out for even bigger premises. Currently they will convert any panel van, turning it into a day van, a full motorcaravan for either the able bodied or for those with special needs, or a mixture of the two. Further, they can run up one of their tried and tested stock conversions on brand new or used Volkswagens.

Not much dosh? Middlesex Motorcaravans offer staged conversions as and when finances permit. Perhaps one of their specially selected and personally imported pre-owned Westalis conversions will fit the bill? In fact, whatever your dream motorcaravan, Middlesex Motorcaravans will do their best to make it a reality.

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