

# DRIVING HOME

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



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.

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## Contact details

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## Expedition Sponsorship

Thankyou to Anglo American for their £500 sponsorship towards The Colin Javens Spinal Injury Trust and to the Lion's Club for their £500 donation and access to their African network.

If your company would be able to help in any way please put us in touch. It all helps.

## Fundraising activities

Last week the 'ladies night' in Hereford raised £2,000 for the Trust—Thankyou to all who attended.

Sarah Barlow in Kenya is kindly holding a 'sponsored sporting weekend'—Thankyou very much for your support

Also to come is a Murder Mystery Evening, Snail Racing and a Fundraising walk across Wales

**What are you doing to help?? Next month we will give you some ideas.**

*Thankyou very much to all the responses to our plea for a medic. Jo is following up all of your suggested contacts so we will keep you in touch with our progress. Interviews will be on May 18th. Fingers crossed!*

## Next month

- Vehicle bed design
- Events where you can take part or organise yourself
- Sponsors listed

## Enabling Technology

During the expedition to maximise Colin's independence the team will be using some innovative technology. A couple of examples are listed below:

Firstly, to enter and exit the Land Rover we will be using 'turny seat technology'. Kindly donated by Autoadapt the turny seat electronically pivots and lowers the driving



Turny Seat technology

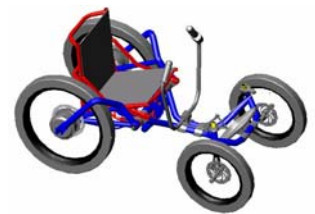
seat out of the vehicle to the level of the wheelchair.

Colin can then be easily transferred horizontally across to his wheelchair. This technology will be essential to prevent manual daily lifting of Colin in and out of his vehicle.

Secondly manoeuvring a traditional wheelchair across the African plains will be near impossible. Colin will benefit from a PhD student at Cranfield University, Chris Swift, who, through his company Molten Rock Equipment Limited, is designing an off-road wheelchair.

Using an updated design for improved accessibility, especially for tetraplegics, Colin will be testing the prototype across the harsh terrains of Africa and help with the marketing of the product on his return to the UK.

[www.offroadmobility.org.uk](http://www.offroadmobility.org.uk)



Prototype design of the off-road wheelchair

## The Driving Home Roadshow

The team are out on the road to raise awareness of Driving Home.

This Friday and Saturday we are showcasing at Gowrings Mobility South Show, at Newbury Racecourse. Please come and visit our stand if you are near by.

The Gowrings Mobility Show aims to promote independent living and we aim to be an

example of how it is possible to still pursue your dreams, even when paralysed. Additionally we will be holding a raffle to raise funds for the Trust.



We will also be promoting the expedition at several Land Rover Shows over the summer to increase the support for Driving Home and to promote products donated by our sponsors. The first of these is Land Rover Owner Spring Show in Drifffield, Yorkshire on 15th / 16th May.

More details will appear on the website as they are confirmed.

## Colin's Expedition Vehicle—Purchased!

A blue automatic Land Rover Discovery 300Tdi is now ours!!

Purchased using funds from the Winston Churchill Award it was sourced by Keith Gott Land Rovers in Alton it is now in his workshop undergoing a thorough mechanical overhaul including a new back floor and transmission to ensure its preparation for Africa.

It is due at Jim Doran Hand Controls on 1st June to be adapted for Colin to drive.

Finally it will be with Footloose 4x4 for the expedition preparations. These will include the internal fittings, storage, Colin's bed, space for his wheelchairs as well as other equipment and spares. It is going to be a tight fit and a tight schedule!

This is an exciting step towards making the expedition a reality.



Our vehicle

More photos to appear on the website soon.