

# Sahara trek raises £5,000

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**FOUR** colleagues from a Liss firm have raised almost £5,000 from a charity trek across the Sahara desert.

They are all now back at work at Shilling Communication at Liss Mill after walking more than 100 kilometres in blistering conditions.

Pete Fletcher, Josephine Smith, Pete Garrett and Rob Lovelock are the latest group of Shilling employees who have taken advantage of the company's policy of encouraging its staff to raise money for good causes in challenging and adventurous ways.

Pete Garrett said the experience had been both physically testing and mentally stimulating.

Among his most treasured memories are walking across enormous sand dunes and sleeping out under the stars.

"It was physically challenging because it was so hot – normally the temperature would be in the mid-twenties at this time of year, but most days it was 35 degrees.

"There was also a combination of terrains – the first two days were on very hard plains, then we went over a volcanic mountain range and finally there were two days walking on sand dunes – they were amazing, they were just so high."

The group were supported by a back-up team which went ahead in Land Rovers and a lorry and set up camp each night, and also provided the catering.



**The Shilling foursome in the Sahara**

"We were up each day at 6.30am and walking by 7.30 and we would finish at 6pm, so they were long days," said Pete. "Pete Fletcher had a really bad time with blisters, but he just got on with it and never complained."

The Shilling quartet were part of a larger group of 24 people, ranging in age from teenagers to pensioners, who were raising money for a variety of causes.

Pete himself was raising money for UNICEF, while Josephine and Pete Fletcher were supporting In Ministry to Children, the Petersfield based organisation which helps street children in Colombia, and Rob was raising money for Sol Kids, which helps children in Mexico.

The four received sponsorship from friends and family members, and a further £2,000 was contributed by Shilling Communication.

They were due to give a presentation yesterday to their work colleagues, including a video diary of their trek.