

Lee Scales Kilimanjaro For Turners Hill Charity

A rugby player swapped his rugby boots and jersey this autumn for walking boots and thermal vests to scale the heady heights of Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa to raise much-needed money for Turners Hill-based charity, Sullivan's Heroes. Standing at some 5,895 metres, or 19,341 feet above sea level, Kilimanjaro is a daunting prospect, but rugby man Lee Buller crossed the line in style.

By Jacob White

Lee Buller, a marketing and e-commerce specialist and rugby player decided he was not content with tackling his opponents on the rugby field and would instead tackle Kilimanjaro. The physically and emotionally gruelling trek saw Lee and his friend Matt Kent-Stallwood climb to Uhuru peak in just seven days.

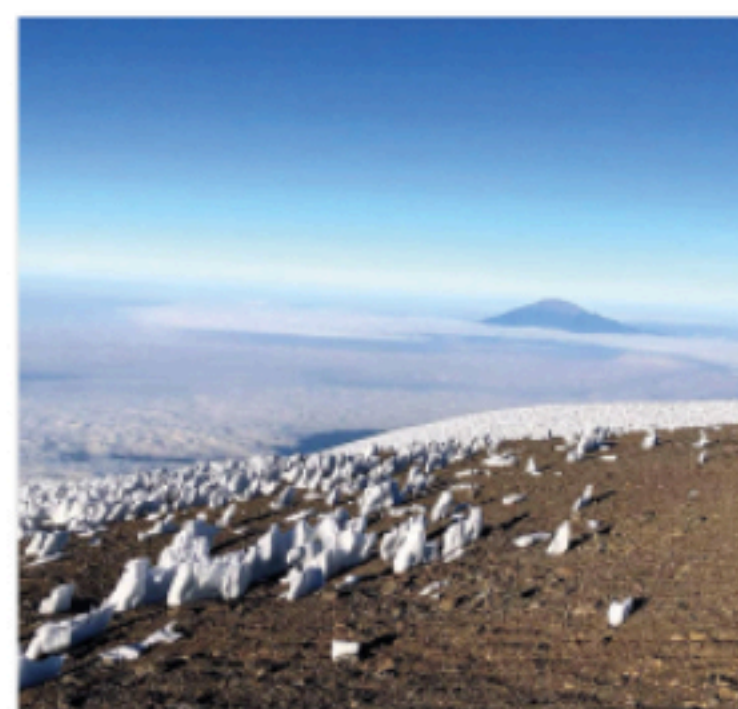
Intrepid adventurer and fundraiser, Lee was motivated to take on the challenge to raise money for Sullivan's Heroes based in Turners Hill because, he says 'they do an amazing job helping families in need' – he paid for his trip to Africa, ensuring that all funds raised would go to the charity to aid it in its work.

The charity was set-up in 2014 by Richard and Fiona Smith after going through the process of adapting their house for their disabled son Sullivan and discovering there was little in the way of financial assistance towards this help, where the costs are in excess of a Disabled Facilities Grant awarded.



Tragically, after subsequently fundraising efforts to meet the costs required for their home adaptations, Sullivan passed away in 2015 shortly before the adaptation work on their home was finished. Despite their loss, the couple decided that they would set-up a charity to help and support other families.

Ahead of his African adventure, Lee got in shape by completing the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge – 26 miles in eight hours and 40 minutes – the challenge is to complete the three treks in 12 hours or less. The three Yorkshire peaks he tackled were Ingleborough at 723m, Pen-y-Ghent at 691m, and Whernside at 728m.



Speaking on his return home and thanking those who donated, Lee, said: "Thank you so much! I am back home safe. It was incredibly, mega hard, I had to seriously dig deep to get to the top on summit day which started out at 12.00am - but I made Uhuru peak, the highest place in Africa at nearly 20,000ft."

Charity co-founder, Fiona Sullivan, said: "Huge congratulations and thanks to Lee Buller, and his pal Matt Kent-Stallwood, who successfully climbed to the lofty peak of Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for Sullivan's Heroes. Thank you so much to everyone who's donated so far – raising a fantastic £1,710."

HELP LEE'S FUNDRAISING TOTAL MOUNT UP!

It is not too late to help Lee's Kilimanjaro charity fundraising efforts - if you would like to add to his sponsorship for this impressive feat to raise funds for Sullivan's Heroes, visit: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lee-buller-kila, or text code SNRJ76 and the amount you wish to sponsor Lee to 70070.