JCT600 fleet team drives 2,370m in four days across four countries - in an old Cortina!

Neill Richards, JCT600 group fleet director based in Bradford, and a team of two colleagues have completed a charity challenge to drive 2,370 miles from Bradford, visiting four towers across four countries in four days in a 32 year old Classic Ford Cortina!

Setting off from JCT600’s head office in Apperley Bridge, Bradford, on 23 October, the team drove to The Blackpool Tower, The Tower of London, the Eiffel Tower and finally the Leaning Tower of Pisa, all in a bid to raise funds for JCT600’s chosen charity for 2015, Alzheimer’s Society.

The intrepid team comprised Neill and colleagues Garry Gilmour, JCT600 Mercedes-Benz group business development manager; and Neil Widdowson, JCT600 group fleet centre – senior administrator.

They completed the gruelling Euro challenge in just four days in a 1983 fleet favourite, a Cortina 2.0GL. Travelling from Bradford to The Blackpool Tower, they turned south to visit The Tower of London, and then drove down to Folkestone and through the Tunnel to Calais. After a photo opportunity next to The Eiffel Tower, they headed south again towards Geneva for the Alps, going through the Mont Blanc Tunnel before taking a right turn down the autostrada to the Leaning Tower of Pisa and then heading home to Bradford.
“When we came up with this slightly crazy scheme back in March, we had no idea quite how many obstacles we would face,” explained Neill. “With the workshop in Chesterfield stacked out with work, the Cortina wasn’t ready until early summer and problems in Calais then forced us to delay our trip. On one of the first test runs to Blackpool, my trusty Cortina broke down on the M62, meanwhile one of the team was suffering from severe back problems and had to withdraw.

“Despite all of the problems, the faithful team of three finally set off last week and we had a fantastic trip with no mishaps – ironically, the tower that nearly made us fail was our very own Tower of London due to road works! We covered 2,370 miles in four days 7.5 hours, from the head office in Bradford and back. We made Pisa in three days 6.5 hours and the car did not flinch once from all the abuse. What’s more, we’ve succeed in beating our target and raising over £2,000 so far for Alzheimer’s Society - thanks to everyone who supported us and helped made our unique road trip possible.”

To support Neill and the team, visit http://www.justgiving.com/owner-email/update/jct600fleetchallenge

Throughout 2015, JCT600’s 2,300-strong team across its 50 dealerships have once again been taking part in a variety of fund-raising events in support of a single chosen charity with colleagues taking on the challenge of attempting to raise even more funds than last year.

Alzheimer’s Society is the leading support and research charity for people with dementia, their families and carers. In 2015 there will be 850,000 people with dementia in the UK, with numbers set to rise to one million by 2025. The Society’s fight for a better world for people with all types of dementia takes a wide range of forms and we will continue our work to improve the lives of those living with dementia.