

African dreams

On 28 December, local adventurers Ben Southall (Ropley) and Owen Thompson Dredge (Liss) will embark on a year-long drive through 33 African countries aboard their trusty steed, Ben's Landrover Defender

Ben and Owen also have set tasks to raise money for their three favourite charities: The Royal Star & Garter Homes (where Ben used to work, and which cares for disabled ex-Service men & women), FARM-Africa (provide African farmers with education and assistance to increase their productivity), and IDE-UK (supports farmers in the developing world).

The tasks include: completing five marathons, the Comrades Race at 52 miles, climbing five of the highest African mountains, and visiting as

many of the 180 sites as possible where the Victoria Cross has been won.

They have taken three years to plan this trip of a lifetime, called "Afritrex", which is funded entirely by Ben and Owen. So 100% of the donations made will go straight to the charities.

Ben says, "We're now both full of excitement, trepidation and the desire to just get going and onto the road. We have trained for over a year, which should hold us in good stead for the challenges ahead.



Ben (left) and Owen on the roof of their trusty steed

"We'll be updating the website as often as we can to keep you in the picture! If you think there's any way you can help out - be it with advice, a product which will make our lives easier on the road, or just a friendly, supportive word - then contact me at ben@afritrex.com."

To find out more about Afritrex, to sponsor, or track their progress, go to:
www.afritrex.com *Life*

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