

# Greenland trek to go online for schools' green teaching

BY BRADLEY GERRARD

TWO South West-based explorers are to trek 400 miles, unsupported, across Greenland to raise awareness of environmental issues.

Peter Herbert, from Ottery St Mary, has teamed up with Alan Chambers, from Bristol.

They hope to reach 30,000 schools with an online explorers' blog, making it the largest-ever British Arctic expedition focused on education.

While training ahead of the start of their expedition in April, they are visiting schools across the region to inspire youngsters to follow the adventure via the internet.

Peter said the idea to educate young people on environmental issues and push them to get outdoors more came when he was helping a colleague in Russia.

They were looking at weather reports which showed how much the climate had changed.

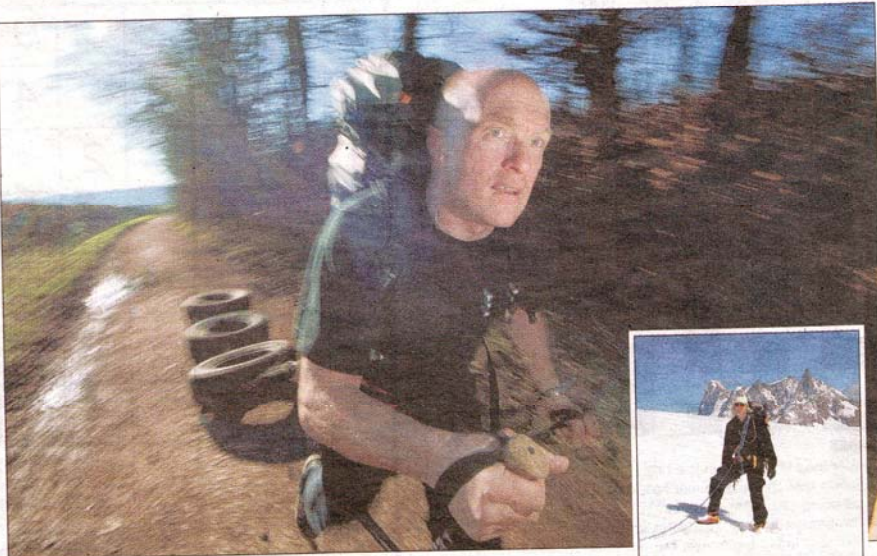
He said: "I didn't realise it was like that. I wanted to try to do a project for youngsters to follow.

"In the South West, we are leading the way on green issues."

But he added it was important to help raise awareness among the younger generation if climate change is to slow down.

He said: "We are trying to get children to realise it is their future and they can change it. It is too late for us to change it."

"Youngsters engage with



Peter Herbert pulling tyres in training for his trek across Greenland. Inset: Peter training in Chamonix  
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science more than us and it is important they realise they will have this responsibility.

"They won't be able to waste energy and dump things like we have."

The key to interacting with young people is the trek's website, which will provide daily reports.

Peter said: "Teachers will find material written for the classroom, all national curriculum-approved.

"This is the largest education expedition delivered directly into schools in the UK."

Schools in the South West have also been challenged prior to the start of the trek to produce a small device which could power an iPod while the pair are trekking.

The device will be taken on the trek to see if it works and is part of the pair's bid to use as much renewable energy as possible.

Peter said: "We will hardly use any fuel. The solar panels or wind chargers will provide our power."

Academic institutions across the world have also been interested in the project and Peter has been ap-

proached by Washington University in the USA.

He will be collecting data for it, in the shape of ice and snow samples, and hopefully the Met Office, too.

Alan is a former Royal Marine who led the first unsupported British team walk to the geographic North Pole from Canada in 2000.

The pair will drag their sledges, which will weigh in excess of 200lb, throughout the 40-day trek.

Peter has been dragging tyres up to five times a week to increase his stamina.

Sponsorship for the trek has come from Great British Mobility and secondary sponsors such as Flybe.

Peter said only companies who had made a visible attempt to reduce their carbon footprint were accepted as sponsors.

He added: "Great British Mobility want to see more young people fitter than they are today."

"They think every young person should push themselves for as long as possible."

● For more details, visit [www.feetofgreen.com](http://www.feetofgreen.com).