

# 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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## Company financial sponsors

We would like to say an enormous thank you to the companies who have believed in us and have supported this project financially, helping it come to fruition:

**> £1,000 :**  
Butchers Pet Care  
Brecon Pharmaceuticals  
Land Rover Experience  
Aegis  
Gordon Foundation  
Winston Churchill Memorial Trust  
Julia and Derek Breed Foundation  
Bulmer Benevolent Fund

**< £500:**  
JPMorgan  
Anglo American  
Ferguson McIlveen

Please see the website for all those who have helped us with our expedition kit.

## A year on....

"This time last year all we had were two new computers and lots of ideas, it's amazing to see how far we have come in a year. But with just 3 months to go to the expedition, the most exciting part is still to come!"  
Jo—Project Manager

## Next month

- Colin is on the road
- The 110 is ready for Africa
- The team are together at last
- More sponsors on board

## A cure for paralysis—is it possible?

Driving Home is illustrating how technology enables Colin to drive, but it is still only a temporary solution for Colin's independence and freedom that we all take for granted.

Our real hope, and the key purpose of our fundraising is to help find a solution to paralysis, so that people will be able to walk and run again after a severe spinal cord injury.

This is why we are working with Spinal Research, the UK's largest charity in funding research work into spinal cord repair. Excitingly they are

making excellent progress — the scientists already know that they can mend damaged spinal cord and get the nerves reconnected—the next stage is making this safe enough to use on patients. Spinal Research have recently raised £1million to develop very sensitive measurement techniques that will show, without any doubt, the smallest degree of improvement in paralysed volunteers.

It is then that the exciting work on humans can begin. This hopes to happen in the UK within three years.

Scientists believe that the best chances of repairing a broken back will come from combining different treatments which is why basic science research is still important; progressing known ideas, but also developing new ones. The charity funds work internationally too to ensure that the best proposals are supported and ideas are shared beyond national boundaries. Read more at: [www.spinal-research.org](http://www.spinal-research.org)



## Land Rover Show review

We had a superb four days at the Land Rover Show — Thankyou to everyone who visited our stand—bought T-shirts or raffle tickets helping us to raise over £600.

*On show at Billings*



Thankyou also to Land Rover 4x4 Experience who gave us a prime spot in their stand and made us feel very welcome. It was a great opportunity for us to meet kit suppliers face to face.

Tim and Clare from Trek Overland fitted a very smart roofrack and Howling Moon tent to the Discovery, and Paul from Footloose 4x4 was always on hand with advice. We also met some superb

people from Discoparts, WV Holdings, Mobile Storage Systems, all of whom we look forward to working with—getting them as much publicity as we can in return for their kind help. Not easy, but will be helped by the Land Rover Enthusiast magazine who have shown interest to follow our expedition on a month to month basis. Please look at the website for up to date progress.

## The expedition team is complete

We are very excited to have the final member of the expedition team—Chrissy Prydun joins as Colin's personal assistant. She has both experience working with people with SCI and also the travelling bug—currently doing voluntary work in Ghana—a perfect match!

All team members now have their responsibilities and areas

of expertise which over the coming months they will share with the rest of the team. Colin is overseeing all activity, working with Jo and Caroline (project managers).

Dr. Chris is studying various strains of malaria and prevention techniques; Woody is putting the finer design details on the vehicles; Kiko is learning about GPS technology

and modems and Ben is planning bushcraft training and emergency scenarios for the training weekends. It is getting fantastically exciting.



*The first team photo taken at Billings Show (less Chrissy)*