

DRIVING HOME

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

35 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.

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Contact details

Unit 8a,
Bramley Business Centre,
Station Road, Bramley,
Guildford GU5 0AZ

Tel: +44 (0) 1483 898 840

info@drivinghome.co.uk

Radio 4 listeners.

Watch out for Colin discussing Disability and Risk on the 'You and Yours' programme on Monday 11th October between 12 and 1pm. He was joined by Ade Adepitan MBE, a paralympic basketball player who you may recognise from the BBC advert.

T-shirts for sale—£20 each

Unique design and limited supply. Kindly designed and donated by Nikki Barlow in Kenya these T-shirts are superb quality and all money will go directly to the work of the Trust. Please email me if you would like to purchase one.



Land Rover Experience

Many thanks to Land Rover Experience once again for a superb weekend's training at Eastnor Castle. The team learnt off-road driving, GPS navigation and winch training.

Next month

- 1 week to go!!!
- Training weekend report
- Documentation needs
- Money goes to Africa

Use of modern technology en route

With modern technology there should be no problem in keeping in touch with all the Driving Home supporters in the UK and abroad. But we are talking about Africa!

We are therefore very excited to have the increasing support of Avanade; www.avanade.com an IT solutions company who will



be providing us with both the hardware and an IT solution that will enable the team to

send back diary snippets, photographs and some video footage from the middle of nowhere. No need to worry about frustratingly slow internet café connections!

Additionally Avanade will be linking the laptop with GPS technology that will enable us to locate where the team are, and to map their progress made each day. This will provide an element of safety for the team both in Africa and the UK as well as exciting map imagery for the website.

Land Rover are also aiding communication links for the

team by supplying Garmin GPS receivers for day to day navigation and two way CB radios for the vehicles.

We are beginning to gather together a list of contacts en route for the team, if you know of anyone who may be able to help in the case of emergency in any of these countries please let us know.

Using satellite technology to keep in touch



Publicity grows by the day

If you live near Aylesbury you may have heard Colin speak last week on 3 counties radio, or read about him in the Bucks Herald. Previously Colin has appeared in the Hereford Times and the Surrey Times as well as been on BBC Northamptonshire and even Midlands TV. Next week he is on Radio 4 (see blue box).

With one of our key aims being to raise awareness in spinal injury and technology

we are working hard to maximise the exposure of Driving Home.

This has just become a lot easier as we are very excited to welcome Avanade, not only as our IT partner but also for their support towards a PR budget of £10,000 which will be used in partnership with Seventy Seven PR agency.

Having met with them yesterday they already have

great enthusiasm and ideas of how to promote Driving Home and Colin Javens to the national print and broadcast media. We are looking forward to the results.

Please remember you can also help us to spread the news by telling friends and colleagues.



Woody is hard at work

Can you believe it is only 5 weeks until the expedition...no one is feeling it more than Woody, the team mechanic as he works hard preparing the vehicles for the expedition.

We are currently working with the Discovery to remove a 'wobble' in the steering box above 50mph—hopefully it will be easily solved.

The preparation work done now will reap benefits later. Even so there will still be daily vehicle checks en route—fuel, water levels; as well as weekly full body checks and a mid way full overhaul in Kenya.

Oil and fuel filters will get easily clogged with the dust and dirt of Africa and need regular replacement. Good tyre management will also be

needed to avoid punctures and hard wearing of the treads.

Keeping the vehicles going will be a vital role on expedition.



More questions for the Disco