Scooter ride of a lifetime

By ROBERT DOMAN

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A SCOOTER enthusiast is donning his helmet for a 1,000-mile journey to Italy to raise money for Motor Neurone Disease.

John Cartwright, who lives in Kinnerley, is set to sit astride his 1964 Lambretta for the planned three-day adventure, which will take him from Aldridge, near Walsall, to the site of the old Lambretta factory in Milan.

He will set off on July 16 to raise money for research into Motor Neurone Disease after his father passed away as a result of the condition in 2004.

John is also bidding to overcome his own personal challenge as he bids to make the trip little more than six years after shattering both legs in an accident which hospitalised him for five months.

"I have had scooters since I was 16 and have always enjoyed riding them," said John.

"My dad was always into scooters and motorcycles too and he helped me with them a lot.

"He was really proud when I rode across Europe in 1997 because he built the engine I used, so he would appreciate me having a go at this on two wheels again."

John, 38, travelled through Southern France, Italy, Switzerland, and Germany when he gripped the handle bars 14 years ago, and this time he is again hoping to complete the challenge on his much-loved, cream and red Lambretta, which he has owned for 20 years.

Support

"I wanted to do something to help sufferers of the disease, but after the accident I can't run or walk for long distances so this seemed the best option.

" I will be using A and B roads and my wife will be following in a van with a big spares package just in case.

"I have received lots of support from the Lambretta Club of Great Britain, and North Shropshire Scooter Club, and there is a big party planned for when I arrive," he said.

John will ride for roughly 10 hours a day to complete the journey which will take him along St Bernard's Pass, made famous by the film *The Italian Job*.

Anyone who would like to support John by making a donation can do so at www.justgiving.com/gtwildcat

● **Riding high: Above.** Scooter enthusiast, John Cartwright, is riding his Lambretta to Italy on a 1,000-mile fundraiser for Motor Neurone Disease.
● **Back on the road: Left.** John's Lambretta, restored to its former glory after the accident which left John with two broken legs and hospitalised for five months and his scooter badly damaged **Below.**