

DRIVING HOME

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

67 days until
departure



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 11

Contact details

Unit 8a,
Bramley Business Centre,
Station Road, Bramley,
Guildford GU5 0AZ
Tel: +44 (0) 1483 898 840
info@drivinghome.co.uk

The CatWalk Trust, NZ

We are pleased to have made contact with the Cat Walk Trust in New Zealand with a similar vision and hope to ours. Please look at their website at: www.catwalktrust.co.nz

Press / PR contacts wanted.

We will be shortly releasing the first press release to magazines and newspapers before Driving Home starts. If you know of anyone in the industry who may be able to work on a pro bono basis or offer us advice please let us know.

The Team is complete.



Jersey Half Marathon—Sunday 20th August.

Get fit for a good cause. We still have a couple of spaces available in the team... please email: caroline@drivinghome.co.uk to join in the fun.

Next month

- Colin finally on the road
- More publicity for Colin
- The Defender is ready to go but the Disco needs work

Patience is a virtue...

...and Colin has a lot of it.

We are all being tested at the moment with continuous delays in the adaptation of Colin's vehicle. It places us perilously close to the expedition departure and we still need to get Colin in the Discovery and practising.

Woody also needs to work on both the interior and exterior design of the vehicle.

Due to the uniqueness of the hand control designs there are no similar vehicles that Colin can train in to help build up his experience or strength—we just have to wait.

This test of patience is no doubt a good training ground for Africa (!) but we are all keen to see Colin properly behind the wheel.

It was a superb sight seeing Colin testing the positioning of the controls for the first time. It was freedom for Colin not to be in his chair "no-one will notice that I am disabled from here" and exciting for us all as his vision starts to become a reality.

The steering of the vehicle has been lightened with a small wheel that Colin can attach his right hand to. His

left arm lies in a cradle to the left with a very light push/pull mechanism for the brake and accelerator.

We will add photos to the website as soon as possible to help illustrate the design.



The liberating sight of an empty chair—Colin is in the driving seat for the first time

Fundraising update—please help

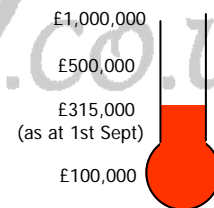
We are excited to announce that we have received some superb donations towards the work of the Trust and so far have raised over £315,000. £70,000 came in last month. We hope to treble the total over the next year.

Due to the generosity of the Julia and Derek Breed Foundation all operational and expedition costs have been covered. This puts us in an incredibly enviable position

that 128% (if a UK tax payer) of all your donations will go directly towards our beneficiaries—research into spinal cord repair and the building of a research centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Please support Colin in his endeavours if you haven't done so already. Use our on-line giving site which is quick and easy and can be found on the email or on our website. Ensure that you

tick the gift aid so we can reclaim an extra 28%. Also why not ask your company to match your donation? It all helps.



The fundraising thermometer—please help to fill it

It's all in the preparation

With only 67 days to go until expedition departure the anticipation is building and the training schedule getting more intense.

The team were all together for the first time and were given an excellent days training kindly donated by Charlie McGrath of Objective. Learning how to become aware of danger, to manage

hostile border crossings and to avoid conflict will put the team in good stead as they cross remote areas of Ethiopia and Sudan.



Charlie and the team play out scenarios they may find in Africa

This weekend is off-road driving training, a winch use and a GPS course all courtesy of Land Rover Experience at their base at Eastnor Castle. Let's hope they don't get stuck like last time!

If you are able to offer advice on photography and filming we would be very grateful for your help. Please contact us: caroline@drivinghome.co.uk