

DORSET EVENING ECHO

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follow
explorer's
journey:
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EXPLORER MEETS PUPILS WHO ARE TRACKING HIS PROGRESS

By **JAMES TOURGOUT**

A WEST Dorset explorer has returned home to prepare for the next leg of his record-breaking world voyage.

Globe trotting Jason Lewis, 30, has stopped off on his ambitious trip to visit friends and relatives in Askerswell, near Dorchester.

The London University graduate and friend Steve Smith from Wolverhampton are bidding to make history by becoming the first people to travel the world using pedal power.

The intrepid adventurer found time to visit Budmouth Technology College in Weymouth where pupils are tracking his progress.

Jason said: "The students are following us on the Internet, through our own website and by satellite.

"It is helping with a project they are doing and to tie in with an exchange with other schools."

The dynamic duo departed from Greenwich in July 1994 and cycled through Europe to Portugal before setting off on a 111-day voyage across the Atlantic — in a pedalboat.

Once in America they cycled and rollerbladed their way to San Francisco on the West coast.

Now they are preparing for the next leg in September — to pedal across the Pacific to Hawaii and onto Australia.

Jason said: "We want to be the first people to go round the world using human power and nothing else.



"We want to help spread the environmental message but also want to show that people can do a lot by the power of oneself."

The pair have suf-

fered their fair share of setbacks. Jason broke both legs when he was knocked over by a car in Colorado and a whale flipped over their pedalboat in the Atlantic.

But Jason added: "There have been so many high points. Generally, the best thing is realising that people are pretty much the same everywhere, nice and friendly."

**PEDALLING FOR
THE PLANET: From
the left, West
Dorset explorer
Jason Lewis,
with Budmouth
Technology
College students
Jenny Egan, 14,
Carl Mutch, 14 and
Pam McClung,
13.**

Picture:
FINNBARR WEBSTER