

DRIVING HOME

A Project in aid of The Colin Javens Spinal Injury Trust (charity number 1107143)

58 days on the road



Driving Home is a pioneering overland expedition from London to Cape Town, led by Colin Javens who is tetraplegic. Driving Home will raise funds towards spinal research and welfare of the spinally injured, and will promote disability awareness in the UK & Africa.

Newsletter 15

December 2005

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

to everyone and thank you for your ongoing support and messages,

love from the Driving Home expedition team.

Please look at the team photos en route from Stoke to Cairo at:

<http://www.drivinghome.co.uk/album/index.html>



Update on Colin's burns

As many of you will have read, Colin suffered burns on his leg caused by a cup of tea when he was in Italy. They are serious injuries but are being well looked after by Chrissy, Colin's assistant and the doctor Chris. Chris has additionally been trialling 'telemedicine' and has been able to communicate with Colin's doctors in Stoke Mandeville via remote msn messenger.

The team rested in Aswan for a week to allow the burns to dry out. The recent update is that the burns are mending, Colin is well and there is no immediate risk to the expedition which is excellent news.

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Next month

- Colin visits KPO
- Plans are arranged for South Africa

Colin and his team reach Addis Ababa

The team have made excellent progress through Sudan and Ethiopia and are on track to reach Cape Town by April 16th.



The team in Egypt

The scenery in Ethiopia has amazed them. Colin has driven all the way and New Years Eve was spent on top of the Simien mountains with a large campfire and their first beers since Egypt (no alcohol allowed in Sudan).

The team have been welcomed wherever they have been, by locals and fellow travellers alike.

The vehicles have withstood the corrugated roads of Egypt and Sudan well but the Disco brake vacuum pump fails us both in Libya and Ethiopia—requiring expensive trips to the garage.



Colin's hand controls arouse curiosity

Next stop is Kenya where the team will spend time with the Kenyan Paraplegic Organisation and Colin will have a chance to meet old family friends.

Please read their story in their own words by looking at their diary on the website. New updates have appeared today.

Washing day at camp



Looking forward to a busy 2006

2006 starts with a bang. The final total from the Jersey Half Marathon is now just under £50,000 which is an amazing effort to everyone who participated and supported.

We are very excited to have Caroline Strachan join the Trust to coordinate further fundraising events in Jersey, including a corporate 10km run in April, a dinner in September and a display of the expedition vehicle in

Jersey airport to name a few.

In South Africa we have Colin speaking at corporate events and are working on a large welcome party for the team arrival in April in conjunction with other organisations.

In the UK we have the second Cranfield MBA Dinner on May 18th, attendance at the LRE Land Rover show in July, a fundraising event at the RAC Club in October 2006 and

even a Land's End to John O'Groats bike ride for September.

Remember that all funds raised go towards helping the welfare of the spinally injured and research into spinal cord repair.

If you have any ideas for fundraising or would be kind enough to hold an event yourself to help Colin please let Caroline know.

Behind the face of spinal cord injury

David Graham, since his own son was paralysed in an accident, was motivated to produce a portfolio looking at the diversity of people and characters suffering from a spinal cord injury and the 'reality' of the injury so often avoided. Please look at his No Diving and How? portfolios on: <http://davidgraham.smugmug.com/>

Whilst travelling in Tunisia Colin experienced an open attitude to him being in a wheelchair, they would address him, not his assistant, look him in the eye and smile. Something he doesn't always experience in the UK.

He has spoken about this on BBC Radio 4 over Christmas and also BBC 3 counties—and has had a recent feature in the

Independent on Sunday - perhaps you were lucky enough to catch it, if not please look at our website for a copy.



Colin in Egypt