

# A safe return for mountaineer

**AFTER** reaching the top of the world's highest mountain last week, local mountaineer Lee Farmer is now safely back in Katmandu awaiting his flight home.

Although Mr Farmer, aged 35, from Woolton Hill, reached the top of Mount Everest and descended again safely, he has suffered nerve damage to his fingers and toes as a result of frostbite.

He said that his fingers were numb but that he felt in good shape and had recovered from feeling tired and sick.

Speaking from Katmandu, he said: "I got off lightly compared to others – there are plenty of climbers with frostbite walking round Katmandu bandaged up.

"I really tried to be safe and careful on the mountain and experience played a part in –75 degrees centigrade winds.

He added: "We didn't spend long on the summit –

maybe 10 to 15 minutes before it got too cold."

Although she started the journey with him, Lee's wife Nicola did not hear from her husband while he made the final summit attempt and said she had "mixed emotions" about his expedition.

She said: "Climbing is a deep passion of his and I have to be supportive of his dreams and desires. As his wife I tend to block out the dangers as I know he cares about himself."

Although she added: "When I knew he was doing his summit push I didn't sleep for four nights. I'd just think of him up there and couldn't sleep."

■ Log on to [Newburytoday.co.uk](http://Newburytoday.co.uk) for a full account of Mr Farmer's journey.



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