

The Northern Echo

# ne

The lifestyle magazine  
for the North-East

AUGUST 2006



## STYLE

Mixing fashion  
and football

What the  
school leavers  
will miss most  
about home

## HOMES

Is this the  
dinkiest house  
around?

MOTORING BEAUTY TRAVEL SHOPPING GARDENING

style & comfort

The Best Place to Buy Your New Fireplace

Combining Classical with Contemporary

All you need to create Warmth and Ambiance




Full Combi and Central Heating Systems are Available

Come and browse over our 100 fire displays on 2 superb showroom floors

Free Home Consultations

WE ARE HERE

PEEL ST.

MORRISON'S SUPERMARKET

NEWCASTLE

CHESTER ST.

RAILWAY ST.

ASDA SUPERSTORE

## FIREPLACE


warehouse

16 Chester Street, Bishop Auckland

Telephone: 01388 600008

CORGI REGISTERED  
FITTING SERVICE AVAILABLE

THE SPIRIT OF URBAN FASHION



HIDDEN SOUL

CLOTHING

KING STREET  
DARLINGTON  
DL3 6JH  
FIRST FLOOR - NEXT TO ROUTE 66

tel: 01325 254346  
email: [hiddeensoul@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hiddeensoul@hotmail.co.uk)

# nE

## contents

8



14



10

**nE**  
magazine

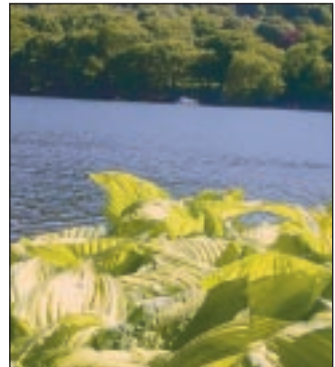
is produced by  
The Northern  
Echo/  
Newsquest  
Ltd.,  
a Gannett  
Company,  
Priestgate,  
Darlington  
DL1 1NF  
(01325)  
381313

ADVERTISING  
Gail Hunter  
(01325) 505 239  
[gail.hunter@nne.co.uk](mailto:gail.hunter@nne.co.uk)  
Chris Kay  
(0191) 374 0298  
[chris.kay@nne.co.uk](mailto:chris.kay@nne.co.uk)

EDITORIAL  
Jenny Needham  
(01325) 505082  
[jenny.needham@nne.co.uk](mailto:jenny.needham@nne.co.uk)

- 3 SHARON GRIFFITHS  
Travelling light?  
Not any more
- 4 INTERIORS  
Conservatory  
estimates
- 6 INTERIORS  
Heart of stone in  
Low Pittington
- 8 INTERIORS  
Is this the dinkiest  
house around?
- 10 GARDENING  
From battleground  
to beautiful garden
- 12 LIFESTYLE  
A rose grower's  
Wilde inventions
- 14 ME AND MY  
WARDROBE  
Jo-Ann Swinnerton
- 15 OUT ON THE TOWN  
At the  
Barney ball

- 16 SHOPPING  
Compulsive  
treats
- 17 SHOPPING  
Delicatessen  
delights
- 18 GADGET MAN  
What the  
future holds
- 19 BEAUTY  
Just love  
those lips!
- 20 MOTORING  
Lexus: the clean,  
green machine
- 21 NE CONNECTIONS  
Lapping it up  
by the lake





## sharon griffiths

“Like the Queen, we now take a sheet and a blanket

**H**OW reassuring to know that the Queen and I travel in the same sort of style... Well, OK, maybe not quite the same. I don't divide my time between my various palaces, castles and country estates. Neither do I have a staff running round to see to my every need.

But, both the Queen and I are fond of our home comforts. So fond, that even on holiday, we take a little bit of home with us. Aside from clothes for all contingencies, boxes of official papers and other essentials, the Queen apparently always finds space for feather pillows, a hot water bottle, Malvern water, white sheets, blankets, a kettle and a packet of Earl Grey. She must have stayed in the same holiday cottages as I have...

There was a time when I could go off on holiday with nothing more than a spring in my step, a change of knickers and a toothbrush. Not any more.

Whenever we holiday in this country, husband and I invariably rent a cottage, more flexible than a hotel, even if you have to make your own breakfast and pour your own drinks. Not quite Balmoral, but we have learnt from bitter experience to rent only five star properties. Something costing £200 might seem like a bargain – but not if it's so uncomfortable you don't want to spend your days there and splash out a fortune going out all the time.

I remember – however much I wish I could forget – a particular house in Cornwall where the kitchen was just a covered walkway with a corrugated tin roof between the back door and a shed and dripping with damp. Ferns and moss grew out of the walls and were singed by the unpredictable flame of the ancient gas cooker. That week we spent a fortune eating out a lot...

But even top-of-the-range cottages have their drawbacks. The beds for a start. Cottages could start giving star ratings to those too. The last one we stayed in had a mattress so soft it was like a marshmallow. You sank right down into it, so far that you feared you would suffocate and be lost for ever. Turning over in the night was a major athletic exercise, a bit like coming up for air from the deep end of an Olympic-sized pool.

Then there are pillows that are nasty foam-filled jobs... or there aren't enough of them... or they are two modern square ones or rock like bolsters... and the duvets are too fat or thin, too hot, too cold, too small, too suffocating or just too slippery.

Which is why, like the Queen, we now take a sheet and a blanket, which are much more adapt-

able to extremes of heat or cold. What's the point of a holiday if you can't even get a decent night's sleep?

We have rented cottages that have been so well equipped they look like an Ikea catalogue. Cupboards brimming with enough plates and glasses for a banquet for hundreds... every bit of fancy cooking utensil, pots you don't know how to use and strange, sadistic looking gadgets. There are racks of knives, piles of chopping boards, woks, toasters and fondue sets.

But do they have a light bulb bright enough to read by after dark? No. which is why we also take a lamp, or at least a high powered lightbulb or two. Travelling light? Not any more.

Other essentials – as well as books and plenty of wine – include mustard, a hairdryer and a corkscrew. Cottages usually provide a corkscrew but you can't risk it with something so vital. Oh yes, and a radio for the Archers and the cricket.

A friend of mine always takes her favourite small sharp kitchen knife, after too many holidays squishing tomatoes instead of slicing them. Others take coffee makers and cafetieres and juicers, though most places seem to have them now.

My mother, who used to stay in terribly posh hotels with my aunt, always took a bottle of brandy and a decent glass carefully wrapped in her luggage. The best brandy drunk out of tooth mugs, she said, never had quite the same appeal. I expect the Queen feels the same about the Malvern Water.

Taking food on holiday – apart from for the first day – always seems a bit weedy. Part of the fun is discovering new foods, new markets, farm shops, restaurants. But my cousin, who had cheerfully spent decades in France and Germany before finally settling in Greece, took many years before she could finally wean herself off British tea bags.

We go on holiday for change, variety, new experiences, all very stimulating and interesting. But some things are too important to change.

When you take small children away from their routine, you are always advised to keep some things as familiar as possible to prevent disruption and tears before bedtime – their favourite blanket, book, toy, and grown-ups are just the same.

Bolstered by our comfy beds, a good light and pillows of familiar, comfortable squashiness, we can make the most of freedom and new adventures. And after all, if it's good enough for the Queen...

### STYLISH SEATING

LINEAR is the latest stool to be launched by web company Sedini, based in Darlington. The Italian stool boasts superb lines and a great finish and would fit perfectly in most kitchen schemes.

Upholstered in luxurious real leather and hand-stitched in matching thread, Linear is height adjustable due to its gas lift mechanism. This ensures that it can be used around a dining table, breakfast bar or pedestal table. For added flexibility, the seat swivels and the seat and back are padded.

Available in three shades of leather with the metal base available in chrome or satin chrome.

Sedini Limited is a web-based company specialising in stylish and contemporary Italian bar stools. Free weekday delivery is offered on all orders – no matter how large or small. All products come with a 12 month guarantee.

[www.sedini.co.uk](http://www.sedini.co.uk)

NE window shopping



### STICKING POINT

WHEN you're feeding a toddler at home, it's quite amazing the number of times they can manage to throw their cutlery on the floor during meal times. Stay-Put eating utensils aim to help parents out on this, by sticking the utensils to the tray top to foil the little devils. Ezee-Reach cutlery is attached to an ultra-strong suction pad which will stick to a plastic highchair tray or any smooth non-porous surface. The suction pad is connected to the cutlery by a flexible coil which has a retention that acts as a memory, returning the child's hand back to the bowl when the child has eaten, so that hopefully the child learns to feed independently. The Stay-Put starter set includes a bowl and teaching spoon and fork for £8.99. For your nearest stockist please contact Bibs and Stuff on (01293) 774924

## CVO FIRE

Creators of the world's most desirable fireplaces



**EX-DISPLAY  
SALE NOW ON**  
Up to 50% off  
Prices from £499

Call now for  
more information

† 01325 301020

† 01325 327292

info@cvo.co.uk

[www.cvo.co.uk](http://www.cvo.co.uk)

### SHOWROOM

4 Beaumont Square  
Durham Way South  
Aycliffe Ind Park  
Newton Aycliffe  
County Durham DL5 6SW

Mon - Thurs 9.30am - 4.30pm  
Fri 9.30am - 5pm




## New Row Farm Nurseries

Visit the Grower

### Massive August Sale

# 25% OFF ALL MARKED PRICES

Shrubs, Trees, Herbaceous, Climbers and Herbs plus  
'Pallets of Plants' at Knockdown Prices

**Open 7 Days A Week 10am - 4pm**

Telephone: 01388 527698

Visit our website @[www.newrowfarmnurseries.co.uk](http://www.newrowfarmnurseries.co.uk)  
and buy plants online from us for delivery or collection

Wolsingham market place B6297 Tow Law monument

**NEW ROW FARM NURSERIES**





## Visiting York?

Then take the fast, easy way  
into the heart of York



### RAWCLIFFE BAR

Just Off A19 North of York

- ★ Frequent service every 10 mins
- ★ 7 days a week
- ★ Free car parking
- ★ Low fares



**Park & Ride Helpline**  
**(01904) 883000**  
or **883990**



**CONSERVATORY CLUB:** there's a huge range of styles. Below: Victorian and Georgian

# A touch of glass

By this time next year it's estimated that 12 per cent of all homes in Britain will have had a conservatory installed. GABRIELLE FAGAN explains what you need to consider when planning a glass extension to your home

**I**F YOU'VE been desperate to be able to enjoy the summer without having days ruined by our unpredictable weather, perhaps the answer is to add a conservatory to your home – the perfect light, airy retreat where you can enjoy a long, leisurely lunch or have a romantic dinner in the evening gazing up at the stars.

It's also a great addition to any home – and could even add value to your property as conservatories are rated as the top non-essential home improvement. But before you rush to join the fast-growing conservatory club, it's important to be aware of what makes a conservatory work well.

Aidan Jackson, marketing director of Amdega conservatories, based in Darlington, says: "Space is always at a premium and a conservatory is the most versatile way of getting extra living space. These rooms can be used for anything from a dining room to a playroom, or even their traditional use cultivating exotic house plants.

"I think one of the most unusual uses we have seen one put to was housing someone's valuable collection of tortoises!"

He cautions that however you use your conservatory it shouldn't overpower the garden by

#### TOP TIPS

- If you opt for a bespoke conservatory, ensure the designer incorporates your requests so the building is tailored to your lifestyle.
- A south-facing room will benefit from heat and light throughout the year – ideal if you live in northern England or Scotland – but you will need blinds and extra ventilation if you live in the warmer South.
- You will need double glazing and extra insulation in a north-facing conservatory.
- The back of the house is the most common position for a conservatory, but you may be able to add one to the side of your home if it is set back slightly by even a couple of bricks.
- Do not demolish a garage to fit a conservatory as it could put off future buyers.

being too large and that it should harmonise with the property's original style or period.

"Good construction, with the stone or brick base blending with the house's structure, is also





### CONSERVATORY STYLE

A CONSERVATORY can adapt to whatever style you choose, whether contemporary or traditional. When it comes to furnishing, it's an opportunity to try something different in style from the rest of the home.

In general, light, bright fabrics and informal furniture suit airy, sun-filled rooms. Aidan Jackson of Amdega says: "Avoid delicate fabrics or antique furniture because of the possibility of sun damage. Cotton fabrics and hard-wearing wicker or rattan furniture are ideal for a relaxing room like this."

### FABRICS

NATURAL fabrics and light colourways will suit your indoor/outdoor room. Stripes or checks in 100 per cent cotton would be a fresh, hard-wearing choice for a conservatory. Ian Mankin has a brilliant selection. There are deckchair stripes in a variety of colourways which start at £10 a metre for pure cotton, or £13.50 for ticking. Call: 020 7722 0997/www.ianmankin.com

### FURNITURE

MOST high street furniture stores offer ranges of hard-wearing wicker and rattan furniture. Argos furniture starts from around £169 for a rattan sofa; Marks & Spencer's Antique Rattan collection starts at £299 for two stacking chairs, while Laura Ashley's Tyler rattan furniture is £500 for a chair and £800 for a sofa. **See picture left.**

vital. Don't neglect adequate ventilation and heating so that you ensure the room can be used all year round. A space that is searingly hot in the summer and freezing in the winter is pointless."

Amdega bespoke conservatories start from around £25,000.

Leading conservatory designer Peter Marston is passionate about conservatories and can take credit for some of the most beautiful examples in the world, from Tokyo to San Francisco. "A conservatory's a wonderful way of expanding your home and it enables people to live a semi-outdoor life by linking the house with the garden," he says.

His company, Marston & Langer, has built bespoke conservatories in shaded city gardens, on top of buildings as enclosed roof gardens, or even as an entrance to a home.

Designs derive from enduringly popular period styles such as Edwardian timber designs or Victorian styles with lacy iron work, although he says contemporary designs are gaining ground.

"A skilfully designed conservatory should fit seamlessly with the existing building so the rooms it adjoins naturally flow to it," he says. "If that's achieved, it can transform a house and most of my clients say it is their favourite room."

Conservatories have come a long way since they were invented by the Dutch in the 17th century to house plants. They now come in a variety of different sizes from the lean-to, octagonal bay, rectilinear gabled structure, or a hipped structure on the side of a home.

High street DIY store Wickes has conservatories which are competitively priced and start from around £1,299. Styles include classic Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian. Materials include PVCu, PVCu wood grain and hardwood and they come in hundreds of sizes.

David Messom of Wickes says: "Planning permission or building regulation approval will not normally be required, but we always recommend you seek advice and contact your local authority for approval. Decide which materials will work best for your needs, for instance PVC models generally require less maintenance."



### CONTROL THE TEMPERATURE

Blinds are essential for protection from the sun's rays. Julie Bratton, marketing executive for conservatory blind specialists Thomas Sanderson, says: "Bright spring and summer sunshine is often a cause of concern as it fades furniture or upholstery, as well as causing glare on a computer or television screen."

The company's blinds use a solar reflective fabric to reduce harmful glare while allowing natural sunlight to flood in.

Hand-crafted blinds in 200 colours and styles have a remote control option and start from £2,500.

Thomas Sanderson: 0800 220 603/www.thomassanderson.com

### PAINT

SUBTLE and soft earth colours will blend better with garden surroundings than white. Check out Laura Ashley and Fired Earth's paint collections. The latter's range includes Elements of Colour by Kevin McCloud which features suitably subtle shades.

### FLOORS

USE practical flooring such as tiles or vinyl. Companies such as B&Q sell well-priced stone or stone effect tiles suitable for conservatories, or consider hard-wearing vinyl flooring from companies like Amtico.

Who's got a big  
cheeky-weekie  
cutie-wootie  
choice of pramsie-  
wamsies then?

01609 761 464

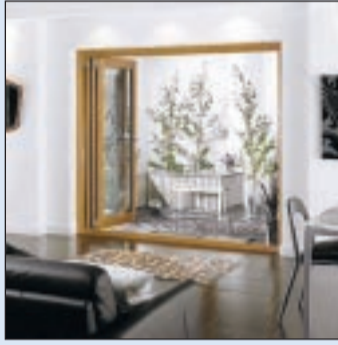
[www.thebabycompany.co.uk](http://www.thebabycompany.co.uk)

Unit 1b Standard Court, Standard Way Industrial Estate, Northallerton, DL6 2XA

THE BABY COMPANY

EVERYTHING JUST FOR BABIES

**N**OW here's something that fills a gap in the market, the Bay Sofa from Richard Ward at WAWA, which is made to fit snugly into the 45 degree angle of a bay window and can be customised to fit any width of bay. The sofa, which is being launched next month, has hand-tied springs over a solid beech frame and can be covered in the customer's own choice of fabric. wawa sofas start from £880, or from £1,800 for a three-seater. [www.wawa.co.uk](http://www.wawa.co.uk); 0207-729 6768



### BRINGING THE OUTSIDE IN

**I**f you want to bring the garden into your home, but can't afford a conservatory, LPD's modular VuFold doors might be the answer. Crafted from white oak, VuFold is available in two standard widths – six feet and eight feet – both of which have three equal sized panels to offer versatility of opening

styles. Priced from around £2,395, VuFold doors have a ten-year guarantee and are available now from approved independent stockists nationwide. For more details or for where to buy please visit [www.lpddoors.co.uk/vufold](http://www.lpddoors.co.uk/vufold) or call 0845 658 5115.

**NE window shopping**

## NE interiors



# Heart of stone

When the Browns moved to rural Low Pittington 42 years ago, they had big plans and a lot of patience. Now the only original stone-built property left in this up and coming area, Rowan Lee has many other interesting secrets, as MARIE CARTER discovers

**O**NCE upon a time, Rowan Lee in Low Pittington would have housed two separate sets of families eking out a living as agricultural workers or in the mines or factories that punctuated the now gently rolling countryside.

In those days – around 150 years ago – houses were built to last and the legacy of this painstaking dedication lies in features like the three-foot thick walls that help the house stay pleasantly warm or cool depending on the season.

Former teachers Gordon and Joan Brown found the house, their first after getting married, by chance.

"We were driving along the A690 one day when we saw the sign for Low Pittington. We'd not heard of it before but it seemed an interesting name, obviously something to do with the collieries," remembers Gordon. Almost immediately they fell in love with the large stone-built property they found at the heart of the village.

"We bought it from a local chap, Peter Looms, who had knocked it together from two separate cottages."

Sitting in their bright and airy kitchen today, you would never guess that this room had been added by the Browns. Like so many old houses, it seems to accommodate the subtlest of changes, as if this was how the house had always been.

Two windows in the kitchen wall once faced on to fields rather than coffee pots and crockery and the door leading through to the dining room was originally the front door of one of the two-up, two-down houses.

At first the Browns made essential improvements that would simply make the property more habitable, like adding central heating and damp proofing. Gordon recalls that it was "a hell of a job", because of those three-foot thick walls. Then, new windows, doors and skirting boards were added, mainly by Gordon, who as well as teaching woodwork then religious studies at schools in Durham, is a carpenter by trade.

Next came the bigger jobs that would make their house a home. Two bedrooms were built

into the first part of the house, together with a garage/workshop. The garage could easily be converted into a spacious home office and there's even room for a well-equipped gym for anyone less handy about the house.

The first living room/snug is the cosiest of all the rooms. Adjoining the leafy and cool conservatory – complete with a family heirloom deer head and 40-year-old house plant – its burnt orange and ochre colours seem to wrap you up in warmth. The fireplace, cobbled together from local limestone, is not to everyone's taste. In fact, says Joan, "most people either say they love it because it's so different or that they really don't like it, or just say nothing!"

There are two approaches to this room, one from the front porch and the other from the dining room. Standing at the porch, you have the pleasant feeling that the room has become part of the garden because of the way the garden appears to slope gently into the outer greenness, even on a stark winter's day. In the summer months, says Joan, the third-of-an-acre garden with its orchard containing plums, pears and apples and many varieties of plants comes alive in a riot of colour.

The garden with its trellising and fruit cages is immaculate, a joy. "It is a bit of a suntrap and can be lovely in the summer," says Gordon. "We held our daughter's wedding there a few years ago and there was more than enough room for a marquee."

There is another living room at the opposite end of the house which serves as a summer room. It is lighter and airier and was a favourite playroom for the couple's three children, and is now enjoyed by their six grandchildren. It used to be dominated by a model railway suspended from the ceiling, which provided hours of fun. A piano now sits, waiting to be played.

Upstairs, the floral master bedroom and guest room have windows on both sides, letting light drench the rooms. The Browns have taken advantage of the house's position by adding partial solar power.

The sauna in the bathroom is also a very welcome addition, though worrying at times for the Browns as the grandchildren have now

## Sir Plants-alot Garden Centre

(Sandy Lane West, top of Thames Road) nr Wolviston, next to Wolviston Cricket Club

### NOW OPEN

Quality Plants including Bedding Plants, Shrubs, Hanging Baskets, Compost, Conifers and much much more

### SPECIAL OFFERS

Roundup 1L Spray **£3.95** Pathclear 1L Gun **£3.75**

Fast Growing Weed & Moss Killer - Evergreen Complete 100m<sup>2</sup> **£6.69**

Miracle Gro Compost enriched with Miracle Gro Plant Food **£4.49 each**  
**3 for £12**

Miracle Gro All Purpose Plant Food with 20% Extra **£2.75**

*Hanging Baskets in various sizes*

**Garden Ornaments • Containers various sizes various types**



**OPEN**  
10am-6pm  
7 Days Weekly  
All major  
Credit Cards taken  
Telephone  
**01740 644977**



Like so many old houses, it seems to accommodate the subtlest of changes, as if this was how the house had always been

**NATURAL CHARMS:** Gordon and Joan Brown's house in Low Pitington, which has evolved over the years



learned how to turn it on. An upstairs study occupies a third room, backed by a hallway which joins the former two houses.

The house is in muted colours because the Browns, having altered it and added their own touches now want a blank canvas as it is up for sale.

The energetic couple's latest project has

involved renovating a house in Beadnell, a place which has happy memories of many a family holiday spent by the seaside. Their new house gloriously overlooks the Farne Islands and is a place of peace and retreat, but no doubt the couple's minds will often turn to the house in Low Pitington into which they put so much hard work and vision.

## BESPOKE KITCHENS & BEDROOMS AT FACTORY PRICES



Appliances by all major manufacturers at trade prices.

**AEG**  
**Automatic ZANUSSI**  
**Electrolux**  
are priced for your selection.

**SPECIAL OFFERS ON OUR FULL RANGE OF LUXURY FITTED KITCHENS!**

Normal Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-5pm. Saturday 10am-4pm. Sunday 11am-3pm

## NEW BEDROOM SHOWROOM NOW OPEN

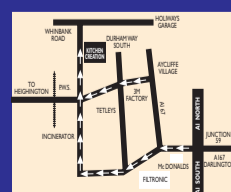


All manufacturing done at our Aycliffe factory

**UP TO 45% OFF BEDROOMS**

Finance your home improvement  
Competitive rates  
Annual interest rate 10.68%  
Written details on request

Full installation service carried out by qualified tradesmen in accordance with current Gas and Electrical regulations



**Kitchen & Bedroom Creation**

Unit B1, Whinbank Park, Whinbank Road, Newton Aycliffe.  
**Tel: 01325 319022**  
[www.kitchencreation.co.uk](http://www.kitchencreation.co.uk)

## NE interiors

At a mere 381 sq ft, the Barratt iPad is the dinkiest house around – but could you really live there? Women's Editor SARAH FOSTER finds out

**LITTLE MIRACLE:** the Barratt iPad, which aims to provide all the necessities for comfortable living in a fraction of the space



# Thinking inside the box

**S**MALL is beautiful, so they say, but when it comes to houses – well wouldn't we all eschew a shoe box? Apparently not, judging by the success of the Barratt iPad. It may be small but instead of hiding this in the details, ashamed of its slight stature, it makes it a virtue. The very name evokes an image – of something cool and compact – and its nod to the must-have iPod could hardly fail to win it fans.

I've come to a sprawling new estate in Middlesbrough to see this phenomenon for myself. The first iPad show house – and still the only one – flanks the office at Parkside Gardens, centrally located in the Teesside town. I'm in the office when I'm met by Paul Race, field sales manager for Barratt Newcastle, and he takes me through to the famous flat.

The first thing that strikes me is its clever design. A central corridor – more cosy than claustrophobic – leads to three sep-

arate rooms: a double bedroom, a bathroom and a kitchen/living room. OK, so it's not ideal to have to cook where you watch TV, but provided it wasn't fish – or you opened a window – I could just about see it working.

The main living space, all flowing contours and pared-down chic, is a mini marvel. It may resemble a box, but there's room for a sofa and an extra chair. Wall mounting both the fire and the flat screen TV has saved precious inches, and there's even a coffee table. A breakfast bar-cum-computer desk marks the entrance to the kitchen – fully fitted with slimline appliances.

Walking into the bathroom, I'm impressed by its size. The bath would easily hold an adult and for added convenience, there's an overhead shower. While it does have a double bed, the iPad's bedroom has only one wardrobe. Not enough for even one person's clothes, I think, aghast. When

I raise this, however, Paul tells me that it has now been addressed, with the patio door replaced by extra storage space.

Talking about the iPad, he's clearly enthused. "The whole concept was to try to get an affordable property on the market for first time buyers, and this is it," he says. "I suppose the group was looking to help them as much as it could."

Price wise, the iPad is certainly pitched low. Starting from as little as £85,000, it comes in far beneath the cost of the average home. Yet behind its bargain status lie high aspirations. "We've tried to make it like a proper one bedroom apartment," says Paul. "It took 18 months of planning and decision making. I'm sure there was a conscious effort to try to get away from the studio thing where the bed comes down from the wall and all that."

"We've tried to create a good sized bedroom, a proper kitchen, a good sized bathroom and a balcony for extra living

space. A lot of thought has gone into it."

At Parkside Gardens, Barratt's first North-East iPad site, there are only 30 flats – a small percentage of the total 333 homes. Paul admits they were an experiment, but claims they've been a huge success. "We sold them from plan last July/August – it took us no more than two months," he says. "When you sell something from plan it's difficult because people don't have concepts of how big a certain size is so we were very anxious, but when we officially opened this (the show house), we got a tremendous response."

So who has bought the Middlesbrough iPads? "In the main it's been single people and young couples," says Paul. "They're mainly directed at young professionals. If we built them in Newcastle city centre, I could well imagine we would get a lot of young professionals in there."

Such has been the iPad's success that it's already spread to Stockton – there are 24

...a top that fits over your existing worktop - in just a day!



20 beautiful colours

- ◆ Save money and add £££s to your home
- ◆ Ideal over dining tables, laminate, tiles, floors and kitchen worktops
- ◆ Rocksolid Granit™ fits over existing work surfaces
- ◆ No mess of demolition
- ◆ Heat, stain and scratch resistant
- ◆ 10 year limited warranty



**GRANITE**  
transformations

**UNIT 34 CROWTHER ROAD**  
Washington, Tyne & Wear

Showroom open Mon-Sat 10am-4pm  
2 mins from A1(M) and A1231

Tel: 0191 4171999 Fax: 4172345  
www.granitetransformations.com



flats at Farrier's Park – and there are plans for further sites. According to Paul, wherever Barratt can slot them in, it will. "We'll try to introduce them in the initial planning stage on new sites," he says. "Throughout the country, we're about to start on six further sites, then there'll be 1,600 more on 40 sites."

To help it blend with its environment, the iPad comes in three designs – traditional, neo and contemporary. With its dome-shaped roof, the contemporary style block allows for two bedroom flats and while there are none yet in the area, Paul thinks they would sit well in a place like Newcastle.

While conceding that cost is the iPad's real selling point, he's clearly proud of the pint-sized product. "At the end of the day, it's all about price and you need a product that's affordable, but it doesn't have to be cheap and nasty," he says.

■ For more information, visit [www.barratthomes.co.uk/ipad](http://www.barratthomes.co.uk/ipad)

**f** *The whole concept was to try to get an affordable property on the market for first time buyers, and this is it*

SWALLOW  
HOTELS

## The Swallow George Hotel

Piercebridge, nr Darlington

### Forthcoming Events

#### Rock of Ages

Saturday, 16th September  
2006, 7.30pm-1am

Live on stage Rock Band, 'Rock of Ages' play tribute to the great Rock Legends including Reo Speedwagon, Bon Jovi, Journey, Meat Loaf, Thin Lizzy, Santana, Queen, Pink Floyd, Eric Clapton and more. Hot Buffet and dancing with KT Vibes.

£20 per person

#### Mama Mia Halloween Ball

Saturday, 28th October 2006,  
7.30pm-1am

Back again by popular demand the fabulous Mama Mia, the best Abba tribute band in the world, 70's Disco with KT. Prizes for the best fancy dress. Four course Hot Buffet Dinner, Halloween surprises!

£25 per person

For tickets please call  
01325 374576



We are now serving  
food and drink from

Noon-9pm Monday-Thursday

Noon-10pm Friday-Saturday

Noon-3pm

& 5pm-8pm Sunday

**BOOKING IS ADVISABLE  
ANY EVENING**

#### KARAOKE

once a month  
£25 Prize Money

#### Next Karaoke

August 11

#### QUIZ NIGHT

Every other Monday

New

#### Quiz Nights

14 & 28 August

8.30pm start

£1.00 Entrance

Pie & Peas Supper

PIERCEBRIDGE  
01325 374286

## J&B FARNABY Scotch Corner

**QUALITY  
LAWN TURF &  
TOP SOIL**

- Suppliers to Trade & DIY
- Daily Delivery throughout the North East
- Collect from our turf farm near Scotch Corner
- Suppliers of Pre-Turf Top Soil

**CALL FREE 08000 327622**  
**RICHMOND 01748 824594**  
**DARLINGTON 01325 377725**

**BROUGHMOOR FARM**  
**SCURRAGH LANE,**  
**SCOTCH CORNER**  
[www.jbfarnaby.co.uk](http://www.jbfarnaby.co.uk)  
[sales@farnaby-turf.co.uk](mailto:sales@farnaby-turf.co.uk)

Welcome to **TWEDDLES CHILDREN'S ANIMAL FARM**

Co. Durham's newest fun-filled attractions

If you want to experience a thrilling day out for the whole family, a visit to our animal farm will fill you with smiles.

We've a play area kids will love and an excellent variety of animals that will make any young face light up.

If you want to ask us a question - or get in touch about anything to do with the farm, simply telephone 0191 586 3311

**Tweddles Children's Animal Farm**  
 Fillpoke Lane, Blackhall Colliery, Co. Durham

## INDEPENDENCE RESTORED

### Daily Living Aids For The Elderly & Less Mobile

Large Range Of Scooters

- Recliner Chairs
- Bathing
- Toileting
- Household
- Stairlifts

Free & Easy Parking  
 Easy Access  
 Friendly Advice

Our showroom is set out as a replica home with great ideas on how to make daily tasks easier.

0191 4922301

Unit 1B, Drum Industrial Estate  
 Chester Le Street, Co Durham

## NE gardening



**ADDING STRUCTURE:** Ian Lamming surveys the ongoing works

From battleground to beautiful garden, IAN LAMMING discovers that a lack of vision is no barrier if an army of help and landscaping vision are on hand

IT WAS the final straw – or at least weed. Five years down the line and the great storm of Melsonby finally battled me into submitting some of my hard earned cash to sorting out the outdoor space at the back of our house.

To call it a garden would have stretched the point. As the insurance assessor pointed out as he came to look at the storm damage: "It's not so much a garden as a bit of a field." Unfortunately his policy didn't cover the back fence, which had flapped like a sail in the gales until it finally gave up and blew next door, but the insults were helpful as they stung us into action.

Previous criticism I'd chosen to ignore; like the guest to a previous garden party who pointed to my neighbours' and said: "Now Ian, look at that, that's what I call a garden." No more Pimms for her then.

The problem was always time, money and the daunting prospect of tackling close to a third of an acre with a 30ft hill at the bottom.

The mound might have only been a hill but in my mind's eye it might as well have been a mountain. Covered in weeds as tall as myself, it had defeated me and my one horsepower strimmer and had gone to rack and ruin.

It's a shame because the purpose of the hill when we bought it from a turf grower was to buy the unobstructed and beautiful view of the Tees Valley. That and to stand there, king of my own hill, surveying my kingdom before me.

But the view, the glory and the kingdom were lost in nettles and thistles. Worse than that, the prolific seeds from the weeds had blown into the lawn ruining the only attempt at cultivation.

Enough was enough and we set our sights on getting a man in. Budget set, bank loan in place, we responded to a local ad that took us eventually to Oxford and an award winning Chelsea Flower Show winner, Angela Julian.

She surveyed the plot and listened to our ideas that went something like this: we want formal but contemporary near the house; we want a canal and a waterfall and then up the hill, more naturelle with wild flowers and meadow grass.

She also recommended some boys to do the work and up turned Chris Cox and Jody Lidgard, two half brothers, ex-RAF who had served at Catterick but now lived down south somewhere.

Acer Landscapes were duly engaged and work got under way. These boys have done Chelsea and other Royal Horticultural Society Shows and even been on the telly (though it was on an afternoon so we didn't recognise them).

For the next number of weeks they became almost like family with their expert opinion and jolly banter – though the Polish labourer Pete said little and took an inordinate amount of sugar in his tea.

Casting an eye over the plans, it was obvious they had vision. I didn't – to me it was just a collection of squiggly lines.

The project progressed. "Can you see it yet?" asked Jody. And a bit like when you are shown an ultrasound scan of your first born, the answer was always 'no'.

JCBs were brought into scrape away the green stuff and reshape the hill into manageable terraces.

I now had a vision... and it looked like the battlefield of the Somme, complete with enemy trenches, plank bridges and ditches full of water.

The next step was to hand-pick the stone from a local quarry for the water feature and dry stone retaining wall. The local expert this time came from Rutland and the wall and two sets of steps seemed to fly up. Sadly, the top waterfall had a curious taper and the garden lost its First World War look for the style of the Pyramids and had to be done again.



SWALLOW HOTELS

## The Swallow George Hotel

Piercebridge, nr Darlington

### Forthcoming Events

Rock of Ages

Saturday, 16th September  
2006, 7.30pm-1am

*Live on stage Rock Band,  
'Rock of Ages' play tribute to the  
great Rock Legends including  
Reo Speedwagon, Bon Jovi,  
Journey, Meat Loaf, Thin Lizzy,  
Santana, Queen, Pink Floyd,  
Eric Clapton and more.  
Hot Buffet and dancing with  
KT Vibes.*

£20 per person

Mama Mia  
Halloween Ball

Saturday, 28th October 2006,  
7.30pm-1am

*Back again by popular demand the  
fabulous Mama Mia, the best  
Abba tribute band in the world,  
70's Disco with KT. Prizes for the  
best fancy dress. Four course Hot  
Buffet Dinner, Halloween surprises!*

£25 per person

For tickets please call  
**01325 374576**

We are now serving  
food and drink from

Noon-9pm **Monday-Thursday**  
 Noon-10pm **Friday-Saturday**  
 Noon-3pm  
 & 5pm-8pm **Sunday**

BOOKING IS ADVISABLE  
 ANY EVENING

KARAOKE

once a month  
£25 Prize Money

Next Karaoke

August 11

QUIZ NIGHT

Every other Monday

New  
Quiz Nights

14 & 28 August  
8.30pm start  
£1.00 Entrance  
Pie & Peas Supper

PIERCEBRIDGE  
01325 374286



**DOUBLE ACT:** Chris Cox and Jody Lidgard

# The garden army

A rather splendid canal joined the two waterfalls which roared like High Force when the Tees is in spate. It's all lit, of course, for that true Footballers' Wives effect.

And to the sides of the dry stone wall stood the next vision – black sleeper walls, a Union fort in which General Custer would have been proud to make his last stand.

Above that a gravel desert was created, home to hardy plants and a barrier to the weeds, though some of the plants proved less hardy than the weeds that persisted through the hardcore.

The broken fence and battered trees pay testament to the windy nature of exposed Melsonby and to afford us shelter at the top of our beloved hill a horseshoe-shaped dry stone wall was created.

Yet another vision in rock, this time akin to a sacrificial altar where virgins and goats should fear to tread.

The hard stuff down, it was time to soften this man-made creation with plants, shrubs and trees and by June the garden wasn't looking too bad.

It's not finished yet and the Triffids have returned to the hill where meadow grass should be flourishing. The water feature is also redundant until the resident tadpoles have become frogs and marched into the weeds to devour the abundant slugs.

The boys seemed pleased enough. "Often the hardest thing is client expectation, especially if they can't see how it is going to look at the end and when they are spending such large sums of money," said Jody.

"It has been a big job but we are pleased with the result, particularly the water feature. I also love the black sleeper walls which give it a really contemporary feel."

And being the proud owner of a new garden I can at last see the vision before me: the patio where I sit to type this feature, a circular lawn, freshly coated in feed, my new family in the primordial soup of a pond and plants which seem to have grown every time I walk out there.

But has it made a gardener of me yet? Well the answer remains no and I'm still going to have to get a man in to prevent it becoming a field once more.



**TAKE ONE FIELD AND ADD...**

- Nine tonnes of concrete for footings
- 150 sleepers
- eight tonnes of sand
- 18 tonnes of sub base chippings
- three tonnes of Indian stone slabs
- 16 tonnes of York stone hand-picked from a quarry at Ravensworth
- 54 bags of cement
- ¼ tonne of Tegula
- 12 tonnes of topsoil
- two rolls of polyurethane
- two 16,000 litres an hour pumps
- 100 sqm of turf

- 59 golden privet
- 12 laurels
- a dozen shrubs including scented lavender
- 6 hazelnut trees
- 2 ornamental cherries
- lots of hardy perennials from Eggleston Hall, Harlow Carr and the quasi-mother-in-law's garden
- Junction boxes, lights and a lot of cabling
- Eight weeks of your life
- And about £40,000...

And you have one instant garden which should put ten per cent on the value of your house.

**Want a fun packed family Sunday?**

**Catterick Sunday Market**

Bring your tribe!  
We are the **Biggest Sunday Market** in the North East with mile upon mile of bargains

**Every Sunday All Year Round**

Free Parking
Free Entry
Indoor Cafe

**Catterick Sunday Market**

at Catterick Racecourse Just off the A1  
**It's what Sundays were made for!**  
Trade enquiries 07702 312456 [www.cattericksundaymarket.co.uk](http://www.cattericksundaymarket.co.uk)



**Visual**  
photography

29 Duke St  
Darlington  
DL3 7RX  
01325 382555  
07706 209242

New Shop  
Open Soon

www.visualphotography.biz  
info@visualphotography.biz



**COMING UP ROSES:** inventor Peter Wilde in his home laboratory

# Wilde inventions

**L**IKE a fast growing rambling rose, coiling itself ever tighter as it clammers and twists round everything in its path, Peter Wilde's passion for the scent of his favourite blooms rapidly took over his life. In fact, it almost ruined him.

The scientist who once won awards and royal approval for his sought after delicate rose oil fragrances says: "I lost my house and my wife. My business went into liquidation. I even had my phone number taken away."

When I last interviewed him, 15 years ago, he was on the verge of huge success. On the point of single-handedly resurrecting the English rose oil industry after a 250 year hiatus, he was using his own unique scented method of extracting the oil from the delicately scented flowers of carefully selected and developed plants.

His rose-scented toiletries were sold at Harrods and customers included members of the royal family. They were a big success in America and the Prince of Wales presented him with an award for innovation. A group of Yorkshire farmers was growing 70,000 bushes to keep up with demand.

But the business fell apart when a joint venture with a Saudi prince and British Aerospace to produce rose oil in Saudi Arabia collapsed after Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. Peter lost almost everything.

Now living very modestly in a small terraced property on the outskirts of Thirsk, he is not one to waste time wondering what might have been. This imaginative and hugely energetic 69-year-old inventor is too busy wrapped up in his latest project – a herbal remedy which could help alleviate the suffering of millions from malaria.

He may have a few regrets: "I live alone. I have no time for anything else, and bankruptcy isn't the world's greatest aphrodisiac." But he has lost none of his passion: "Like any other creative activity, it comes to you in the middle of the night. You don't choose it. It chooses you. I wouldn't have done it any other way."

It was Peter's obsession with roses that led him to his latest venture. And, as always, he was following his nose.

As a renowned rose oil producing expert, Peter was asked by the British Executive Service Overseas development agency (BESO) to help a state-owned farm in the remote Sinkiang region of North-West China.

"They were growing thousands of hectares of pink and red roses to make into tea, but they had too many and the market for rose tea was satisfied." He offered to help them produce rose oil on a commercial scale: "Their typical

Inventing comes naturally to passionate rose-grower Peter Wilde... and his latest bright idea could save millions of lives.  
**RUTH CAMPBELL reports**

roses are strong smelling, not quite right for rose oil and their steam distillation equipment was not adequate for the purpose."

By a stroke of luck Peter, who studied biochemistry at Leeds University, followed by a PhD and a post-doctoral fellowship at Cambridge, stumbled across something he realised could potentially help to end the suffering of millions worldwide.

While walking down an overgrown brick path amongst greenhouses housing the new varieties of roses he was helping to cultivate in the town of Urumqi, he brushed past some weeds. "I sniffed. There was a distinctive smell. It was artemisia – you never forget a smell. I had smelt it before when some Tanzanians had asked me to extract the herb for them in 1994."

The plant, traditionally used in China for its medicinal qualities, contains the valuable compound artemisinin, widely regarded as one of the best hopes of a cure for malaria.

Peter knew his innovative scientific extraction techniques – which he likens to dry cleaning the plants – could produce a much more concentrated and more effective way to administer the treatment. "It was what you call serendipity, a eureka moment," he says.

It was to change the whole direction of the project. Although artemisia is grown in Africa, the worldwide production of artemisinin is limited and expensive. Peter knew he could help the Chinese to produce much more of this precious life-saving compound, to sell at a much lower price.

In the presence of TV cameras and amid much national publicity, he signed a joint-venture agreement with the

5 0 % O F F

A I I

E p s o n

C a n o n

a n d

X e r o x

I n k s

T h i s S a t u r d a y

O n l y

W i t h t h i s a d v e r t

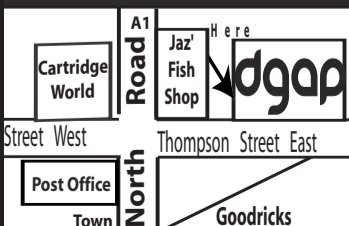
@

Printer Supplies  
**dgap**

5 - 7 Thompson Street East, Darlington

'A World Of Consumables For Your Printer!'

**Call In Today**



**01325  
465119**



Chinese to grow the herb commercially while building a factory to extract the artemisinin.

"The Chinese have the herb and I have the extraction technology. Put them together and the problem of malaria can be cracked. The science is relatively straightforward but it requires serious investment and support to take it onto a global scale," he says.

In the meantime, up to three million people a year could be dying unnecessarily, while many other lives are ruined, because the anti-malaria treatments currently available worldwide are too costly.

"Our claim to fame is not that we have discovered this, it has been known about for thousands of years. There is a company in France making this type of product but their extraction method is expensive and they can't produce it for the \$2.50 per treatment the World Health Organisation is willing to pay. But we can do it for 30 cents per treatment," says Peter.

Although the project takes up much of his time, Peter hasn't given up on his roses.

His work with the BESO, which offers specialist expertise to Third World countries, has also taken him to Thailand, where he is a partner in a company producing fragrant and natural flavouring oils.

He has overseen the building of a 3,000 litre extraction plant in Loei Province, deep in rural north eastern Thailand and has dozens of Thai farmers growing blooms for the company.

"I have found some unique roses in Thailand over the past five years. They are still my prime, number one passion," he says. Having spent years researching old English roses in search of the perfect fragrances, he has es-



*Like any other creative activity, it comes to you in the middle of the night. You don't choose it, it chooses you. I wouldn't have done it any other way*

established rose gardens wherever he has lived. "I have always been a keen gardener."

Peter loves his old English blooms, including the fabulous pink Gertrude Jekyll, the white and red striped Cameaux and the Boule De Neige, like a snowball with a green centre.

But his favourite is the Etoile d'Hollande: "I recall, on a warm summer's evening in my younger years, sitting under it in somebody's garden. I remembered it for many years later. It has dark red, velvety petals, which make won-

derful drifts when they fall and the aroma is wonderful. It grows over arches and makes quite a display."

His own cottage garden, near Thirsk, is a heady mix of delicate fragrances. "People come to smell the smell. When I am away, I encourage neighbours to cut the roses and make use of them," he says.

Peter's 14-year-old grandson Patrick appears to have inherited his enthusiasms. With his grandfather's encouragement, he is experimenting with hydroponics: "It's growing things without soil, you use nutrients and sunlight and don't end up with pests and insects." He has brought his grandson seeds from Thailand. "He is growing a kapok tree, avocado and pumpkin," Peter says proudly.

**P**ETER, constantly fizzing with ideas, has made and lost a fortune over the years, with past inventions including a liquid coffee process he sold to Rom-bouts and a home brewing kit he sold to Cadbury-Schweppes for £250,000 in 1984.

"I think the family thinks I am a bit of a curiosity, a funny old grandad," he says.

But of course, there is much more to Peter than this. Ten grams of his artemisinin treatment could cure a small child dying of cerebral malaria in Dar es Salaam: "I wouldn't mind helping to save one million people a year..."

He offers me his business card, printed in Chinese as well as English, as I go. I notice it is scented with the sweet, lingering fragrance of an English rose, the flower, along with its prickly thorns, that has dominated his life and led him on a fascinating voyage of discovery.

0% FINANCE NOW AVAILABLE FROM 1st AUG 2006

**BUY DIRECT FROM  
THE MANUFACTURER  
SAVING YOU £££'s**

**Conservatories  
start from £4,300**



**3m by 3m  
Conservatory  
Supplied  
and Installed  
with two double  
sockets and  
fan light  
Including Base**

**Sundyal**

A unique product from North East Glass & Glazing, Sundyal extends your living space whilst complimenting your home, creating stunning rooms to bring your home and garden together.

- **SUMMER SPECIALS from 1st AUGUST 2006**
- **BUY NOW PAY NEXT YEAR**
- **WRITTEN DETAILS ON REQUEST**
- **FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT OUR FRIENDLY OFFICE ON 01325 287700**

**WINDOW OFFER**

From Only **£1,900**

**10 YEAR GUARANTEE**

Six Windows, Two Doors  
Supplied and Fitted

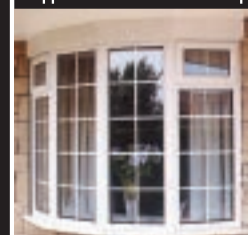
**SPECIFICATION: 70mm uPVC  
Internally Beaded Frames with  
Saracen Shoot Bolts for high security**

**DOOR OFFER**

From Only **£380**  
Supplied and Fitted



**Bow Window  
Supplied and Fitted with Canopy**



**BOW WINDOW OFFER**  
From Only **£680**

**NORTH EAST GLASS  
AND GLAZING** FENSA  
Registered Company

All prices  
subject to vat

Tel. Factory: (01325) 287700 Fax: (01325) 287711

www.northeastglassandglazing.co.uk

After hours contact mob: 07774424297

0% FINANCE NOW AVAILABLE FROM 1st AUG 2006

# me and my wardrobe

Jo-Ann Swinnerton, 36, is the retail manager for Middlesbrough Football Club in the Captain Cook Square superstore. She has been working for the club for ten years and lives in Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough



**CASUAL CHIC:**  
Miss Sixty jeans,  
Tommy Hilfiger shirt  
and Firetrap jacket  
from USC



**Describe your look**  
I think my look is classic and, I hope, quite elegant. I like to look smart and ladylike and I love the glamour of the 40s and 50s when women dressed for dinner, wearing hats etc.

**What's the most you've ever spent on an item of clothing?**  
I bought a dress from Psyche in Middlesbrough for about £350. It was expensive, but worth it as it's completely unique.

**What's been your worst buy?**  
My worst buy was a yellow Ralph Lauren puffer jacket. It's certainly warm enough but it's bright yellow!



**FLIRTY AND FEMININE:**  
left – dress from Karen Millen; right – Jasper Conran trouser and dress, shoes from M&S

Pictures:  
CHRIS  
BOOTH

**What's your favourite item of clothing?**  
My favourite item changes from week to week. At the moment it's a green silk dress.

**What are your favourite shops?**  
My favourite shops are Psyche, Reiss, Karen Millen and French Connection. I also love Principles on the High Street.

**Which celebrity's style do you admire most and why?**  
I really like Scarlett Johansson's style. She is young, but very glam and she looks like a real woman. I also admire Catherine Zeta-Jones – she always looks polished to perfection, but ultimately, Audrey Hepburn is my style icon.

# NE out on the town



THE TAITs



THE SCHALKS

**T**HE countdown has begun. Stress levels are rising and panic may even be setting in – the A-level results are just over a week away. When you're 18, your whole world seems to be focused on that simple envelope, its outer blandness belying the enormity within. Will the grades be good enough to guarantee your place on the course you want at the university you want to go to? Can there be anything more important in life than that?

But at this traumatic time spare a thought for your mum and dad. Joy and celebration, tears and confusion, results time is an emotional experience. And that's just among the parents.

And when the envelope reveals the results you want and life is rosy once again, how do you think they feel? After dragging them along with you on the emotional rollercoaster of exams and results, what do you do? You go off and leave them.

While you've got the freedom of young adulthood and endless parties to look forward to, they've got a quiet house, an empty chair at the table and only their spouse for company.

Except that, for some parents of course, the real joy and celebration comes when you're gone. No more sports kit dumped on the kitchen floor. No more telephone bills the size of Vodafone's annual profits. No more lying awake in the early hours wondering if you're back in yet.

As students at Barnard Castle School celebrated the end of an era at their leavers' ball we asked them what they'd miss most about home – and had a quiet word with their mums and dads about why they're looking forward to the kids flying the nest.

**Student – Alex Tait, 18, from Wolsingham**  
A levels: Sports studies, chemistry and biology.

**University:** Newcastle, to read chemistry.

**What will you miss most about home?**

Free food.

**What's your favourite meal you'll ask mum to make when you come home?**

Toad in the hole.

**What are you looking forward to most as a student?**

Starting a new chapter.

**Mum – Julie Tait**

**Which single kitchen utensil will you make sure he goes away with?**

'Alexander the Grater'.

**Which of his habits will you miss the least?**

His leaving empty boxes of Jaffa Cakes on the pantry shelf.

**What worries you most about him leaving home?**

That he might come back!

**Student – Emily Malcolm, 18 from Melsonby**  
A levels: English literature, history, ethics and philosophy.

**University:** Newcastle, to read English language and literature.

**What will you miss most about home?**

My bed – there is nothing like your own bed – and my mum and dad, of course. I'll miss our giggles.

**What will you ask for in any food parcel from home?**

Everything! I'm not looking forward to the cooking part, hence my request for catered accommodation. I'll be living on cereal.

**Will you leave your dad with any instructions for while you're away?**

Stay away from my room and help mum (like I should have done!).

**Dad – Chris Malcolm**

**What one piece of advice will you send your daughter away with?**

Behave yourself!

**How do you think your daughter will cope financially as a student?**

She will probably bleed me dry.

**What are you looking forward to most/least when you daughter has gone?**

Most, the lack of clothes everywhere; least, the quietness.

**Student – Renée Schalks, 18 from Piercebridge**  
A levels: Chemistry, maths, physics, Dutch and general studies.

**University:** Cambridge, to read natural sciences.

**What will you miss most about home?**

Being able to pig out on the couch.

**What will you ask for in any food parcel from home?**

Hagelslag (Dutch chocolate sprinkles)

**Will you leave your dad with any instructions for while you're away?**

No.

**Dad – Bernd Schalks**

**What one piece of advice will you send your daughter away with?**

Take an opportunity when it offers itself.

**How do you think your daughter will cope financially as a student?**

Fine, with some help from her parents.

**What are you looking forward to most/least when you daughter has gone?**

Most, her correcting me no longer; least, one plate less.



THE CARVERS



THE MALCOLMS

**Student – Henry Carver, 17, from Heighington**

A levels: Sports studies, geography and technology.

**University:** Northumbria; to read building survey development.

**What will you miss most about home?**

Home cooking.

**What's your favourite meal you'll ask mum to make when you come home?**

Roast dinner.

**What are you looking forward to most as a student?**

The partying.

**Mum – Suzanne Carver**

**Which single kitchen utensil will you make sure he goes away with?**

A tin opener.

**Which of his habits will you miss the least?**

Dirty laundry on the bedroom floor.

**What worries you most about him leaving home?**

How he's going to manage his finances.

## NE shopping



**J**ENNY Davies' little shop, the unusually named OCD, is the kind that makes you smile. Just standing outside it, its huge bay window curving out, you feel a sense of warmth, a rush of private pleasure. It's just so pretty, so chocolate-box quaint, that you can't wait to step inside.

On doing so, I'm met by Jenny, 33, who invites me to look around. Although a shop, it has the feel of someone's house – which Jenny thinks it once was. There's an ancient fireplace and bare wood floors, cabinets and chandeliers, and moving through, a wooden staircase. The range of merchandise, from belts to bottle bags, is artfully laid out on every surface. It's light and airy, cool and classy – a kind of Laura Ashley meets Kate Moss.

Jenny, who comes from West Yorkshire, explains how she came to own the business. "I worked in a massive contemporary houseware store called The Home in Salts Mill, in Saltaire," she says. "After that, I studied accountancy. I moved up here to live with my partner and the intention was to carry on with that and get a job, but I got the shop instead."

Despite its location on Coniscliffe Road, outside Darlington's central hub, when Jenny saw the building, she simply fell in love with it. "It used to be Kingsley and Co Antiques," she says. "I really like where we are and we chose the shop because of the shop front – we thought it had character."

She might speak in the plural but while others have had an input, the store is very much her own. She runs it mainly herself, with help from two part-timers, and what she sells is what she likes. "We didn't want to do clothing because of all the shops on Grange Road, so we went with accessories, nice gifts, toiletries, perfume – just really nice things for ladies," says Jenny. "It's not really houseware as such, it's more if you can't afford a new dress, you can get a new belt or a new lipstick. I always said I'd have a shop and fill it with things I liked."

Surveying the shelves, it seems this trans-

# Gifts for the girlies

In her frou-frou shop, Jenny Davies gets to do what many of us would love to – sell exactly what she likes. Women's Editor SARAH FOSTER steps inside the big girls' world

lates as all things girly. My gaze is drawn to the pretty jewellery – from silver sets to sparkly hairpins – and the theatrical chandeliers. What's also striking is the shop's design – ornate yet uncluttered and with abundant good taste. It's clear that Jenny has an eye for retro style. Her attention to detail extends to how she buys. "I do the usual shows and a lot of research in magazines," she says. "I also see things when I'm travelling or if I go on holiday or in shops in London."

While major brands are choosy suppliers, Jenny has managed to secure some, though she claims she's not a slave to labels. "Sometimes it's quite hard to get brands that are really good but once you've got them, they don't supply to anyone else in the area," she says. "We've got a new cosmetics range

called T Le Clerc, which is a French brand, and E.Coudray, which is a bath and body care range, but it doesn't have to be a brand or label – I just have to like it and think it does the job."

It may have only opened last November but the shop already has its fans. "We are starting to have regulars," says Jenny. "There are ladies who invite me to meet them for a drink and we get a lot of customers from word of mouth. Most people have been quite complimentary. Even if they don't buy things, they say 'you've made the shop really lovely'."

What's key to her ethos is selling something for everyone, regardless of their budget. "Some of the things are expensive but you do need to have things that are cheap



**JENNY DAVIES:** an eye for retro style

as well," says Jenny. "Sometimes people come in and just want to buy something from the shop. You do need gifts for £5 and £10 as well as the more expensive things."

Future plans include extending her stock – she'd like to add underwear to the range – and opening the upstairs floor. A final question remains: what lies behind the shop's initials? "They stand for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder," Jenny explains. "I think I've got it to a mild degree. For years I've collected magazines and made lists, and also shopping, for some people, is an obsessive compulsive disorder. The name started with people who know me. They said it reflected my personality."

■ **OCD, 28 Coniscliffe Road, Darlington (01325) 469880.**



*It doesn't have to be a brand or a label. I just have to like it and think it does the job*



**EXCITING NEW VENTURE:** Ray Wade with wife Sallyann and manager Roni Oxley

Picture: SARAH NICHOLSON

# Delicatessen delights

**W**ATCH out when you pop into Darlington's fantastic new delicatessen: the battle to resist buying far too many of the tempting delicacies on offer is impossible to resist.

The assault on the senses begins the minute you enter the former antique shop on Coniscliffe Road. The aroma of freshly baked bread and freshly ground coffee fills the air, jars of every shape and hue fill the extensive shelves and the deli counter groans with home-roasted meats and a superb range of perfectly ripe cheeses.

And if all that doesn't do for you, the try-before-you-buy nibbles certainly will. Home-made pates, plump olives, peppers stuffed with goat's cheese. Resistance is futile.

Wadesdeli is the brainchild of Ray and Sallyann Wade. After 16 years running one of Darlington's most popular coffee houses, they were in the mood for a fresh challenge and the plan to open the town's biggest deli was born. The fine food store opened at the beginning of June, with manager Roni Oxley, previously with the well-known Frenchgate Cafe in Richmond, at the helm.

"We wanted to create a destination store for discerning shoppers who enjoy wholesome food and drinks. At Wade's Coffee House we worked hard to achieve a reputation for expertise and personal service and Wadesdeli will build on that," says Ray.

The Wades also want to make the most of the many small food producers in the region and many local suppliers are already on board, providing puddings, cheeses, dairy goods and fresh meat. The shelves are decked with an array of tempting goodies – oils, mustards, sauces, flours for home baking, anchovies, artichokes, asparagus... There's a range of spicy chilli-based sauces with the amazing label Trees Can't Dance, whose exotic ingredients are apparently grown in polytunnels near Haltwhistle. They also bake their own scones and cakes and make their own

quiches, delicious pates and pesto. To add to the sensory overload, a wide variety of coffee can be ground while you wait. Single portion salads are made up on a daily basis.

The range of stock is under constant review to create the best possible choice for customers. New lines are being added all the time and Wadesdeli is the perfect place to pick up unusual culinary gifts, so come Christmas just pop down to the West End with a big shopping bag.

Soon the shop will also have its own wine section. The choice will be eclectic. "It won't be run-of-the-mill stuff," says Ray. "We will concentrate on more unusual wines from small suppliers."

The Wades also intend to offer special events such as guest chef days which will link up with local hotels and restaurants and local suppliers will be encouraged to come and introduce their produce to shoppers. Of particular interest to busy Darlington residents is the aptly named Y Cook service, through which Roni will prepare dinner party food to order. The package can include crockery, glasses and table flowers, if required, and it's great value: Ray reckons an average menu works out at under £10 a head. "And it is all brought to the door," he says. When Ray has his drinks licence, wine will be added to the Y Cook service.

Ray is proud to have opened the first sizeable deli in Darlington and wants to build on the solid reputation he enjoyed at the coffee house. The Coniscliffe Road premises are spacious, giving Ray and his team plenty of scope to expand. Certainly, there is no shortage of ideas for the future. A website is going live and Ray also hopes to see branches of the deli opening up elsewhere. "I am really enthusiastic about this venture," he says. "The response has been wonderful."

As a regular customer already, the only advice I would give Ray is to provide bigger bags to pack your shopping into. Those little ones will never do!

Jenny Needham

■ Opening times for Wadesdeli on Coniscliffe Road, Darlington, are: Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 5.30pm; Friday 9.30am to 6pm; Saturday 9.30am to 5.30pm. Sunday closed. Tel: (01325) 381084

wadesdeli

the finest foods from  
around the world

24 Coniscliffe Road, Darlington, County Durham DL3 7RG  
Tel: 01325 381084 Fax: 01325 381063

**EURO TILES**

LOTS OF NEW & EXCITING TILE RANGES JUST ARRIVED EXCLUSIVE TO EURO TILES

**5% DISCOUNT**  
on production of this coupon

Wall Tiles  
from £9.99 sq mtr

Floor Tiles  
from £11.99 sq mtr

**FREE ESTIMATES**  
Tiling Service available if required  
Also a full range of Tiling Accessories

Unit 26, Drum Ind Estate, Chester-le-Street (opp Batleys)  
Tel (0191) 4920073  
Open Mon-Fri 10-5 pm Sat 10-4 pm

**REETH SHOW**

Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006

*A Traditional Dales Show*

WITH ADDED ATTRACTIONS  
All information Mrs B Harker, Stubbin Farm, Harkerside, Grinton, Richmond, DL11 6JD (SAE please)

Please note: the date printed in Welcome to North Yorkshire Book should be 30th August not 20th

Established 1922  
Making Delicious Ice Cream For Over 80 Years

**Suggitt's Quality Ices**

93 High Street Great Ayton  
Tel: (01642) 722522

Open all year, for ice creams, sweets, coffees and teas

Discover the canals of England and Wales on one our 2-10 berth narrowboats

All centrally heated  
Full instruction  
No experience needed  
Choice of scenic and historic routes  
All inclusive prices

Claymoore Navigation The Wharf, Preston Brook, Warrington, Cheshire, NA4 4BA 01928 717273  
www.claymoore.co.uk

**50 SIGNAL SQUADRON**

The Bradford Armoury, Neasham Road, Darlington, Co Durham & TA Centre, Debdon Gardens, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Have fun and get paid for it  
Contact us anytime at the above address or telephone us on

**YOU NEED THE TA TERRITORIAL ARMY**

Darlington 01325 356539 or Newcastle 0191 265 6180  
www.army.mod.uk/royalsignals/34sigregt

**Pamper your 'little angels' This Summer**

If your child is aged 3 to 10 years Then why not treat them to our special Pamper Day any Thursday during the Summer Holidays

For only **£12.50**  
They will receive  
A Wash,  
Cut and Blow Dry,  
Nails Painted (optional),  
and a fantastic Goody Bag

For further information or to make an appointment please ring  
**0191 386 4945**

**Ebony SALON**

38b Front street, Framwellgate Moor, Durham, DH1 5EE  
0191 386 4945  
www.ebonysalon.co.uk

Summer nights in Raffles

Monday-Friday  
Free bottle of champagne for tables of 4  
Throughout August  
Call 01325 720319  
Terms and conditions apply



Don't miss Burton's Bytes - game reviews in The Northern Echo every Tuesday

## gadget man



## The music maker that keeps you on the go

The PC has changed the way we live but how will technology shape the future? NIGEL BURTON gazes into his crystal ball

If the people who wrote the comics I read as a lad had been right we'd all be driving nuclear powered cars by now. Our homes would be tended by robots and our next holiday would be on the moon.

Looking back, it's almost laughable to see how the post-war generation looked to the future with awe. They were convinced mankind stood on the brink of a Golden Age where technology (most of it nuclear powered) would open up new horizons and usher in a new utopia.

The truth has been rather different. Our cars still run for the most part on fossil fuels, our homes are tended by nothing more than a battered old Dyson and the next holiday is wherever EasyJet is flying to this summer.

So with a harsh dose of reality in mind what can we look forward to in the next few years?

One technology that's certainly around for the long haul is wireless or Wi-Fi. Anyone who has used a Wi-Fi connection will tell you that it's fast. The best can send data at 54Mbps - that's the digital equivalent of two music tracks every second.

Ultra-wideband technology will make Wi-Fi look positively pedestrian. Speeds will increase to as much as 2Gbps - that's 35 times faster than the best Wi-Fi of today. Wideband technology already exists in other parts of the world. Over here it is awaiting the official seal of regulatory approval from Ofcom, the telecoms regulator. Assuming everything goes to plan, it should be cleared for take-off early next year.

This massive increase in transmission speeds should make the concept of wireless video transmission a reality. With the right kit your computer will become the centre of a digital home, beaming music and video into every room.

Laptops will also get faster and smarter thanks to a new technology that's been developed to work with the next version of Windows, known as Vista. Hybrid hard-drives will use the traditional disk platters but augment that storage with a flash memory-based technology. Because flash is fast, compact and has no moving parts, the results, according to recent tests, are a system that boots into Windows substantially faster and uses far less battery juice. The dream of a laptop that can run all day without needing

to replenish its cells from a power socket is almost here.

The way we interact with our computers is also changing. Anyone lucky enough to own a Windows-powered Pocket PC can already buy an infra-red keyboard that literally paints the keys on a flat surface. As your hands move over the "keys" a small box registers the movement and translates it into an on-screen key press.

This kind of technology is likely to be applied to mice. Using a small camera and hand movement, you will be able to control your cursor without actually using a plastic rodent at all.

Improvements in speech recognition technology will be a boon for two-finger typists. Soon it will be possible to dictate a letter to your PC in the certain expectation that every word will be present and correct. Speech recognition that can translate between languages is also on the horizon.



Imagine travelling abroad and using a pocket gizmo to instantaneously translate your speech - the days of boring French lessons and tedious "teach yourself German" CDs may be well and truly numbered.

Technology will also change to improve our lives in other ways. If you own an Apple iPod Nano, for instance, there is no longer any excuse for being out of shape. Apple had teamed up with trainer manufacturer Nike in a project to turn the tiny music player into an exercise companion. A sensor fits into your shoe and connects to the Nano. As you pound the pavements, the sensor sends details of your performance to the iPod. The information is then displayed on the screen.

You can also programme your own goals and a voice will keep you informed of your progress. The iPod can even search for music that matches your rhythm. As Apple CEO Steve Jobs explains: "It's like having a personal coach or training partner motivating you every step of your workout."

In America you can buy a freezer that knows when your milk is past its sell-by date and go online to order more supplies. Over in Japan scientists have invented a toilet that monitors urine and alerts a doctor if it discovers something amiss. The possibilities are almost endless... even if the nuclear-powered Ford Fiesta is still a misguided dream.



**NE** beauty



# Just love those lips!

Luscious, full lips have glamour and sex appeal, but sadly they shrink and wrinkle as we age. There are simple ways to combat the effect, though

**O**UR lips are the gateway to life's many pleasures. Whether smiling, pouting, laughing or kissing, they're often in the limelight. Beautiful lips can enhance your looks like no other feature can – and give you a special kind of confidence.

Sadly, as we age, the lips become noticeably smaller and flatter. Fine lines around them tend to be exaggerated by lipstick bleeding. Folds appear from the corner of the nose to the corner of the lips, and from the corner of the lips to the jawline. The upper and lower lips develop vertical and horizontal wrinkles and the lips themselves gradually thin out, becoming less and less plump.

Fortunately, though, you can now recreate your lips without having the resort to drastic measures like plastic surgery.

Lip enhancement techniques have improved considerably over the past few years and various fillers, such as Restylane Lipp and perlane, can be used to restore plumpness and youthfulness to the lip area in the space of a lunch hour. Using natural products found in the skin, a series of small injections adds product back to the area, leaving the lips with a more defined border and a smooth edge.

Now Collagenics North-East, a company which specialises in facial fillers and skin rejuvenation treatments, has introduced a new treatment.

Teosyal Kiss is a new injectable filler which has only just been launched onto the UK market. Because the area is so sensitive, a local anaesthetic is injected into the inside of each lip, to numb the area before the filler is used.

Teosyal Kiss is a form of hyaluronic acid, a substance that occurs naturally in the lips but diminishes with age. Teosyal Kiss replaces this hyaluronic acid, thereby maintaining lip fullness and definition. It also has a very low protein content, which reduces the risk of an allergic reaction.

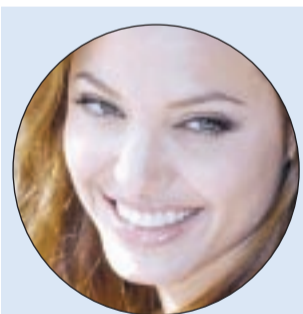
Whether you would like more volume, a refreshed lip-line, more attractive contours, or a more distinctive shape, Teosyal Kiss can create a look that's distinct, yet still natural. A skilled practitioner will listen to the client and can deliver just the look they are after.

"Your lips should not only appear more attractive, they should also feel healthier, softer and more hydrated," says Collagenics North-East nurse practitioner Alison Matthews.

**M**ANY of the changes in the face are the results of gravity acting on the skin, which becomes progressively thinner, drier, and less elastic. The degree to which skin is affected is influenced by hormonal (menopause), genetic, dietary, environmental (tobacco, sun, alcohol, etc.) factors and, of course, age. Over the past decade or so, increasing numbers of women have turned to plastic surgery to fight ageing, but it seems the backlash has arrived. The stretched skin and tell-tale tautness of women who have gone under the knife is beginning to turn us off and the preference now seems to be for treatments that leave you looking fresh and fit, rather than distorted and drum-tight. Women still want assistance, but of the needle and dermabrasion sort as opposed to the scalpel.

Earlier this year, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons announced that facelifts have fallen off the list of the top five cosmetic treatments requested in the USA. This doesn't mean, of course, that American women have gone back to putting their trust in soap and water and plenty of sleep, but it does mean that they are being turned off by extreme surgery.

■ **Teosyal Kiss costs from £320 per session. Other treatments offered by Collagenics, which has clinics across the North-East, are Botox, dermal fillers and skin peels. For more information or to book call Collagenics on (01325) 367367 or check out their website: [www.collagenics.com](http://www.collagenics.com)**



In a European survey for Restylane Lipp Angelina Jolie was considered to have the most attractive looking lips of any celebrity

*trust the nationwide professionals*

**COLLAGENICS®**

**BRINGING NON-SURGICAL MEDICAL BEAUTY TREATMENTS TO A SALON NEAR YOU**

- Smoothing Lines and Folds
- Soft Volume Lips
- Lip Enhancement & Definition
- Relaxing Lines
- Skin Restoration Program
- Thread Vein Treatment

**FREE Consultations**  
 from Award Winning Practitioners.  
 Please call 01325 367 367 for appointments **NOW**

THE COMPLETE MEDICAL BEAUTY PACKAGE

**t: 01325 367 367** [www.collagenics.com](http://www.collagenics.com)

**Lexus IS220D** by Ian Lamming

**N**O RANGE would be complete without a diesel in the line-up and while Lexus has come late to the party, it is with a motor that is unique.

The luxury marque always aims to be the best at everything it does and in this case the oil burner boasts the cleanest emissions on the road. That means fewer particulates waft into the atmosphere and there's less nitrogen oxide to spoil the air.

The 2.2 litre four cylinder also produces some pretty impressive performance figures with 175bhp on tap and 400Nm of torque. Fuel economy should be somewhere in the 40s and top speed is a creditable 134mph with 62mph coming up in 8.9 seconds.

At the moment it's restricted to the entry level IS range but that's okay since the model is worthy of the badge and the smallest Lexus is every bit as luxurious as its larger siblings. In no way is

# The clean, green machine



If you're worried about the environment, the latest Lexus could be the answer, says Motoring Correspondent IAN LAMMING

it a poor relation and the stylish lines and modern look give the IS a unique appeal and meaningful identity of its own.

The petrol version is a cracker, smooth and sophisticated, powerful and refined, so the diesel has a fair bit to live up to.

Lexus 220D is no ordinary diesel and it certainly takes a bit of getting used to. It is surprisingly sluggish off the mark thanks to amazingly high gearing. Pull out from a roundabout or junction and it

seems to take an age to reach the power-band at about 1,700rpm,

before it takes off like a rocket. Liberal use of the six-speed gearbox is a must otherwise it will dump you in a big fat power vacuum that leaves it feeling breathless.

It's essential to change your driving style. The diesel actually thrives on revs. Keep the rev counter needle above 2,000rpm and it is fine but my natural gear changing tendency to dump me in the hole.

Top gear is the highest ratio I have ever experienced. The IS measures 45mph per 1,000rpm and will just about pull sixth at the legal limit of 70mph. Anything less, forget it. With 70 on the clock the needle is just about on 1,700rpm so come any sort of gradient, if you don't catch the throttle in time, you are going to have to change down.

The engine is very smooth and refined and when cruising can barely be heard, which is what you would expect from a Lexus. This makes it the ideal cruiser if you are a high mileage driver.

The rest of the IS is excellent. Spec is off the sheet and the smart, modern interior oozes quality. The sound system is one of the best I have heard and cabin ambience is superb.

Handling is excellent too and leans towards the sporting, though the ride is comfortable and refined. If you are in the mood to swing through the bends then the IS won't disappoint.

The IS220D has many strengths but needs to be tried and tested before it is bought because it is an unusual drive. It certainly grows on you as time passes by but whether it is a real alternative to the petrol is another matter and also depends on how much you care about the environment.



**Today.**

New Avensis Colour Collection starts from only £13,995.

**Tomorrow.**

Experience a change of pace and add some colour to your life.

**Toyota.**



New Avensis Colour Collection from only £13,995

- Free metallic paint, Silver Steel, Silver Fern, Eclipse Black and Dark Blue
- 9 airbags including driver's knee airbag
- Manual air conditioning
- ABS with electronic brake force distribution
- Vehicle stability, traction control and brake assist
- 8 speaker CD audio with MP3 capability
- Remote central double locking
- Electric front windows

Avensis Colour Collection 1.8 VVT-i 5 door

35 monthly payments	£249.00
Cash price	£13,995.00
Deposit	£2,920.02
Amount of credit	£11,074.98
Guaranteed future value/final payment	£4,761.50
Total amount payable	£16,396.52
Excess miles over 30,000	7p per mile (inc. VAT)

**10.4% APR TYPICAL\***

Arrange a test drive on line at [www.toyota.co.uk/rmb-darlington](http://www.toyota.co.uk/rmb-darlington)

**RMB DARLINGTON**  
McMullen Road, Darlington.  
Tel: 01325 254545



TODAY TOMORROW **TOYOTA**

Model and specification shown new Avensis Colour Collection 1.8 VVT-i 5 door manual manufacturer's list price £13,995. \*Advertised finance offer available on Avensis Colour Collection 1.8 VVT-i 5 door manual when ordered, registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services on a Personal Contract Purchase Drive Plan between 23rd June and 30th September 2006, at participating Centres. Terms and conditions apply. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Licensed credit broker. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18's only. Acceptance fee of £130 and option to purchase fee of £59 included in repayments shown. Toyota Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ. Prices correct at time of going to press and includes VAT, delivery charge, number plates, one year's road fund licence and £38 first registration fee. Subject to availability.

Avensis 1.8 VVT-i manual Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km), Urban 30.1 (9.4), Extra Urban 48.7 (5.8), Combined 39.2 (7.2). CO2 Emissions 171 g/km.



## NE connections



TEMPTING TREAT: the Lakeside Hotel

# Lapping it up by the lake

BRIGID PRESS suffers sensory overload in the Lake District

**T**HE drive back along the A66 was a silent one. My mind was brimming with images of beauty, my nose was filled with the faint traces of sumptuous perfumes and my taste buds hadn't recovered from their protracted stimulation. My senses were suffering from complete overload.

Neither of us had wanted to leave the Lakeside Hotel on the shores of Windermere. We had stayed for several hours after checking out of our room, just sitting on the terrace, looking out at the lake and sipping ice cold soft drinks whilst postponing the inevitable journey home.

The Lakeside Hotel dips its richly decorated toe into the tranquil waters of Lake Windermere near Newby Bridge. There are views across the lake to the domed cap of Gummer How, clothed in verdant forests and crossed by crystal clear streams.

The transition from sitting in the car to sitting on the lakeside terrace with an ice cool gin and tonic to hand was almost seamless. It was as if we had been allowed to step off the treadmill of life just for a day, to sit back while everyone else made the decisions and carried out attentive duties. From the moment the receptionist smiled and said hello, all we had to do was take in the surrounding beauty. The car was parked, the luggage transported to our spacious Garden Room and bookings were made for tea and the morning newspaper.

17th century travellers to the Southern Lakes must have enjoyed the beautiful scenery just as much as we do today, for that was when the building began its life as a coaching inn. Its richly appointed bedrooms continued to entertain first cotton traders, and then tourists, until in 1979, the stables were con-

verted to provide further accommodation. Since then, it has continued to develop under the management of private owner Neville Talbot, who lives locally, but can be found at breakfast and evening times eating in one of the hotel restaurants.

Our meeting with Mr Talbot was between the fifth and sixth courses of our gourmet meal in the Lakeview Restaurant. The pleasant chat (about the ever-closing gap between cooks and gardeners) gave us a chance to rest our stomachs for the final culinary onslaught. Despite the many courses, the meal wasn't over-facing. Each course was packed with both powerfully intense and softly delicate flavours, married precisely and presented creatively.

The meal began in the conservatory with drinks and nibbles. The conservatory makes the most of the stunning outlook onto Lake Windermere and the Helvellyn range of mountains, and is packed with tropical plants, all releasing soft evening fragrance.

Nibbles consisted of parmesan thins, Marmite whirls and salmon tartar. The thins were brittle, the whirls melted on the tongue and the tartar packed a fresh ginger punch. The fish theme continued on into our first 'mystery course' which was a puddle of crab and fish bisque. There were only a few spoonfuls of the creamy pink soup in the bottom of the large bowls, but every drop transported me straight to the sea front. It was fresh, and it was fishy.

My appetite whetted, I tucked into the next course, which was a saute of langoustine and lobster. I picked up tongue tingling bursts of coriander and ginger amidst the velvety tomato sauce. Mains consisted of Herdwick lamb and roasted halibut, both of which were soft and succulent.

Other choices could have included skate wing, corn fed chicken, John Dory, pork fillet

or Cumbrian fillet steak. I could have quite happily had any of them, but just had to try the little grey hill sheep, reared exclusively in the Lake District. In fact, executive chef Duncan Collinge has built his, and the restaurant's reputation on sourcing fresh, local produce for his menu.

A final mystery course of chocolate and fresh raspberry preceded the pudding. I tried a trio of local cheeses whilst my companion wimped out on the fresh fruit. A glimpse at the watch revealed that we had taken three hours over our evening meal. It was most definitely three hours well spent and at £45 a piece, value for money for entertainment value alone, let alone taste and artistic merit.

We trundled up the stairs and along the corridor to our room. The emperor sized bed had been turned down, the crisp white sheets proving far more inviting than a cup of finest Lake District tea out in the private garden. We flopped onto the bed; our bellies relieved at no longer having to fight gravity, and drifted off into an undisturbed night's sleep.

Amazingly, I managed to squeeze in a portion of scrambled egg and smoked salmon at breakfast. It was the heavy, highly polished silverware that caught my eye. The last time that I had seen such good quality table ware was a colonial hangover in Meikles in Harare.

Breakfast finished, I had three hours in which to explore the hotel gardens. The closeness to the lake prevents heavy frosts, and allows the plants to grow without check throughout the year, making for some more unusual shrubs. Great emphasis is placed on fragrance, with mock orange (philadelphus),

lilac, choisya, the allspice bush (calycanthus accidentalis) and roses planted in swathes along the front lawn. The perfumed air on the terrace on a warm summer evening is something to experience.

Up on the roof garden I tried to trace the origins of an unusual scent. It was more tropical, almost menthol. Clipped box parterre house all kinds of herbs, but none of them was what I was looking for. Parting the large bushes of vivid purple and bleached white rosa rugosa, I found my mystery fragrance. It was the vent from the sauna. The garden is made up of just 15cm of soil piled on top of the health suite roof.

The spa continued the floral theme, being stocked with Aveda products, which use only the best plant extracts in all their treatments. It also boasts a curvaceous 17m swimming pool, a marble steam room, a state of the art gymnasium and a view out over Lake Windermere.

It is the little touches and attention to detail that make the Lakeside Hotel such a special place. Good service is taken as standard nowadays, but doing that little bit extra makes an impact. A complimentary freshly squeezed orange juice on arrival, a welcome card from the manager, a hand written weather forecast, lights coming on when you open the wardrobe, and smiling, attentive staff are some of those that you will find at the Lakeside. If I had to find a fault it would be that they don't take dogs, but that's just a personal issue, and a rule I can understand in such a beautiful establishment. After all, they they are not all as well behaved as our Ruby.



### NE READER OFFER

READERS can enjoy a short break at the Lakeside Hotel, Lake Windermere, to include full English breakfast and use of the luxury spa from just £82 per person per night. For a complimentary upgrade to a Country House Garden Room with access to your own private themed garden – sub-tropical, scented, white or aromatherapy gardens available – telephone (01539) 530001 and quote Northern Echo offer. Once here, you are sure to fall under the spell of this peaceful location

### THE LAKESIDE HOTEL

Lake Windermere, Newby Bridge, Cumbria

■ THERE are 76 rooms (including five luxury suites), starting at £195 a room, depending on day booked and time of year.

■ Many of the rooms have their own private gardens. Choose from the scented, the subtropical, the white and the aromatherapy gardens.

■ There is a fully equipped conference facility catering for 100 delegates, nine meeting rooms, and four private dining rooms.

■ The Lakeside won Hotel Loo of the Year last year and the AA and RAC have rated it a four-star hotel.

■ Self catering facilities are available at The Lodge, a self contained private retreat by the lake.

■ For utter peace and seclusion for up to ten people, you can hire the boat house at £95 a day. For this you get unbeatable views, a private jetty and rowing boat, a drinks cabinet and TV/ DVD facilities.

■ The Trinity House Hotel near Ulverston serves as a training academy for Lakeside staff, and gives visitors a four star experience for the cost of two stars.

Further information can be obtained from the website, [www.lakesidehotel.co.uk](http://www.lakesidehotel.co.uk), or on (01539) 530001

# NE directory

## NE Entertainments and Leisure

### BLACKPOOL



Quality plus award • Licensed  
Immaculate en-suite accommodation  
Friendly, family run, home cooked food  
Close to all amenities, shows & sea front  
TV, tea/coffee facilities  
in all rooms,  
Cheap car parking nearby

For more details call:  
**01253 625069**  
www.pembrokehotelblackpool.com

### Treat the family to a Summer Break

Come and stay at the historic Otterburn Tower in the heart of Northumberland. Go Clay Target Shooting, Quad Biking, Golfing, Walking, Fishing or just relax!

**Special Summer Offer with 25% OFF Mid Week Bookings**

Otterburn Tower Hotel, Otterburn, Tyne and Wear  
T: 01830 520771



### OTTERINGTON PARK

Otterington Park, Station Farm, South Otterington, Northallerton

#### Mobile Holiday Homes & Country Lodges for sale

Park facilities include children's play area, nature walks, coarse fishing lake and wildlife. David Bellamy Gold Conservation Award. Convenient for North Yorks Moors, Yorkshire Dales

**Tel: 01609 780656**  
www.otteringtonpark.com

### Hunting Tower Lodges

- ✓ 10 lodges in Perth
- ✓ Beautiful surroundings
- ✓ Ideal for walking, very quiet site

**01738 582444**  
www.huntingtower-lodges.com

### AMBLESIDE Cherry Garth Hotel

All rooms en-suite King Size 4 Posters, Spa Baths  
Leisure facilities, set back in its own grounds, lovely gardens, splendid views  
**PRIVATE CAR PARK (015394) 33128**  
www.cherrygarth.com

### Arcadian Hotel BLACKPOOL

- ✓ Licensed Sea Front Hotel
- ✓ En-suite Rooms With Sea Views
- ✓ Games Room
- ✓ Car Park
- ✓ Sun Lounge Overlooking The Sea
- ✓ Families Welcome
- ✓ Coach Parties Catered For
- ✓ Open All Year Round
- ✓ Now Taking Bookings For Easter
- ✓ Midweek Specials Available
- ✓ Also Taking Bookings For Illuminations
- ✓ Winter Breaks Available

Ring (01253) 344347  
www.arcadianhotel.com

**Fantasy becomes Reality on a December holiday to Lapland**

with direct flights from Durham Tees Valley, Newcastle & Leeds Bradford

In search of Father Christmas

**www.santa-holidays.com**  
Call us for a brochure  
**01923 822 388**

### The Scotch Corner Hotel

DARLINGTON

The Scotch Corner Hotel's Restaurants and Bar have the facilities and menu choices whatever your dining requirements, from private dinners to a light snack, in our no-smoking Lounge.

Our newly appointed chef will cater for every need

Sunday Lunch is currently available between 12noon and 3pm every week at only £9.95 per person for 2 courses with coffee.

Please call  
**01748 850 900**

for bookings and further details

enquiries@hotels-scotch-corner.com  
www.hotels-scotch-corner.com

### DANBY AGRICULTURAL SHOW

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 16TH

#### A Traditional Country Show

Horse, Cattle, Sheep & Exemption Dog Show etc.  
Prince Bishops Falconry Display  
Mobile Climbing Wall

Adults £5, Over 60's £3, Children £1  
**Tel. (01287) 660024**  
(Free Car Park)

### The Cleveland Arms (FORMERLY SARAH'S)

Come and test knowledge @ our Saturday night QUIZ starts 8pmish - everyone welcome 50p per head

**BREAKFAST** from 9am

**BAR MEALS & SNACKS** From 12 noon

**SATURDAY BREAKFAST** 7.30am-11.30am Eat In or Take Out

**Sunday Lunch** Main Course only £3.80 large and £3.30 small, served 12-2pm

**WIDE SCREEN TV** And by the way we do have a choice of well kept beers/lagers

Cleveland St., Albert Hill, Darlington  
Telephone 01325 359261

### Peace in the Lake District Braithwaite

2 miles from Keswick

**CHARACTER COTTAGES** with all mod cons Sleeps 2/4

**DOGS WELCOME**  
For brochure, ring:  
**01904 431876**  
p.galloway@talk21.com  
www.farmhousemews.co.uk

**NEW INN MOTEL**

IDEAL BASE FOR COAST, MOORS & DALES

Short breaks available

4 Night Mid-Week Breaks from £98 pp

2 & 3 Night Weekend Breaks available

Pets Welcome

**Tel: 01347 810219**  
www.newinnmotel.co.uk

### BLACKPOOL Hesketh Hotel

B&B from £18pppn  
All en-suite  
Free parking, Lift  
5 mins ride to centre  
Friendly, family-run hotel  
**Tel. 01253 500321**  
www.heskethhotel.co.uk

### Lazy Daze

Blue Dolphin • Primrose Valley • Reighton Sands

**6-8 Berth Luxury Caravans**

- Complimentary pack
- Bottle of wine
- All-inclusive passes

**Tel 01723 891819**  
email: kelly@kellydower12.wanadoo.co.uk

**Beautiful Static CARAVAN FOR SALE**

Sited at Haggerston Castle

Fully kitted out inc 2006 site fees  
5\* park with picturesque setting

**Only £12,000**  
Call Brian on  
**Tel: 07966 051 744**

### Solway Holiday Village

SILLOTH (23 miles West of Carlisle)

#### Booking Now For 2006

Timber chalets and caravans for hire  
Swimming • Golf • Ten Pin Bowling  
Deer Park • Bar • Kids Club

#### HOLIDAY HOMES ALSO FOR SALE

**Tel. 016973 31236**

### Bridlington

#### Dulverton Court Hotel

Most rooms en-suite.  
Tea/coffee & colour TV in all rooms. Parking

**Telephone: (0800) 0197 844**

**MACDONALD CARDRONA HOTEL GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB PEEBLES**

**SUMMER SIZZLER**  
**£64** BED AND BREAKFAST & 1 ROUND OF GOLF OR A 30 MIN SPA TREATMENT  
**£45** BED AND BREAKFAST & UNLIMITED USE OF THE CLUB'S LEISURE FACILITIES  
Rates quoted per person, based on 2 sharing. Subject to availability

**Tel: 01896 833 600**

ONLY 70 MINUTES FROM GLASGOW  
ONLY 40 MINUTES FROM EDINBURGH

Manager 01896 833 724 Web: www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk

**Kingfisher Park**

This weekend come and visit the place you always dreamed of. Take your time to stroll around our beautifully landscaped resort.

Find out about the lifestyle that could be yours forever.

Luxury Holiday Homes available to own, offering a safe and secure environment for all your family to enjoy

With stunning riverside plots available, fantastic first time buyer packages, and the ability to pay as you use with our best rates ever.

**Don't buy anywhere else till you've seen Kingfisher**

For more information or to arrange a visit please call  
**01388 527230**  
**www.kingfisherpark.co.uk**

Landieu, Frosterley, Weardale, Co. Durham DL13 2SJ

**Wheaton Golf and Country Club**

Burnhill Way  
Newton Aycliffe  
Co. Durham DL5 4PB  
**(01325) 301551**

**BIG SCREEN FOOTBALL LIVE**

**Sunday Carvery**  
Served 12 noon - 3 p.m.

**£5.25** 1 Course  
**£7.25** 2 Course  
**£9.25** 3 Course

Call 01325 301551 for all bookings

### Wateredge Inn

— on Lake Windermere

Delightfully situated on the shores of Windermere with superb country inn-style dining. Pretty bedrooms, many with lake views. Ideally situated for enjoying Ambleside Lake, steamers and nearby Fells.

**MAY SPECIAL from £105pp**  
3 nights including breakfast  
Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 OEP  
**Tel. 015394 323 32**  
www.wateredgeinn.co.uk

### THE Gynway Hotel

BLACKPOOL

Just off the seafront  
EM available  
Licensed  
Pool Table • Late Key  
PETS WELCOME

**Tel: 01253 314747**  
email: renaissance2@blueyonder.co.uk

# NE directory

## NE For The Home

**Darlington Antiques Centre**

Just opened next to Thomas Watson's Auctioneers in Darlington  
(2 mins from the Market Place)

Over 30 cabinets selling quality antiques and collectables including: **Moorcroft, Royal Worcester, Royal Doulton, Maling, Silver, Derby, Clarice Cliff, Silver, Sylvac** etc.

Open every day from 10am until 4pm  
(Closed Thursday & Sunday)  
Telephone Mark Evans 01325 486724

**Steve Jemison PLUMBING**

City & Guilds Qualified

- Installation & Repair • Free Quotes
- No job too small • 24 hour call out

Tel: **01609 773097 / 07904 724146**

**BLINDS UK**

2 Vertical Blinds £60    3 Vertical Blinds £89  
4 Vertical Blinds £111    5 Vertical Blinds £129

Any size - FREE Measure - FREE Fitting  
(Lovely choice of fabrics)

Also fabulous range of Wood Venetians and Roller Blinds

(01325) 320666  
For a FREE No Obligation Estimate  
Visit our website [www.blinds.uk.com](http://www.blinds.uk.com)

**ALBERT HILL SKIP HIRE Ltd**

Friends of the Environment Recycling Centre WAMITAB Approved

Head Office Darlington  
**01325 462627**

Mini - Midi  
Maxi  
Enclosed & Rolonof Bins

Fast, Efficient  
7 Day Service

WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE

24 Hour FREEPHONE  
**0800 1699 265**

Visit our website at [www.alberthillskiphire.co.uk](http://www.alberthillskiphire.co.uk)

Order by email at [alberthillskips@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alberthillskips@hotmail.co.uk)

Depots:  
Bishop Auckland 01388 600022  
Middlesbrough 01642 220500  
Northallerton 01609 777602  
Durham 0191 3784441

## NE Motors

**SECURE STORAGE**

Specialising in

- ☐ CARAVAN
- ☐ TRAILER
- ☐ MOTOR HOMES
- ☐ HORSEBOXES

2 spaces remaining in Chester-le-Street, also new facilities covering Bishop Auckland, Crook, Darlington areas, up to 200 spaces available

**24 HOUR SURVEILLANCE CCTV**

**EASY ACCESS**

MUST HAVE OWN INSURANCE  
also no gas to be stored on site  
Collection & Delivery Service AVAILABLE

Tel: **01388 488699** or **07721 752841**

**Luke Miller & ASSOC.**

4 FINKLE STREET, THIRSK

Call Jill and Patrick on  
**01845 525112**

Visit our properties @  
[www.vebra.com](http://www.vebra.com)  
[www.fish4homes.co.uk](http://www.fish4homes.co.uk)  
[www.lukemiller.co.uk](http://www.lukemiller.co.uk)  
[www.rightmove.co.uk](http://www.rightmove.co.uk)



**MIKOM PC and LAPTOP REPAIRS**

Upgrades, Sales & Networking  
Need IT Support IT

110 Parkgate, Darlington.  
Tel: (01325) 465683

Systems Limited

**Beauty is within the eye of the Beholder**

Quality and Value from **EXPRESS BLINDS**

Vertical • Roller • Venetian  
Pleated • Solar Film

**01740 623360**  
07958 790851  
[www.expressblinds.co.uk](http://www.expressblinds.co.uk)

**WESTWOOD TIMBER & FENCING**

DIY IN THE GARDEN

Construct your own timber feature, play structure or deck area in the garden

We supply the following:

- Posts, rails, boards & feather edge board
- New timber sleepers
- Round profile posts
- Framework & deckboards
- Gates, panels & trellis
- Hinges, nails & metalwork

All timber is pressure treated to prolong the life of the timber  
We are situated just off the A167 at Dalton on Tees, down West Lane, just past the Croft Motor Racing Circuit

Tel. **01325 378202**  
[www.westwoodtimber.co.uk](http://www.westwoodtimber.co.uk)

**The Sewing Room**

PROFESSIONAL HIGH SPEED CLOTHING ALTERATIONS & REPAIRS

We also specialise in the repair and alterations of leather garments.  
A curtain make-up and soft furnishing service is also available.

We lengthen, we shorten, we replace, we renew, we take in, we let out.  
We make your garments fit you

52 SKINNERGATE, DARLINGTON  
TEL: 01325 461818  
25 DUSCOTT STREET, STOCKTON-ON-TEES  
TEL: 01642 677147

**DRIVE MASTER**

MOT & AUTO SERVICE & REPAIR CENTRE

- ALL MECHANICAL REPAIRS UNDERTAKEN
- FAULT FINDING
- CAMBELTS
- CLUTCHES
- BRAKES
- EXHAUSTS
- MOT'S
- TYRES etc.
- FREE ESTIMATES
- ALL PARTS & LABOUR GUARANTEED
- FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE

APPOINTMENTS NOT ALWAYS REQUIRED

**01325 288 076**  
or **01325 369 352**  
1B Union Place, Darlington DL1 1GP

## NE For You

**Do you have a Tattoo you want removing?**

- ☐ New no laser tattoo removal
- ☐ Quick & painless
- ☐ See the ink extracted before your eyes
- ☐ Skin restored, no loss of skin pigment
- ☐ No scarring
- ☐ Affordable for all from £50

**Image Cosmetic Clinic**

**01325 357402**

ALSO AVAILABLE:  
Semi-permanent make-up, Collagen, Red Vein Removal, Body Contouring, Non Surgical Face-lifting, Glycolic Peels, Lip Enhancement and all aspects of beauty

**Site Visits & Home Visits** ——— **2 Day Fittings**

**A1 BLINDS**

- A1 Choice
- A1 Quality
- A1 Value
- A1 Blinds

Made to measure in many styles & colours  
Quality workmanship from a family business established 1980

Freephone **0800 78 38 548**  
[www.al-blinds.co.uk](http://www.al-blinds.co.uk)

**FITTED FREE WITHIN 2 DAYS**

**North Yorkshire Timber**

Thinking of refurbing your house?

North Yorkshire Timber Can Supply You With

- Hardwood Flooring  
Kahrs • Junckers • NYT Solid Oak • Cattle Flooring
- Oak Doors
- Oak Skirting & Architrave
- Douglas Fir & Oak Constructional Beams

Visit any of our Branches  
We offer Expert Advice & A Good Price!!

Branches At:

Northallerton	01609 780777
Ripon	01765 605963
Richmond	01748 825225
Middlesbrough	01642 460393
Darlington	Opening Soon
Sunderland	0191 5144663

(Joseph Thompson Timber)

**Premier Decor**

ALL ASPECTS OF DECORATING UNDERTAKEN

Discount Prices Available  
Prompt, Polite & Professional

Tel: **01388 835182** or **07901 527547**

**P.I.P.E.S. (NY) LTD**

Plumbing & Heating Installations

Gas Servicing, Repairs, Safety Inspections & Certification

Bathroom Fitting & Oil Boiler Installations

For a No Obligation quotation, call

**01748 835085** or **07762 619033**  
CORGI REGISTERED

**Tees Valley Counselling Trust**

For people with disabilities or chronic illness and carers  
Reg Charity No 1064444 Formerly John Richardson Trust

**Counselling Service for the Chronically Sick or Disabled**

Have you been diagnosed with a chronic illness or physical disability? Or are you the carer for such a person? Sometimes it can be helpful to talk about the effect this has upon your life and emotional wellbeing. The Tees Valley Counselling Trust is a free, specialised and confidential counselling service, available to anyone in this situated who works or lives in this area.

Please ring **01642 624788** for further details  
North Tees Hospital, Everley House, Middlefield Road, Stockton

# Shopping for style at Lightwater Village



## Stylish fashions at smart prices

If you appreciate the finer things in life, then you'll love the selection of stylish brand fashions you'll find at Lightwater Shopping Village.

We also have a fabulous range of furniture and home furnishings, exclusive gifts, kitchenware and a fantastic range of plants and garden accessories that are guaranteed to enrich your lifestyle – whatever your taste.

Open 7 days a week from 10am with free entry and ample parking, we can be found just off the A6108 in North Stainley, near Ripon.

Clothing shown is a representation only and may not be available on the day you visit.



Lightwater Country Shopping Village  
North Stainley, Ripon  
North Yorkshire HG4 3HT

**0870 458 0050**  
[www.lightwatershopping.co.uk](http://www.lightwatershopping.co.uk)

## Claim your FREE Theme Park Ticket when you spend £50 or more at Lightwater Village

Terms: 1. Spend over £50 and receive one free Theme Park entry ticket worth £15.95. 2. One free ticket per person. 3. £50 does not need to be spent in one visit. 4. Receipts must be shown along with this voucher to claim. 5. Promotion is limited to 500 tickets only.