



● TRECKER: Peter Herbert on a 40-day exploration across Greenland

Pupils follow North Pole trek using the Web

ALICE WRIGHT

AFTER almost a week stranded in a remote Inuit village in Greenland, two explorers have arrived back from Britain's biggest education-based Arctic expedition – and are already planning their next challenge.

Trekkers Peter Herbert and Alan Chambers crossed one of the world's largest glaciers, regularly bringing their experiences to UK classrooms via the Internet.

Flybe engineer Peter Herbert is now home in Ottery St Mary, East Devon.

He said the trip as a whole had been "fabulous" and they had achieved everything they wanted, particularly with the links they forged with schools across the UK during the expedition.

Now he is back he is planning to visit the four Devon schools with which he chose to have closest contact, to tell them first-hand about his experiences.

The trekkers set out in April to cross some of the world's largest and most inhospitable glaciers as part of the first, education-focused, Great British Mobility Group Feet of Green expedition.

They faced debilitating weather conditions, including biting cold, rains which caused the snow to melt under their feet, polar bears and deep crevasses.

Along the way they kept in contact



● FROZEN: Alan Chambers cold as he reaches the North Pole

with thousands of schoolchildren who tracked their progress through the project's interactive website, www.feetofgreen.com

During the expedition they also captured data for the Met Office Hadley Centre via a mobile weather station.

At the end of their trek, Mr Herbert and Mr Chambers faced an unexpected 15-mile trek through blinding blizzards after discovering they could not be taken off the ice on a boat by local Inuits as planned because it was too thin for husky dogs to run from the boat to them on the shore.

When they finally reached their destination, weather conditions were too foggy to fly the explorers out and they

had to wait almost a week for a helicopter lift out of the village.

They were welcomed home at Bristol International Airport on Tuesday evening.

Mr Herbert is now looking forward to continuing the team's work with schoolchildren across the country, and beyond.

He said: "It was one of the highlights of my trip when we actually realised that what we were doing was having quite a big effect on the attitude of youngsters, and their teachers as well.

"That's exactly what we were trying to achieve."

Schools were able to use material provided by the team in any aspect of education they chose.

Mr Herbert said interaction with the Arctic expedition was used not only to make children think about teamwork, but also fed into diverse areas of the curriculum, such as problem solving in maths and creative writing projects in English classes.

The team has now been asked to give a talk on the project to the International Environmental Schools Consortium later this year, where 60 countries will be represented.

Over the next two years, Mr Herbert said they were looking at organising expeditions to the jungle and to the North Pole, and they are hoping to take a small number of schoolchildren with them.