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**Southern Spinal Injuries Trust launches Dartmoor Cycle Challenge
in aid of Jubilee Garden appeal
*Event takes place Sunday 27 May 2012***

Spinal surgeons from across the South West of England are joining forces with spinal cord injured patients, their families and friends, to take part in a charity cycle event to support the region's spinal centre. Organised by the Southern Spinal Injuries Trust (SSIT), the Dartmoor Cycle Challenge will raise funds for the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre in Salisbury, the only specialist spinal centre in the South and South West of England.

The Dartmoor Cycle Challenge aims to bring together hundreds of cyclists for a three distance event on Sunday 27 May 2012. People with spinal cord injury will be able to take part thanks to the all terrain wheelchair company, Mountain Trike. The three wheeled chairs with mountain bike tyres and brakes will allow paralysed participants to get off road and have some serious fun. Mountain Trike will be supplying a limited number of their wheelchairs for use in the event.

All funds raised through the Dartmoor Cycle Challenge will go towards SSIT's Jubilee Garden appeal funding a specially designed rehabilitation garden at the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre. The idea of David Chapple, Consultant Spinal Surgeon and SSIT Trustee, this 'Jubilee Garden' will provide patients with an all important outside social area as well as offering them the chance to use gardening as part of their rehabilitation. A memorial fund set up in memory of David's son, Horatio, will benefit the Jubilee Garden appeal. The garden will be a lasting legacy to Horatio as well as helping improve the quality of life of patients being cared for at the Salisbury Spinal Centre.

The Dartmoor Cycle Challenge will start and finish at the River Dart Country Park in Ashburton, Devon and will sweep through the Dartmoor National Park linking villages and attractions along the way. There will be three different distance loops offering a challenge for all levels of experience and ability. Serious cyclists can sign up for the 61 mile ride with some challenging hill climbs requiring plenty of stamina and a genuine lust for adventure; the 21 mile ride follows the same route until Dartmeet and then continues with some steep climbing towards Widecombe in the Moor. A one mile route for wheelchair users and younger children will take place within the Country Park.

The Dartmoor Cycle Challenge, which will be organised and fully supported by Discover Adventure, takes place on Sunday 27 May 2012. Registration for adults costs £30 with a minimum sponsorship target of £50. Entry for wheelchair users is £10. More information including online registration is via the SSIT website: www.ssit.org.uk

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