



Welsh couple's 3,000 mile road trip for services' heroes

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A Welsh couple are giving up their summer holidays to help ex-services personnel.



Karen and Wayne Jones will be taking part in this year's **Rally For Heroes 2018** event across Europe in their modified Audi TTRS.

Rally For Heroes has been raising money for service charities that provide vital support to our armed service men, women and their families for 8 years and is staged biennially.



In previous years, RFH has supported the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes, but since 2014 they have supported SSAFA - the Armed Forces charity, formerly known as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association.

SSAFA is the UK's oldest national military charity to relieve need, suffering and distress amongst the Armed Forces, veterans and their families in order to support their independence and dignity. In fact, SSAFA goes so far as to provide lifelong support to serving men and women and veterans from the British Armed Forces and their families or dependents.

Karen and Wayne are both Welsh, hailing from Bagillt near Flint in North Wales. They currently live in Gorsedd, so have easy access to some of the best UK driving roads in the Snowdonia National Park and the Brecon Beacons.

They both have links to the Armed Forces; Karen worked for Service Children's Education (SCE) in Cyprus and then in Germany where she first heard about RFH and got involved. Wayne was employed by the UK Ministry of Defence at RAF Sealand in North Wales and currently works for BAE Systems.

The regiment that Karen was attached to in Germany was deployed to Afghanistan and she saw first-hand the impact that had on the families.



Taking part in a charity event, driving 5 miles for every fallen serviceman and woman, was the perfect way to spend some time during the summer break. Describing themselves as true 'petrol heads', they took part in their first RFH event in 2012. It was a fantastic opportunity to combine their passion for cars, travelling and raising money for charity. The experience of driving some of the most iconic driving roads in Europe, meeting new people, being part of the RFH family and supporting such deserving charities was so intoxicating, they did it again in 2014 and 2016.

RFH modified Audi TTRS

The car they will use is a modified 2.5 litre turbo-charged 5 Cylinder. Audi TTRS Roadster develops 440bhp and for the event has been modified with Revo Stage 2 ECU re-map; NGK Iridium racing plugs; Revo hi-flow air filter; Forge Intercooler; Miltek turbo back sports exhaust with hi-flow cats; KW Variant 3 Coilover suspension; Girodisc brakes with Carbotech XP8 Pads, steel braided lines and Castrol SRF fluid.

They will set off once more from their home in Gorsedd, North Wales for the start from Horse Guards Parade in London on the 2 August.

They will pass and through France, Switzerland, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Austria, Germany and Luxemburg before crossing the finish line at Waltham Abbey back in England on the 11 August. 50 cars will drive 3,000 miles through 10 Countries in 10 days, with the aim of raising £100,000 for SSAFA. All the participants pay their own costs for the event and must also raise a minimum of £1500 per car for SSAFA. This years' RFH event will take the total money raised by RFH past the £500,000 milestone, an incredible achievement.



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You can support Karen and Wayne to raise money for SSAFA by donating at:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/WayneandKarenRFH2018>