

Why Fly When You Can Drive...

Not content with a simple parachute jump or fun run, Marianne, the daughter of Grand President Jim Kelly, her husband Alex Towns and two other friends Martin and Max have decided on a much more challenging event to raise money for charity - in August this year they will embark on a gruelling expedition to drive 65,000km from the UK to New Zealand in aid of charity!

Realising how fortunate they were to be able to undertake such a trip, the team felt that it would be a great opportunity to offer something back to the countries and communities that they will be travelling through. Having affiliated themselves with CARE International, a humanitarian organisation working to end world poverty, Marianne and her friends have set themselves a very challenging target of trying to raise £25,000 for the charity.

To this end they have arranged with CARE International to visit some of their projects in various countries along the route, including a water purification and sanitation project in Egypt, micro-finance projects in rural India and also visiting some of the tsunami relief projects as they pass through South East Asia. The team are apprehensive about certain parts of the trip, which will undoubtedly be very uncomfortable at times. They will be travelling through some of the poorest communities of the world, seeing people who deal with suffering and hardship on a daily basis.

Marianne said that the team were very keen to ensure that anything they managed to achieve by their fundraising efforts provides not just temporary relief, but instead makes a real difference to

people for some time to come. This is one of the main reasons they chose CARE International as their favoured charity as CARE's approach closely matches with the team's own beliefs.

With over two years in the planning, a lot of the preparation has been done, but with their August 2nd leave date fast approaching, the team still have a lot of the finishing touches to organise, including obtaining visas, insurances and receiving vaccinations before catching the 11am ferry from Dover.

The journey planned takes in many amazing sights, driving overland across Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Australasia, 26 countries in total before arriving at their final destination of New Zealand in February 2007!

The expedition will be visiting countries as diverse and risky as Iran, Egypt, China, and Indonesia, crossing deserts, hacking through jungles, climbing over mountain ranges, and shipping across seas.

For family and friends to keep an eye on their progress, they have set up a website www.overland-underwater.com which they aim to keep updated with diary entries and photos. No doubt it will make



From left: Max, Marianne, Martin & Alex

interesting reading to follow all their adventures and hear about the CARE projects they visit as they drive to New Zealand

To help Marianne and her friends in their bid to reach the £25,000 target amount, the team would be extremely grateful if you would like to give a donation to CARE International. This can be easily achieved by either sending a cheque payable to "CARE International" to Linda Musco at the CARE address below or alternatively securely online via the link on their website to www.justgiving.com/overland-underwater.

If you are a UK taxpayer you can increase the value of your donation by reclaiming 28p in Gift Aid for every £1 donated by simply enclosing a signed single sentence statement stating that you are a UK taxpayer or completing the online form when giving via the website.

To help the team track donations against their target, please clearly state that your donation is in connection with the overland-underwater expedition and also include your name, address and email or phone number.
Linda Musco, overland-underwater
CARE International UK, 10-13 Rushworth Street, London, SE1 0RB.

All donation money raised will be going to CARE International, of which CARE are proud to state that 93p in every £1 donated goes directly to help fund their work in the field. The entire expedition costs are being funded by the team.

We wish Marianne and her friends all the success for their charity drive and hope to catch up with them en-route for their latest stories from the road

God bless, safe travels, and the best of luck!



Drinking water being supplied by CARE after Tsunami Disaster