



arctic

Days after he turned 27, Tom Avery reached the bottom of the earth, the youngest Briton ever to make it to the South Pole. Two-and-a-half years later and he was literally on top of the world, having retraced the steps of the American Robert Peary to the North Pole.

Now aged 30, he is about to embark on a different sort of expedition. For three days in May he will lead up to 200 willing participants in the first ever Talisker Trek – a charity hiking event set

against the stunning backdrop of the Cuillin Hills on the Isle of Skye.

“I have never done anything like it before,” says Avery. “It’s different in that normally my expeditions are about going from A to B, from base camp to the top of the mountain, or from the Arctic coast to the Pole.”

Tom met me in the less far-flung location of his parent’s house in Chelsea. Fitting his position as the new face of British exploration, he is on a fleeting visit to London from the Swiss resort of