

Couple drive 24,000km to aid charities

A COUPLE who drove 24,000km in a one-litre banger to Mongolia and back are planning another challenge next year.

Nigel Statham, from Lexden, Colchester, and his partner Jordana Battis, from Australia, raised £1,500 for the Cambridge Mongolian disaster appeal and Essex Air Ambulance by travelling halfway around the world in a Suzuki SJ410.

The pair now hope to drive from London to Cape Town via the west coast of Africa and then back up the east coast to Nairobi and perhaps drive a complete circle of South America as well.

This time they will be travelling in a Land Rover and Mr Statham hopes the experience will be as successful as the last.

Team "Mongol Shoebox" set off in July and encountered challenges and adventures from breaking down in deepest Siberia to being threatened with machine guns by local police, before arriving safe and sound back in England seven weeks later.

Mr Statham said of the trip: "It was an amazing experience. There were huge lows and at the time it was incredibly difficult, but the highs could not be compared."

They are now eager to set off on another adventure planned for April to raise money for the Essex Air Ambulance and a charity from the region they plan to visit.

Anyone interested in sponsoring the future trip is asked to contact: info@mongolshoebox.co.uk



ADVENTUROUS: Nigel Statham and Jordana Battis, from Colchester, who drove 24,000km to aid the Mongolian disaster appeal and Essex Air Ambulance

Photograph: JAMES FLETCHER