

DRIVING HOME

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

151 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.

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Cape Town celebrations

We are organising a press trip to Table Mountain on 19th April, followed by a reception, kindly hosted by PricewaterhouseCoopers, SA. We are fortunate to have Vincent Gore, a member of Parliament as our guest.

Further funding for African spinal injury projects

Following a Trustees meeting we have approved to send a further £1,000 to each of the three projects Colin visited en route. They are all doing excellent work to help spinally injured people lead a more independent life.

Buy this fortnights Real Magazine

Catch an article about Colin's life story on p. 32, on sale for £1 at most newsagents

Thank you

Thank you to PerSimmons and all those individuals who have recently donated to the work of the Trust. If you haven't already, please send a cheque to the address above, payable to 'The Colin Javens Spinal Injury Trust' or look on our website for on-line giving details.

Next month

- The trip comes to an end
- Cape Town celebrations
- Fundraising progress
- What's next for Colin.....?

Colin continues gingerly to Cape Town

After last month's uncertainty we were relieved to be given the go-ahead from Stoke Mandeville Hospital, advising us that it was safe for Colin to continue driving to Cape Town.

This was a huge relief for Colin who is determined to reach the end.



Transferring Colin needs special care not to disturb his wounds

Plans have been modified; unfortunately missing out on the media activities arranged for Johannesburg and Durban. Instead the team are heading direct to Cape Town, with 1 days driving, followed by 1 days rest.

The team have devised a new cushion and seat for Colin with high density foam, including removing the middle of the chair seat so that whilst driving the team can stop and check that Colin's wounds are not deteriorating.

Additionally an air cushion, loaned by Stoke Mandeville is being couriered out to the

team along with protein drinks to maintain Colin's strength.



Transferring Colin back into his vehicle

The team are currently in Francistown, Botswana, with the South African border tantalisingly close. They are still on schedule to arrive in Cape Town on Monday 17th April.

Date for your diary — Wed 13th Sept.

Come and listen to the real story of Colin's adventures, in his own words, at the Royal Geographical Society in London.

Colin will be hosting an evening on Wednesday 13th September with slides and video footage from his trip.



Colin speaking at a fundraising event in London last year

Travelling through Africa has made Colin realise more than ever how raising awareness of disability is so important and that telling everyone about what he has achieved, with his disability, will help do this.

More details to follow but please put the date in your diary NOW.

The team pass 5 months on the road

The team have now been travelling for over five months, living in each others pockets, out of two vehicles.

The expedition has survived some upheaval along the way—Colin burning his thighs with tea and coping with open wounds for the remaining 4 months, the break up of Kiko and



Coping with the sand

Ben's engagement, visa complications, mechanical problems with Colin's steering, lack of communication methods, and inaccessible wheelchair facilities.

However they have coped admirably with the benefit of a strong team, amazing local



A strong team has been key to the success



Stunning scenery and hospitality in Kenya

hospitality, including the welcome home reception in Kenya, stunning scenery, only two punctures, simple border crossings and good health.

What an amazing experience for all of them, and fingers crossed for the remaining 1,200 km to Cape Town.