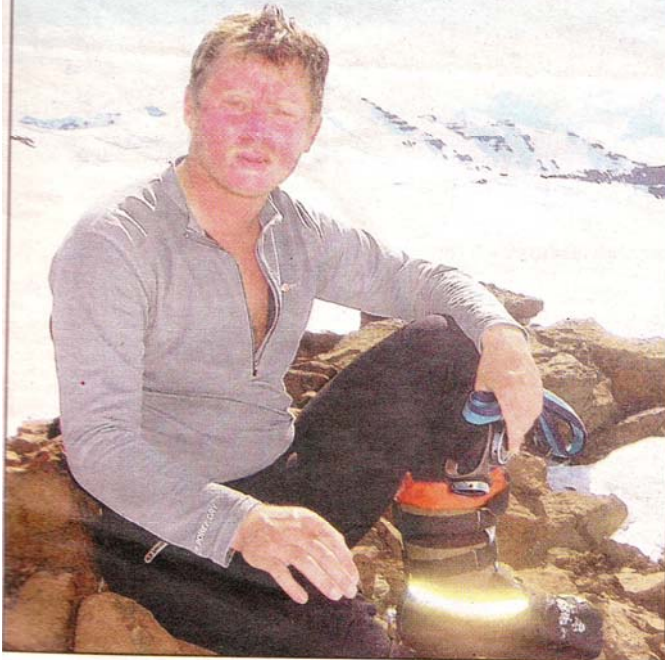


## Explorer prepares to face dangers of ice trip



A BRISTOL-BASED polar explorer has been deep inside the Arctic Circle to prepare for a 400-mile crossing of Greenland later this month.

Alan Chambers, from Whitchurch, and fellow adventurer Peter Herbert, from Somerset, went to the remote Norwegian island of Spitsbergen to get ready for their challenge.

They practised crossing crevasses and using the communications equipment they will take on their Greenland expedition, which will be used to send images, text, voice and video via satellite back to their base in Westbury-on-Trym.

They also met Professor Jonathan Bamber, a world-leading expert on glaciology and ice melt from the University of Bristol and the Bristol Glaciology Centre.

He taught them how to measure, weigh and photograph ice samples so data can be sent back to the glaciology centre for study.

Alan, who was awarded the MBE for polar exploration in 2000, said: "We don't want to put ourselves in any

unnecessary positions of danger, so we are trying to identify risks and embrace them.

"There will potentially be some quite dangerous situations as we cross Greenland, and many crevasses are getting bigger with the impact of global warming, so Peter and I practised working together as a team to tackle this."

At the end of April Alan and Peter will set off on a 40-day crossing of Greenland, an expedition that has education at its heart.

Children in schools across Bristol and the UK will be able to follow the pair across the ice on their website, through blogs and via live video links.

The expedition is sponsored by the Bristol-based Great British Mobility Group and planned by Feet of Green, an organisation that links the business world with education.

Alan and Peter have links with almost 30,000 schools across the UK and in Bristol, including primary schools in Lawrence Weston and Shirehampton.