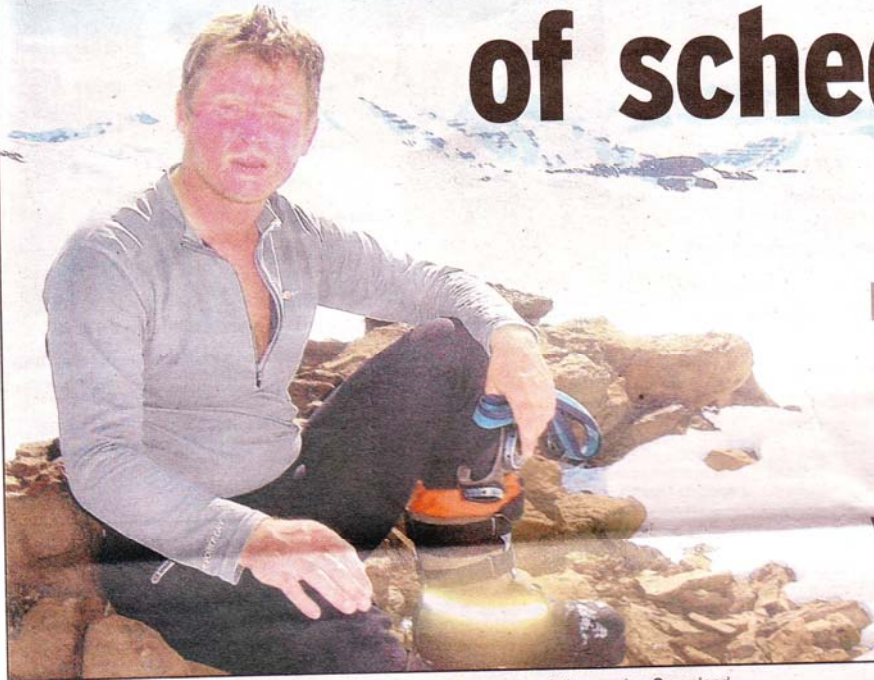


Hero returns ahead of schedule



New Arctic expedition aimed at educating youngsters

Explorer: Alan Chambers, from Whitchurch, has returned after successfully crossing Greenland

AN ARCTIC explorer flew into Bristol Airport yesterday after successfully crossing Greenland.

Alan Chambers, from Whitchurch, and fellow explorer Peter Herbert, from Exeter, completed the expedition ahead of schedule, despite being stranded for almost a week in a remote Inuit village.

The expedition was part of an educational initiative called Feet of Green.

The 373-mile trek had been expected to last up to 30 days but the duo completed it well ahead of schedule - in 26 days.

Along the way they kept in contact with thousands of schoolchildren, including those from Weston Park in Lawrence Weston and Filton Avenue Juniors.

The pupils tracked their progress through the project's interactive website.

At one point the men were faced with a 16-mile trek through blinding blizzard conditions when weather conditions prevented them from boarding an Inuit boat.

After the exhausting hike, they

by Martin Booth
m.booth@bepp.co.uk

finally met the Inuits by a frozen lake and after a two-hour trip to the town of Isortoq they spent the night under a proper roof for the first time in a month.

Yesterday morning they had to wait for severe fog to lift so they could be lifted out by helicopter and begin the journey back to their families in England.

Dr Richard Hale, business and education director of Feet of Green, said he was thrilled to be welcoming the two adventurers home.

He said: "The pair of them are exhausted but elated.

"They have achieved a remarkable crossing in spectacular time.

"Along the way they have kept thousands of well-wishers informed of their progress. At the same time they have collected important samples and data, and have created an invaluable video resource.

"This is just the start of Feet of Green's initiative. Through tremendous co-operation with schools we

have brought the realities of the Arctic world into the classroom."

The Feet of Green initiative is sponsored by the Great British Mobility Group.

Its stated aims include helping to focus the attention of as many people as possible, especially the young, on the fast changing global environmental challenges that we all face.

Alan and Peter will give a talk about their adventures at the Bristol Festival of Nature on the Harbourside on Sunday, at 12.15pm.



Flashback: How the Post broke the news of Alan's challenge

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