

# Adventurous businessman set for peak performance

## Lee to lead expedition conquering South America's highest mountain

By ALISON POWELL

A NEWBURY businessman is leading an expedition to the top of the highest mountain in South America at the end of the month.

Lee Farmer, 33, from Woolton Hill, will lead a group of six people in a four-week expedition up the 22,840ft Aconcagua peak in Argentina.

An experienced mountaineer, the expedition is part of his mission to conquer the highest peaks in all seven continents having already summited Vinson Massif in Antarctica and Kosciusko in Australia.

It is his first expedition since qualifying as a mountain leader and he will be responsible for their safety and survival.

He said: "As a result of my successful trips, I have been in touch with a number of climbers looking for an expedition leader which is a very exciting development.

"While all my companions

will be bringing a list of clothing and equipment, it is up to me to provide them with the extras which will ensure their safety as they climb the mountain and to steer the right path."

He added: "Although some routes to Aconcagua's summit are relatively non-technical, it has a high mountain death toll. Many climbers tend to move too swiftly with little respect for the elevation or the weather, which can quickly become severe."

Lee will set off just after Christmas, taking a winter break from his work as a land agent for Faversham Brooke Ltd, near Newbury.

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Summit leader: Lee Farmer will be responsible for the team's safety.