Imagine standing at the edge of an open doorway in an aircraft flying at 10,000 feet – the noise of the engines and the wind ringing in your ears with only the outline of distant fields below. Now imagine leaning forward out of that doorway and letting go – falling forward into the clouds, diving down through the air as you start freefalling at over 120mph! Then imagine the peace and quiet as the canopy opens, the steering toggles come down either side of you and you begin a tranquil parachute descent from a mile up in the air, steering yourself back down to the centre of the drop zone below. Well you can stop imagining because it’s real and you can do it at an airfield near you. There are over 20 centres across the UK where you can jump, and raise vital funds for Bridge2Aid at the same time.

What does it involve?
Technically the jump is called a ‘Tandem Skydive’ – you’ll be freefalling through the air (without the parachute deployed) for several thousand feet; while you’re harnessed to a professional parachute instructor at all times throughout the descent. This is the only way you can jump from such an altitude without spending thousands of pounds becoming a freefall parachutist.

Stop press
Dr Ian Wilson, Bridge2Aid’s co-founder and CEO, is not one to turn down a crazy opportunity – so he has taken up the challenge of doing a tandem skydive, alongside a brave group of B2A fundraisers. Ian’s dive will take place on June 15 2009 at the Brackley jump site, near Oxford. He would love for more people to join him on this amazing day. All participants need a sense of adventure (very important) and will need to raise £395 (or more) to jump for free.

If you want to join Ian next June, or would like to jump at one of the 20 sites either singly or as part of a group, please visit www.bridge2aid.org or contact Kerry Dutton, our fundraising co-ordinator by email kerry@bridge2aid.org or by telephone 07881 912060.