

charity issue

omnibuses

End to end for charity

Michael Meilton and Jeremy Howat are travelling from Land's End to John O'Groats by local bus services to raise **£20,000**.

Jeremy's daughter Cariad has made a wish – to raise money for desperately ill children to give them and their families memories to treasure forever.

Cariad has Spinal Muscular Atrophy, a devastating and life limiting condition.

So, the team at Omnibus would also like to grant her a second wish – to go on holiday with her parents to Disney World. Hence the ambitious £20,000 target. You can read more about Cariad's story and how you can help our chosen charity elsewhere in this special issue of OmniNEWS.

Carol Crichton Director



Cariad Rose

Cariad is 9 years old. She goes to school, watches too much television and loves shopping. Getting her out of her bed on a weekend is a nightmare and getting her to bed on time on a school night is a song and dance. A typical 9 year old!



However, when she was born we were told that she wouldn't live to do any of this. Cariad has Spinal Muscular Atrophy and through her grit determination and our philosophy of normality she has defied the odds.

Cariad cannot sit unassisted and without the aid of ventilation. She spends most time laying down on her back or side and requires others to turn her, look after her airway and secretions when off the ventilator.

Cariad is not unique in being a determined, brave and very clever child. Our concern is not just for Cariad, but also for others. We are doing everything we can to raise money to make Cariad's dream come true as well as raise money for a charity who aims to make all disabled and disadvantaged kids get the same chance.

Jez Howat (Cariad's dad)

www.cariadrose.co.uk

Our supporters

The bus industry is renowned for its family oriented and close-knit culture. It is this community spirit that Omnibus is counting on to help Michael and Jeremy achieve their target of raising £20,000.

> **Ipswich buses** were the first to offer support - if the route went via Ipswich. 'No problem' said Jeremy, and promptly sent Michael away to re-do the schedule.

> **Omnibus** is putting its full weight behind this campaign: giving Jeremy and Michael the time off work, covering their accommodation costs and donating £1,000.

> **Go-Ahead and First Group** have both donated free bus passes for use along the route. First have donated complimentary rail tickets while Stagecoach has kindly donated tickets on the sleeper coach back to London to get them home.

Please see the *Just giving* article for how you too can help this worthy cause. Corporate supporters can contact Omnibus for details of how to donate.



Their route will see them take overnight stops in Bridport, Bracknell, Ipswich (hosted by Ipswich Buses), Derby, Lancaster (via Oldham where they will of course stop for lunch at Omnibus Head Office), Dundee and Inverness.

The challenge...

While a Land's End to John O'Groats charity cycle ride was briefly considered, it soon became apparent that a much more suitable challenge for 'bus people' would be to cover the distance by scheduled bus service.

Michael and Jeremy will set off from Land's End on Monday 14th October at 0930hrs and, as long as they manage to make all their scheduled connections, will arrive in John O'Groats at 1302hrs on Monday 21st October.

They will use local bus services by Western Greyhound, First, Damory, Wilts & Dorset, Bluestar, Stagecoach, Reading Buses, Metrolink, Tower Transit, Blue Triangle, Carters Beestons, Kimes, Centrebus, Yourbus and High Peak.

Michael Meilton comments: "This is our strength, route and schedule planning, so we should find that we've done the hard work and the easy bit will be sitting on these various local buses enjoying the view." He continues: "I am very proud to be involved in this project with my good friend and colleague Jeremy. I sincerely hope that the bus industry gets behind us and helps us to achieve our target."

Just giving

Michael and Jeremy have set themselves a fundraising target of £20,000 in order to pay for Cariad's trip and give a donation to Make-A-Wish.

There are several ways that readers of OmniNEWS can help. You can make a personal donation at www.justgiving.com/Blossom-Appeal-Cariad-Rose-Trust

Companies can also help through corporate sponsorship. Please contact Jeremy, Michael or Carol at Omnibus and we will be more than happy to talk to you about any level of support you may wish to offer.

Make-A-Wish

Over 20,000 children in the UK are living with a life-threatening condition and the sole purpose of Make-A-Wish Foundation® UK is to grant magical wishes to children and young people aged 3-17 fighting life-threatening conditions.

The charity believes that few things can be more important, or more deserving, than giving a seriously ill child the chance to have their wish come true, with all the hope, expectation and happiness that brings.

Make-A-Wish has granted more than 8,700 magical wishes over more than 26 years. This year they will be granting over 1,100 wishes, and need to raise £7 million to achieve it.

www.make-a-wish.org.uk

Contact

Omnibus
Hollinwood Business Centre
Albert Street, Hollinwood
Oldham, OL8 3QL
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)161 683 3100
www.omnibus.uk.com