

The Northern Echo

ne

The lifestyle magazine
for the North-East

APRIL 2004

**FOCUS ON
GARDENING**
Growing
trends

Calling in a
garden guru

WIN
A chef for
the evening

SHOPPING
Darlington's
Grange Road

INTERIORS BEAUTY GADGETS MOTORING FASHION



Conservatory World



Largest Conservatory Village in North East



The Fully Refurbished Show Village 2003

Telephone Bishop Auckland 01388 458088
Open 7 days a week!

Compass Theatre Company present

THE RIVALS

Tuesday 18th - Saturday 22nd May
7.30pm, Wednesday and Saturday Matinees 2.00pm

"Compass is the UK's most consistently inventive exponent of classical theatre"

Tickets £14.00 with concessions available

English touring Opera present

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

Monday 24th - Tuesday 25th May 7.30pm

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Wednesday 26th May 7.30pm

Tickets £25.00 with concessions available



GALA THEATRE
Millennium Place, Durham

Box Office: 0191 332 4041
Group Bookings: 0191 3224045
www.galadurham.co.uk

nE contents

12



16



8

SPRING GARDENING SPECIAL



magazine

is produced by

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

ADVERTISING

Trish Taylor
(01325) 505 233
trish.taylor@nne.co.uk

EDITORIAL

Jenny Needham
(01325) 505082
jenny.needham@nne.co.uk

Front page picture:
Carl Banks florists,
Darlington

3 **SHARON GRIFFITHS**
The elegant guide to gardening

4 **GARDENING**
Growing trends this season

5 **GARDENING**
The plants I couldn't live without

6 **GARDENING**
Tips from a garden designer

7 **SIX OF THE BEST**
Deep fat fryers

8 **INTERIORS**
When the dream becomes reality

12 **GARDENING**
The new Castle Howard plant centre

14 **ME AND MY WARDROBE**
LINDA WOODS

15 **McCOURT & McKAY**
Out on the town in Yarm

16 **SHOPPING**
Darlington's Grange Road

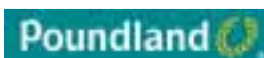
18 **GADGET MAN**
The gizmos that just aren't worth it

19 **FOOD**
Delicious delicatessen

20 **MOTURING**
The car that Joe built

21 **NE CONNECTIONS**
The PoW camp turned tourist trap

22 **COFFEE TIME**
Crossword and puzzles, **PLUS** the chance to win a chef for the evening



CHAMELEON MIRRORS



sharon griffiths

“I don't think Lady Gardeners ever got down on their knees

WHAT I need, I realise, is a trug. Inspired by my visit to the posh new garden centre at Castle Howard, I am trying to bring some elegance into my gardening. A tricky task. But my role models are those Lady Gardeners. You know the ones, mainly Victorian or Edwardian, they are seen in fading sepia photographs, allegedly hard at work among the plants and shaded walks of the gardens they have designed themselves.

They wear long flowing dresses, many-layered petticoats, and a huge hat. The hat is usually held in place by a large and flimsy scarf. Over one arm they carry a trug; in the other hand, they have secateurs with which they are snipping knowledgeably at some roses.

And so there they are, frozen in time, the epitome of lady-like elegance and practical gardening.

How unlike my efforts to tame the small jungle outside our back door.

For a start there's the problem of the knees. This means that you either wear jeans – in which case the knees get very muddy and cold and exceedingly clammy when you stand up – or you wear shorts, or a very short skirt, in which case your knees themselves get filthy, which is OK, but then you might also find yourself kneeling on a squished slug. Now I am not a picky person, but really, I can do without squished slugs on my bare flesh, even my tough old knees.

The one thing you mustn't do is wear any sort of skirt longer than a mini for gardening because then you kneel down, kneel on the skirt and when you try to move you find you've trapped yourself and you fall forward flat on your face – quite possibly on that slug.

So I think that probably rules out the flowing dress and the petticoats. I don't think Lady Gardeners ever got down on their knees.

Felicity Kendall in *The Good Life* wore dungarees, of course, and still looked good. Felicity Kendall, I fear, would look good even in an old bin bag, so she doesn't count. Even her neighbour, Margot Leadbetter, couldn't quite manage her usual sophisticated standards when faced with a muddy garden path.

I don't think I could even manage the hat

properly. Last summer, I did try wearing a hat while gardening. In that almost tropical sun and with my fair skin and freckles, it seemed only sensible. Not that it was a capacious, shady straw hat as worn by Lady Gardeners. No, mine was more of an upside down denim flower pot, and even that kept catching on the roses or the gooseberries. Or it got snatched off by the honeysuckle or the viburnum. Or it simply fell down over my nose while I was trying to do some weeding.

Weeding... now there's a job. Something tells me that those elegant ladies didn't do much of that. Not for them the dirt under the nails, the blisters on the palms that I seem to get, even when wearing gloves. Maybe if you have a terribly posh garden, weeds don't grow there. Think of those enormous borders at Newby Hall. What weed would dare?

My garden fights back. After a day's gardening, I look as if I've gone five rounds with Mike Tyson. There are great gouges on my cheek where the roses have whipped back at me, numerous other scratches and bruises, usually topped off with a blotchy blistery rash from something like the euphorbia. Elegant? Sadly, no.

Then there was the time I put a fork through my foot... And broke my hand when moving a massive stone urn.

That's it, of course. That's why the Lady Gardeners can remain so ladylike – it's because they don't actually do anything. They paint watercolours, write in their notebooks and pose in the rose garden. Oh yes, some of them might have designed the gardens, but they're certainly not the ones out there doing the double digging, the pruning, the seeding, the weeding, pushing loaded barrows, spreading manure or lugging damn great urns around. They had staff for that.

At one stately home in Norfolk, I read once, there was a head gardener, about a dozen under gardeners and “a small army of garden boys”.

Forget the trug and the hat. What I need is a “a small army of garden boys”. Then I could pose and look elegant while they did all the work. I might even do a little garden designing.

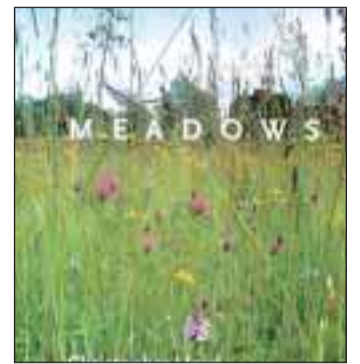
And never ever again have to deal with a squished slug. Very ladylike.

IN AN ENGLISH COUNTRY GARDEN...

TWO great new gardening books have just hit the shelves to inspire us all to greater things this spring. **Real Gardening** by



Stephen Lacey (Penguin, £12.99) is far more inspiring than a step-by-step manual and has now been released in paperback. Dubbed “a gardener's gardener and a writer's writer”, Lacey admits that creating a satisfying and atmospheric garden is no easy task, but offers a way of charting a course through all the conflicting advice around. Interest has now shifted towards simpler plants and looser, more naturalistic ways of growing them and Lacey shows how to tap into this style and how to combine it with a strong design and theatrical flourishes.



Meadows by Christopher Lloyd (Cassell Illustrated, £25) takes a walk on the even wilder side. Lloyd, a plantsman of international repute, explains that you don't necessarily need acres of space to make a home for the wildflowers that are disappearing from our countryside. His book is packed with all the information on the subject keen gardeners will crave.

NE window shopping

FAUX FLOWERS

IF you're not so clever at growing your own flowers, why not try these amazing faux flowers from the Really Linda Barker catalogue? Each petal is hand-painted to recreate that just-picked look. The peonies with glass bowl cost £55.06. Call 0845 450 4025 for a catalogue.



Lifestyle

Visit our newly opened demonstration rooms on the second floor

BOSE



New 3.2.1 Digital Home Entertainment System

Now Open our New Showrooms including a cinema at home room, demonstration zones and a Hifi display.

Offer

Interest free credit on selected Bose equipment from 2nd - 30th April.

This fantastic offer includes nothing to pay for 6 months then 10 months interest free credit on selected Bose equipment

Lifestyle

by Alan Goodrick
Established 50 years

41-42 Blackwellgate, Darlington. Telephone (01325) 353234



Seasonal moods to inspire you



Spring into spring

make your home vivid, bright and flooded with natural charm



Summertime and the living is easy

Summer enjoys soft colours and desire a calm relaxing home designed for comfort



Shades of Autumn

feel cosy in your home with that rustic earthy look



Winter warmth

with dramatic clean lines and crisp angles where less is more

to make yours a traditional contemporary home, visit...

John Willetts

fireplaces

HEAD OFFICE - CAMBRIDGE STREET - SPENNYMOOR - CO. DURHAM - DL16 6DF
TEL: 01388 817 296 - FAX: 01388 811 463

141 HIGH STREET - WREKENTON - TYNE & WEAR - NE9 7JR
TEL: 0191 482 5377 - FAX: 0191 482 2533

www.johnwillettsfireplaces.co.uk
Open Mon - Sat 8.30am - 5.00pm

NE gardening

Growing trends

Gardeners are investing more money in fewer items, says SUZANNA BAIN. But what are the other gardening trends coming your way?

THERE was a time when gardens tended to be unkempt forgotten expanses of scruffy old grass at the back of the house but these days "the room outside" is undergoing something of a renaissance.

And whatever ideas the designers come up with, you can be sure that pretty soon high street retailers will follow suit, making the latest trends, colours, products, materials and plants readily available at affordable prices.

According to John Wyer of Bowles and Wyer garden design, the lush planting, gushing water features and warm terracotta colours of the Mediterranean which were popular five years ago, have been phased out in favour of bleached-out colours and natural materials, such as timber and stone. It also looks as if colour could be splashing back into fashion with plum, aubergine, and even chocolate and orange, being used to accentuate focal points.

Budding gardeners are buying a few accessories, pots and distinctive plants that make a huge impact, rather than spreading the cash around on lots of smaller things. This is largely due to a more minimalist approach, which has come about thanks to a fascination with all things oriental.

"The past couple of years has seen the Japanese influence become really big," notes John, "but things are moving away from being very mannered and stylised towards more of an East meets West approach."

Accessories, sculptures, lighting and water features have all become much more contemporary with many gardens having a real sense of drama and creating a feast for the eyes... and ears.

Water flowing over sleek, modern, sculpted centrepieces and lit in true "look at me" style is a trend that's really catching on. Bold sculptural plants are used to add to the effect.

"Many people are choosing to make the very most of their gardens and love entertaining friends outdoors all year round and well into the evening," says John. "Lighting, therefore, is not only a necessity in this respect, it's also



something really atmospheric to look at and creates exciting effects as it lights up the plants and makes shadows."

On top of this, lighting provides added household security and suppliers are increasingly blending classy design with functionality.

There is more of an emphasis on larger, individual plants rather than lots of small ones and leaf texture and shape are important too. Bamboo and tropical plants with attention-grabbing foliage are popular because they provide interest and texture. And keep your eyes peeled for things like the Chinese larch *Pseudolarix*, which has an unusual colour and shape.

Taking on a complete overhaul of your garden single-handedly can be very stressful and takes lots of time and energy, so it's best to consult the professionals. But making a few simple additions or changes to your garden can give it a real lift and be really good value for money.

Either way, visit as many gardens, centres, shows and websites as you can to get inspiration and ideas for the look you want and make sure you shop around for the best bargains.

Useful Websites:
www.gardendesign-uk.com
www.whick.co.uk



If you're not sure which new plants to give a place to in your garden this year, The Northern Echo's Gardening Correspondent BRIGID PRESS picks out the six she would hate to be without if she was stranded on a desert island



Desert Island diggings

Forest Pansy (*Cercis Canadensis*)

THIS is a small deciduous tree grown for its heart-shaped, deep purple foliage, which turns golden in autumn. The profuse, pea-like flowers are magenta in bud, opening to pale pink in mid-spring before the leaves emerge. It is fully hardy and requires sunshine and deep fertile soil.

Pineapple broom (*Cytisus battandieri*)

A SEMI-evergreen open shrub with light grey-green, slightly hairy foliage and large upright, bright yellow flowers that give off a pineapple-like fragrance, especially on warm, sunny days. It needs a sheltered site, well drained soil, and is prone to slug attacks. Once established, though, it will form a fine specimen plant.

Rosemary (*Rosemarinus officinalis*)

AN evergreen shrub grown for its light purple flowers, which appear in late spring and again in autumn, and for its needle-like aromatic foliage, which can be used for culinary purposes (the natural oils within the plant aid digestion by helping to break down fatty food). It can be used successfully as a hedging plant. Rosemary requires a sunny location in well drained soil.

Nectaroscordum siculum

A LATE spring to early summer-flowering bulb, related to the alium, which pushes up one metre tall, firm spikes topped with pendant, bell-shaped white flowers flushed with purple, red and green. As the seeds form, the stalks stand stiffly away from the main stem, forming a spiky sphere. The bulbs are frost hardy, and the plant needs partial shade but is not too fussy about soil conditions.

Bugbane (*Cimicifuga simplex*)

TALL, upright perennial with masses of large, glossy, pointed palm-like leaves in shades of dark green and purple. The flower spike arches out from the foliage and terminates in a bottle brush of small, creamy white flowers. The autumn flowers have a delicate and unusual perfume. The plant is fully hardy, needs light shade and moist soil.

Sweet Box (*Sarcococca hookeriana*)

A SMALL evergreen shrub with leaves similar to box (*Buxus sempiveris*), but of a much darker green colour. The flowers that appear just after Christmas are almost inconspicuous in appearance (tiny white ones) but announce their presence with a strong, addictive, honey-scented perfume. These are followed by tiny black, spherical fruits. It grows best in part-shade, part-sun, in fertile, not too dry soil.

LUXURY ITEM

WHENEVER I am out in the gardens, I always carry my pruning knife in my left-hand back pocket. Every pair of gardening trousers I own has a rub mark (or small hole) on this pocket from sitting down with the knife in my pocket. It is a simple, flat, stainless steel, folding knife with a curved tip for taking those precise cuttings. It was a gift from my mother some years ago and has been lovingly sharpened, cleaned and oiled on a regular basis ever since.

I must use it several times every day, for such diverse things as cutting string, taking off dead leaves, shaping pencil dibbers, cropping and preparing fruit, herbs and vegetables and removing and lifting seedlings for transplanting – the uses are endless (it also takes tops off drinks bottles!). It is one of those objects that comforts you to know it is there because you will be able use it to solve nearly any horticultural challenge that might crop up.

BOOK

THE most absorbing gardening book I have ever read is one that Monty Don wrote about five years ago (before he took over Alan Titchmarsh's Gardeners World mantle). It's called *The Sensual Gardener* and includes advice on such simple things as choosing tools that feel as though they are part of the hand; poetry; designing gardens; utilising sound, texture and fragrance, as well as visual stimuli. It is not an instructional book, like Hessayon's best selling titles, but is a must for the romantic gardener and anyone who likes to get their hands really stuck into the soil and doesn't mind a bit of muck under their fingernails.

PROTEA

Garden Services

- Over 20 years horticultural services
- Professional eye quality service
- Complete garden care and renovation
- Garden maintenance experts
- Turfing, grass and edge cutting
- Lawn care, weed killing
- Rotovating service

*Fully insured and all waste removed
Competitive rates and free quotes*

**Telephone: 01757 638288
or mobile 07985 414544**

CLIFF SELBY

VIKING

Hedgecutters Strimmers
Blowers
Chipper Shredders
and Lawn Mowers

M. Kane Ltd

Power Equipment Specialists
Southend Works, Byers Green
Spennymoor
Co. Durham DL16 7NL
01388 662266

J & B FARNABY

RICHMOND 01748 824594
DARLINGTON 01325 377725
Call FREE 0800 327622
(F.A.R.N.A.B.Y)

LAWN TURF

Co. Durham, Teesside and
North Yorkshire's Original Turf
Growers for over 25 years

**NOW CUTTING OUR
"BEST EVER TURF"
FROM OUR NEW
FIELDS AT MELSONBY**

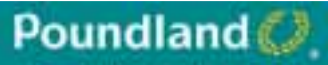
- Suppliers to both Trade & DIY
- Complete Daily Delivery
- Suppliers of Pre-Turf Top Soil
- Inspect and collect from our depot at Scurragh Lane, Scotch Corner

**Broughmoor Farm,
Scurragh Lane,
Scotch Corner**

www.jbfarnabyturf.co.uk
sales@farnaby-turf.co.uk

NE gardening

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Uninspired: Lesley's back garden in Eaglescliffe, which Maria, right, was called in redesign; far right: the plans



“My job is to find out what kind of look they're aiming for – modern, classic or funky”

How to solve a problem with Maria

Garden designer Maria Mountain has helped dozens of people create their perfect garden but she still relishes the challenge. CHRISTEN PEARS reports

“NO two gardens are the same,” says Maria Mountain. “In every single garden, there is always a different challenge. That's part of the fun – coming up with the right solution. I never get tired of it.”

Maria runs a garden design and landscaping business in Loftus called Grassroots. She started the business five years ago but has always been passionate about the outdoors. Even as a child, she says she was fascinated by plants and flowers.

She isn't the only one; gardening has soared in popularity over the last few years, thanks largely to the plethora of programmes on television. Alan Titchmarsh and Charlie Dimmock have become household names, inspiring thousands of Britons to get out and about with a wheelbarrow and trowel – something which Maria says has both pros and cons.

“It's good that people are interested in gardening but it does sometimes give the wrong impression. They think you can whip up a design in 15 minutes but a good design takes hours of work to really make it look good. People are often surprised by how long it takes and how much it costs.”

Maria, who works across the North-East, was recently commissioned by Lesley Lobb to redesign the garden of her

Eaglescliffe home. Lesley's garden is fairly small, as well as being long and narrow. Dominated by paving stones and with only a few borders and tubs to create colour, it resembled a yard more than a garden.

“When you looked out of the window, your eye went straight to the back gate. It was as if there was no garden there at all,” says Maria. “We needed to give it more focal points within the garden and make it look wider, less long and simply more interesting.”

Maria has managed to do this by creating different levels. She has used raised borders, as well as lots of different shapes, a lawn, terrace area, willow hedging and paving. The garden is now full of texture and contrast but everything fits together to give it a sense of cohesion.

Often people come to a designer because they're simply overwhelmed by the possibilities available to them. TV programmes and books feed them hundreds of ideas, but when it comes to their own garden, they don't know where to start.

“My job is to find out what kind of look they're aiming for – modern, classic lines or funky – and then give them a design which, when they see it, will be exactly what they want,” explains Maria.



Giant Fuchsia



Double Impatiens



Brachycombe



Trailing Fuchsia

Free GIANT Fuchsia for every reader

NE is delighted to team up with Promoseeds to offer a free Giant Fuchsia for every reader.

Make your selection from the following:

A: 6 Giant Fuchsia, in a mix of colours, quite exquisite! For just £5.99.

B: 6 Training Fuchsia, in mixed colours. For just £4.99.

C: 6 Double Impatiens, fully double rose like blooms in mixed colours. For just £5.99.

D: 6 Mixed basket plants containing two each of the following: Bidens Golden Star, Begonia Fuchsoides (pink) and Brachycombe (blue). For just £4.99.

To receive your free Giant Fuchsia, all you need to do is complete the application form and send with your payment of 90p to cover postage and packaging to the address on the application form.

At the same time why not fill your baskets with our great additional plant collections?

Please note: Only one free application per household. Please allow 28 days for delivery. Plants will be supplied as plugs and sent in a specially designed mailing carton.

Closing date for offer: May 1st, 2004.

NE MAGAZINE Free Giant Fuchsia Order Form				
NE Magazine Free Giant Fuchsia Offer, PO BOX 26, Hastings, TN35 4LZ				
Please send me:		I enclose my cheque / postal order for £..... made payable to "NE Magazine Giant Fuchsia Offer" at the above address		
Item	Code	Qty	Price	Total
Free	+	1	90p	P&P
6 Giant Fuchsia	A		£5.99	
6 Trailing Fuchsia	B		£4.99	
6 Double Impatiens	C		£5.99	
6 Mixed Basket	D		£4.99	
Grand Total				

Name _____
Address _____
Tel. No. _____
Email address: _____

Newsquest (North East) Ltd and Promoseeds may use your personal information to contact you about other products and services we believe may be of interest. If you do not wish us to contact you, please tick this box
Newsquest (North East) Ltd may wish to pass your details on to carefully selected third parties. If you do not wish us to pass on your details, please tick this box



With Lesley's garden, the starting point was a planting plan. Maria worked out which plants would go where according to soil conditions and shade, and developed the design from there.

"Lesley was looking for interest all year round – something different in spring, summer, autumn and winter. She likes colours as well, so it's quite a colourful scheme.

"If Lesley hadn't gone for design, and just had a landscaper come in, I don't think she would have got the result she wanted. Some people have straightforward gardens but with Lesley's, it was a really tricky space. Design was really important."

Although everyone has their favourite plant or flower, gardening, like fashion, is

governed by trends. Very popular at the moment is decking, as well as Tegula – a form of block paving. Bamboos and grasses are among Britain's favourite plants while conifers, once to be found in every garden, have slipped in popularity.

Maria says: "You do see trends come and go, especially if you go to the big shows like Chelsea, but I tend not to. I don't think people follow trends consciously; they just go for what's popular at any one time. At the end of the day, it's a personal choice – what you like and what looks right in your garden."

● Grassroots can be contacted on (01287) 643553.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

HYACINTH (*Hyacinthus*)
THE hyacinth is a genus of bulbs that are grown for their dense spikes of fragrant, tubular flowers. Although specially-treated bulbs can be forced to flower from Christmas, the natural flowering time is from early April onwards.



The hyacinth reached Europe via Turkey in the mid-16th century. The earliest varieties were red or pink. The race to produce double hyacinths caused their price to soar to several hundreds of

pounds and by 1775, there were 575 varieties listed in England alone. The most popular variety grown today is *Hyacinthus orientalis*, which is available in an increasingly wide range of colour. Hyacinths need an open sunny position (but will tolerate partial shade), and a well-drained soil. Plant the bulbs three to four inches deep and six inches apart in late autumn. Feed them well after the flower spikes have faded. They can be propagated from small bulbs produced at the base of the parent bulb, or from seed, but this may take up to six years for the flowers to develop.

Brigid Press

Read Brigid every Saturday in The Northern Echo

6 OF THE BEST

DEEP FAT FRYERS

THIS month I bring you six of the best fryers so you can put up a sign on your kitchen door saying: "Frying tonight"

CHEAP AS CHIPS
Breville DF8 £34.97

THIS tidy frying machine may hold just a kilo's worth of food, but it does manage to pack in features such as an adjustable thermostat, timer and removable bowl to help with the cleaning. One for those of you who are fresh to frying.



LOWER THE LID
Moulinex AKG531, £39.95

AVOID potential mishaps when lowering your food into the hot cooking oil with the aid of a machine like this. The frying basket can be lowered and raised in and out of the oil without the need to open the lid of the machine, a great safety feature.

TIP AND POUR
Tefal FF401015, £49.99

THIS machine packs in plenty of safety features such as coolwall, so the machine can be touched while it's on, a safety lock and also a rise and fall basket. It also features a helpful draining spout for easily disposing of the cooking oil, avoiding spillage.



BASKET CASE
Morphy Richards 45430, £54.99

THIS model from Morphy Richards features a handy indicator light to tell you when the oil is at the perfect temperature for cooking. In addition to the large frying basket for feeding the family, it also comes complete with two smaller baskets for more intimate fry-ups.



STAINLESS STYLE
Breville AWT DF7, £54.99

THE stainless steel finish on this unit gives it an almost elegant look, not easy in the world of fryers. Adjustable thermostat control, easy to clean and complete with slip-proof feet for added safety.



LARGER LOADS
Russell Hobbs 10357, £69.99

If you have a mini army of mouths to feed, the Russell Hobbs fryer with its 2.2kg load capacity should satisfy. A coolzone inside this unit helps separate scraps from the oil, keeping the machine cleaner for longer.

Peter Jenkinson

All products available from www.comet.co.uk or call 08705 425 425

Is your garden covered?...

- Garden Furniture (also BBQ's)
- Caravans, Boats, Dinghies & Classic Car Covers
- Swimming Pools and Hard Top Spa Lids
- Trampolines

COSY BEANS RELAXERS: Comfort seating for your garden or patio area or in the pleasure of your own home



Selective Covers Ltd
Unit G, Lumley Close
Thirsk Industrial Estate
Thirsk, North Yorkshire
Tel: 01845 522856
Fax: 01845 574227
email: debbie@selective1.fsnet.co.uk



Whatever needs covering...
We've got it covered

The AGA Shop

AGA COMBINING COOKING PLEASURE WITH TIMELESS STYLING

Good cooks deserve the finest cookers and we sell the best RANGE COOKERS available in the UK

- Merury ● Stanley ● Masterchef ● Britannia ●
- Lacanche ● AGA ● Falcon ● Rayburn ●

Established 1888

Walter Dix & Co

TELEPHONE: 0191 4820033

1 Stirling Court, 11th Avenue North, Team Valley, Gateshead, NE11 0JF
Opening Times: Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm, Saturday 9.30am-1pm. Closed Bank Holidays
www.wdix.co.uk




KENNEDY INTERIORS

QUALITY BLIND SPECIALISTS

Made to measure blinds with extensive choice of materials and colours to suit your individual design requirements.

Telephone (01325) 722211
Sundern South Parade, Croft, Darlington, Co. Durham DL2 2SR



Simply Stylish

One of the Largest Showrooms in the North East
Free site survey and full installation service available

The NORTHALLERTON Heating Centre

North End, High Street, Northallerton
Tel: 01609 760909

Registered installer




NE interiors IN ASSOCIATION WITH

CHAMELEON MIRRORS

Val Morgan has had a vision of the perfect family home since her teens. Years along the line, she's near to completion. JO STEVENS takes a look

Val Morgan in her kitchen, with its Provencal fabrics; far right, the conservatory; below, the dining room

Pictures: DAVID WOOD



Living the dream

A LONG comes the second pot of coffee as we sit around the kitchen table at the large detached home of Val and Glenn Morgan. The room has a distinctly continental flavour, a hint of the French Provinces perhaps, with its huge range cooker and built-in barbecue for all year round al fresco-style eating.

Above our heads pots, pans and various items dangle amongst the hanging garlic and there are two French extending lamps. The farmhouse chairs, covered with a material based on Val's design, match the window pelmets and curtains, all adding to a rural flavour. This kitchen is also high tech with under-floor pipes carrying water directly to the refrigerator and ensuring a continuous supply of fresh iced water.

When Val and Glenn first saw the house a couple of years ago, it had been on the market for six months. "I think the dark brownish look throughout the house put people off," she says. But she could see its potential, mentally removing the whole sombre feel of the place as she carefully inspected the house.

Glenn had no qualms. "The house had the proportions we wanted, with an open aspect at the back, and I knew Val could create the ideal home for us," he says. Nothing has been spared in Val's mission to produce an environment to suit the couple and their two daughters, 14-year-old Sarah and two-year-old Emily.

"We were childhood sweethearts, me and Glenn, and we started going out together properly when we were 15," she says. "We always knew we were right for each other so we got married at 20 and have never looked back. In fact, it just gets better and better. I'd lost both my parents by my teens so I'd always dreamed about the family and home Glenn and I would create together some day."

Nothing has been spared in Val's mission to produce what she considers to be the ideal environment for her family. The gloomy kitchen has been gutted and replaced by solid wooden units designed to Val's specification. No details are overlooked – even the onyx handles on the units were painstakingly tracked down. "I just don't want to put up with



“We were childhood sweethearts... I’d lost both my parents by my teens so I’d always dreamed about the family and home Glenn and I would create together some day”



what I think is second best,” she says.

Glenn, director of sales of a telecommunications software system, works mainly from home and here again Val has combined the efficient look of an office with the comfortable touches that integrate it with the rest of the house.

The dining room, with its light wooden floors, wall panelling, white wood units, wine cupboards, and decanters, has become a bit of a haven for Glenn as the children seem to prefer other areas of the house.

Opposite the dining room, double doors lead into an extremely spacious and comfortable living room. Val has created an elegant but relaxed space with a combination of ideas and styles. Solid oak

furniture, TV unit tucked away, big squasy armchairs and footstools, attractive old fireplace, cream carpet, half panelled walls, it all gives a traditional feel with the freshness of contemporary chic. Val enjoys the mixture. “But I’m not interested in passing trends,” she says. “I want quality that won’t date.”

French doors lead into the new octagonal five metres by five metres conservatory which seems to have taken over as the family’s favourite room. And no wonder with its pleasing ambience; comfortable sofas, coffee machine, magazines, plants, and the view outside of horses grazing in yonder fields. I could stay here all day.

▶ Continued on page 10



Bespoke Kitchens and Bedrooms at factory prices

We offer a unique product with an unrivalled design service backed up with a professional pre-fit survey and fitted by quality expert tradesmen.

We know our quality...so should you!

We cater for all aspects, i.e.: traditional or modern with doors to suit all tastes and you can even visit our factory to see your kitchen being made.

We are the specialists in creating kitchens and bedrooms that are truly custom made in our own factory. We specialise in producing wood doors in any colour complementing our large range of vinyl doors. You can have a truly wonderfully designed kitchen or bedroom in your home.

You are only a phone call away from the creation of your dream kitchen or bedroom! Ring our special home visit design service line on **01325 319022**.

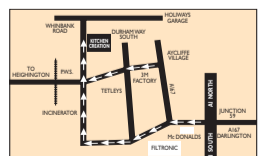
Appliances by **A.E.G, Zanussi, Baumatic, Electrolux** are priced for your selection.

Free appliance from our Baumatic range to the maximum value of **£499.00**

Excluding installation.
Minimum order value £2750.00

Visit our Showroom Opening Hours

Monday - Friday 10am - 5pm
Saturday 10am - 4pm
Sunday 11am - 3pm



Unit B1, Whinbank Park,
Whinbank Road, Newton Aycliffe
www.kitchencreation.co.uk
Tel: 01325 319022
Finance available
(Written details on request)



Kitchen & Bedroom Creation

NE interiors



Feminine touches: the crystal chandelier; a bedroom fit for a princess; the sizeable family bathroom with toile wallpaper

Living the dream

► Continued from page 9

Back to the light and airy hall with open staircase leading up from the centre to the gallery above where an antique chandelier, brought back from Belgium, hangs from the ceiling, and a selection of comfortable armchairs provide another attractive and restful area.

The room-sized family bathroom, complete with free-standing claw bath and mosaic floor, will house a planned sauna and Jacuzzi.

A king sized mahogany sleigh bed holds centre stage in the master bedroom. Three original pictures of costumed ladies, circa 1810, hang near the door into the large en-suite bathroom which boasts a picture bought by Glenn when they went to New York as a reward for meeting his work targets.

Sarah's bedroom houses antique pine furniture, another sleigh bed and soft furnishings created to Val's

specifications. Emily, good as gold, followed us around the house until she got bored and fell asleep. She has a cream bed, davenport and mirrors, all from a regional antique shop.

Val and Glenn, clearly still besotted with each other and grateful for their two healthy children, are thoroughly enjoying their home and all the changes they've been making.

But there may well be many more changes in the pipeline before Val fully realises that dream.

ADDRESS BOOK

Dining room and master bedroom furniture, and some soft furniture in the living room, conservatory and elsewhere from Barker & Stonehouse. All curtains, swags, loose covers, etc., made to order from Susan James Interiors Tel 01642 645611 or 01429 280001

E-mail: info@susanjamesinteriors.co.uk

Fireplaces to suit your lifestyle...

If you're in search of a beautiful new fire come and visit our showroom and take a look at our stylish fires and surrounds. There's sure to be one to suit your taste and requirements! Feel free to ask our staff for help - they can give you excellent advice to ensure that you pick the perfect centrepiece for your home.

Cleveland Gas

The Gas Appliance Specialists

Showroom 151 York Road

Hartlepool

Tel: (01429) 269987

14 Oxbridge Lane

Stockton

Tel: (01642) 603922



Interest free credit

Traditionally hand made sofas, chairs and footstools created by local craftsmen.
For more information and our latest brochure call 01833 695959

Factory Showroom Unit 10 Stainton Grove Industrial Estate Barnard Castle Co Durham DL12 8UH 01833 695959

Showroom 28 Coniscliffe Road Durlington Co Durham

Showroom in store at Partners, Barnard Castle.

846375



The sitting room: traditional comfort with a contemporary twist



luxury & quality

the classic combination

Complement your bedroom with a classic statement of restrained good taste. The Choice is Yours.



The Northgate Bedding Centre present you exquisite designs to suit the most demanding of decorative schemes.



Whatever your chosen style, you will find a bed destined to inspire the personality of your bedroom.



Whether you are looking for a traditional design or an expressive modern contemporary style, we offer models to suit every taste. At the Northgate Bedding Centre you will find a huge range of bedsteads to choose from and if you feel you need some inspiration or advice our friendly team are on hand to help.

Come to the shop with the stock!

The Northgate
BEDDING CENTRE

182-190 Northgate, Darlington
Telephone 01325 243000
www.northgatebeddingcentre.co.uk
(Just along from the Odeon Cinema formerly ABC)

Stunning Collections
SPECIALISTS IN PICTURE FRAMING & FINE ART DEALERS WITH OVER 100 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Framing, Paintings, Prints, Tapestry, Embroidery, Certificates, Stamp Medals, Cigarette Cards, Maps & Engravings etc.

In our gallery we have on display a large selection of Original Paintings & Limited Edition Prints by David Shepherd ★ David Farrant ★ John Lowrie Morrison ★ Russell Flint ★ Gordon King and many others

We also have a large selection of Posters & Prints, Antiquarian Maps & Engravings & Sporting Prints, Expert Cleaning & Restoration of Oil Paintings & Water Colours



WILLIAM DODDS
 34 Tubwell Row, Darlington DL1 1NU
 Tel. 01325 462599 www.fineartdodds.co.uk

Playtex **20% off...**
 All Playtex Magic Feeling Bras until end of April

Victorias Lingerie



11 High Street, Leyburn, North Yorkshire O1969 622102
 www.victoriaslingerie.co.uk

TOP QUALITY PRODUCTS at VERY AFFORDABLE PRICES

We will beat any genuine like for like quote

Manufacturers and Installers of uPVC Windows, Doors & Conservatories



Also Fascias, Soffits & Guttering Suppliers to the public and trade 10 year guarantee No salesmen



For a FREE, NO OBLIGATION QUOTE, call **01207 503222** Mobile **07879 634 736**

ASA WINDOWS LTD

Unit 8d, No.1 Industrial Estate, Consett

We will BEAT any genuine like for like quote!

FENSA

Complies with the new building regulations on safety and insulation

NE gardening



The new centre with, below right, Simon Howard and, bottom, John Foxtan

An English country garden

Castle Howard's new 'aspirational' plant centre has all you need to make your garden just that little bit grander, says SHARON GRIFFITHS

AS plant centres go, the location is hard to beat – along the avenue, past the memorial statue, through the tall gates and into Vanbrugh's 18th century walled garden. Over the wall you can see the dome and soaring roofline of Castle Howard itself and you are surrounded by 1,000 acres of gardens and parkland.

Beat that, B&Q... This spring, Castle Howard – near Malton in North Yorkshire – has enlarged and revitalised its plant centre. "It's been here since the 1970s, rather experimental in those days. But it had got a bit tired," said the Hon. Simon Howard, whose back garden it all is. "It was time to rethink it, have a design overhaul."

Now pots and plants and statues are displayed around a posh new fountain, an echo of those in the grounds. A pergola leads the way to displays of shrubs, alpines, and roses. A new sales area has everything from ladybird larvae and hedgehog houses to terribly tasteful wastebins and watering cans, and as he leads the way back into the shop, Simon Howard has to dodge between the statues of Grecian-style ladies.

It's all terribly grand. And even if you're doing nothing more than buying a couple of pots of primula for your window box, you can always gaze at the ancestral parkland and dream.

Even the wooden seed trays (nothing so vulgar as plastic) have Castle Howard stamped firmly on them. And the shop sells trugs and baskets, hand-made in Yorkshire, definitely designed for a more elegant style of gardening.

But in many ways Castle Howard has gone back to its roots, literally.

"We're a nursery as well as a plant centre," says plant centre manager John Foxtan. "We grow all our own bedding plants and patio plants and we have plants available here at all times of the year."

They also have a long established nursery selling trees and shrubs, many of them grown from those in the grounds at Castle Howard. And they collect hedgerow seeds and propagate them.

"I wouldn't say we had rare plants, but we certainly have many that are a bit more unusual, such as old-fashioned species of flowers and vegetables, for instance, and some of the roses, which you don't find everywhere."

There are more than 2,000 roses in the rose gardens, from rare old varieties to some of the newest.

John also runs a gardening club at the castle, meetings once a month with lots of advice and demonstrations. Next month it's hanging baskets and planters, September's climbers, October's heritage hedgerows and November is all about wildlife gardening.

"What we're trying to do is provide a service," says John. "We don't just want to sell plants but we know about them and care about them, so we're all able to offer advice and suggestions. We really want your plants to grow when you get them home. And because we've got the nursery, we might have something there, even if we haven't got what you want in the plant centre. Our regulars know that already."

This month's gardening club is all about rhododendrons and azaleas. Hardly surprising as in Ray Wood the estate has 800 species of rhododendrons, azaleas and magnolias from all





over the world, many of them grown from plants brought back to this country in Victorian times. The wood dates back about 500 years and various Earls over the centuries have put in pathways, statues, arbours and lots and lots of trees. Planting is as natural as possible with all native plants being encouraged to spread.

A way-marked spring walk takes you past rhododendrons from Nepal, Bhutan, Japan and China, snowdrop trees, camellias, bamboo, wild cherries, with snowdrops, daffodils, cowslips and primroses through the spring.

Then it's back to the plant centre, to fill your basket with seeds and plants – so you can grow your very own Castle Howard in your back garden.



- Castle Howard Plant Centre is open 10am-5pm daily, except Christmas Day. Free entrance and parking.
- Entrance is also free to the Stable Courtyard which includes cafe and shops.
- The Castle Howard Garden Club meets once a month and costs £20 a year and entitles members to 10 per cent off purchases at the Plant Centre.
- House and grounds, including Ray Wood, are open from now until the end of October. Details tel. (01653)




Wensleydale Galleries
Purchase beautiful art by popular artists such as Mackenzie Thorpe, Paul Horton, Alex Millar and Toni Goffe
Interest Free Credit Available
Or bring your own picture & needleworks to be professionally framed
12 SOUTH PARADE, NORTHALLERTON, DL7 8SE
TEL. 01609 773100



Headlam Hall
GOLF COURSE



- Superb 9 hole short course set over mature rolling pastureland with an abundance of natural features
- Designed under the guidance of Ralph Givens, PGA Pro.
- USGA specification irrigated greens
- 10 bay covered driving range and practice putting/clipping
- Resident PGA Pro, golf shop and changing room facilities
- Opens June - membership packs now available (limited)
- On the door step of Headlam Hall offering excellent facilities

Headlam Hall, Headlam, Darlington, DL2 3HA
Tel. (01325) 730238 www.headlamhall.co.uk

NEW
GRANGE
HOTEL & BAR & RESTAURANT

5 nights blues
@ Maxine's

BAR & RESTAURANT

Good Food and live music for only
£19.95 per person
Be entertained by the best Blues Bands in the North East

Friday 30th April	Friday 28th May
Friday 25th June	Friday 30th July
Friday 27th August	Friday 24th September
Friday 29th October	Friday 26th November

Tables from 7.00pm Live Music from 7.30pm

Reserve your table now on
01325 365859

New Grange Hotel and Maxine's Bar & Restaurant
Darlington • Co Durham • DL3 7HZ
Email: enquiries@thenewgrangehotel.com
www.thenewgrangehotel.com

Now Open!

at
**Eastmount Road,
Darlington**



Come and visit our new premises

Where we will continue our tradition of quality, service and value in a store that offers you that little bit more!



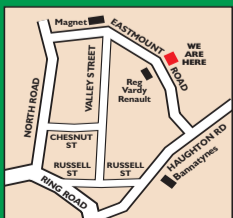
BURTS CARPETS

Established 1945 celebrating 59 years in Darlington

Oakwood House, Eastmount Road, Darlington DL1 1LA

(Opposite Reg Vardy Renault, Near Magnet)

Telephone: 01325 466470



me and my wardrobe



Clockwise from above: Paper, Denim and Cloth jeans, Bejewelled T-shirt, boots from Chestnut; Joseph white suit; purple Joseph top; Day jacket



Linda Woods has just taken over Elan, the long-established womenswear store in Darlington's Grange Road. Passionate about fashion from a young age, she started her career as a teenager with Saturday jobs in clothes shops, and has worked in both high street and designer stores

How would you describe your look?

I'm not a follower of fashion but I would describe myself as stylish and fashionable. I like to be casually dressed in jeans and a T-shirt during the day but I love to dress up for the evening.

What's the most you've ever spent on an item of clothing?

I bought a cream Joseph trouser suit for £487 but it's very versatile. I've worn it for a ball and

as separates and I always feel really dressed in it. It's such a clean cut and fits well.

What's your worst buy?

It was a dress I was desperate to have. I searched the country for it and eventually found it in Bond Street in London – but it was two sizes too big. I intended to get it altered but I never did and I've never worn it. It was a big mistake.

What's your favourite item of clothing?

It has to be a pair of jeans by Paper, Denim and Cloth. I love to wear them. It can be difficult to find jeans that fit but when you do, you feel great in them.

What are your favourite shops?

It has to be Elan – as it was and even more so now I own it. I like most shops but I do like Grange Road. You can travel anywhere and think you're going to get something better but

you don't. There's such a range of different makes here you can always find what you want in Grange Road.

Which celebrity's style do you admire and why?

Victoria Beckham. I like her style and the way she wears high street and designer clothes. She's stylish without showing too much flesh and looking tarty. I think she's interesting whether people like her or not. She's a fashion icon.



NE out on the town

The North-East's answer to Trinny and Susannah take to the bars and clubs of the region in search of style and individuality



McKay & McCourt

WELCOME to the first issue of out on the town with McKay & McCourt. Every month we will be visiting a different town and bar, taking snaps of people out enjoying themselves, quizzing them about what they're wearing and where it's hot to shop, and also giving tips and advice along the way.

This month we visited Yarm, and for a Tuesday evening, it was buzzing, packed to the rafters with stylishly-dressed people. We were advised to check out Hide Bar, where there were plenty of subjects to choose from. With shops like Diva and The House on the doorstep,



designer labels are not hard to come by in Yarm. There was a mix of all ages, and the majority seemed to know what to wear and how to wear it.

Unfortunately, a lot of the clientele were either too shy or too cool to be interviewed, but by the end of the evening we managed to find a few willing guinea-pigs.

Lindsey Leake is 27 and works in Engineering Sales. She was out on a work-related evening and liked the venue for its atmosphere and great food. Her wonderful bubbly personality was reflected in her fab outfit.

Lindsey's top was from H&M, the skirt Warehouse, tights Milan and boots from Next. Great haircut as well. Big thumbs-up from us. Lindsey's tips were always to wear eyeliner and undercut your fringe. She recommends eating what you want.

This group of friends was in the Hide bar because Tuesday night's singles night... except for Martin, who said he was there for the atmosphere.

Rachel Lloyd, 28, is a residential social worker. We loved the way she had jazzed up her outfit with the hat. She wore jeans from Top Shop, Boots from Faith and the top and hat were from Miss Selfridge. Rachel recommends eating healthily and applying a good bronzed base to your skin just enough to give a healthy glow.



Chris Sykes is 24 and an accountant. He was wearing a jacket from Envy and t-shirt and jeans from Triads in Middlesbrough. He likes to shop in Yakusa and cruise 2. He recommends moisturising and gym circuit training for looking good.

Sarah Baum, 24, is from Stockton and is a hairdresser at Toni & Guy's Darlington branch. She wore a top from Triads, skirt from USC and some cute boots from Berties. She likes to shop in Psyche because you can get something different and recommends having your hair cut every month, using Tigi hair products and having a facial every month.

Martin Anson, 30, is a recruitment consultant. He looked rather cool in a top from Evisu, Fake from London jeans and shoes by Pony. His health tip was to "drink beer", although the cheeky smile that came with this answer told us he didn't mean it. Hope to see you out on the town next month...
 ● Hide Bar, Fairfax Court, 32-34 High Street, Yarm, Cleveland TS15 9AH. Tel: (01642) 355 558; www.hidebar.com



Adam Maxwell lives in Yarm and is a 31-year-old IT analyst and part-time firefighter. Adam had a cool understated look and a lovely personality. He likes to socialise in Hide Bar because he says it's a nice place to drink and the music is good. He was wearing the new Levi's Anti Fit 508 and a top by... well actually, he couldn't remember. Leeds is where he likes to shop and he normally goes for labels like Diesel and Riess.

Saks
1974 - 2004
30 Years

you Saksy thing!

Saks is part of the UK's leading hair & beauty salon group with 100 salons nationwide

Award-Winning Hairdressing
Cutting Edge Beauty Treatments*
Luxurious Nail Services*
Outstanding Customer Care
Gift Vouchers
Homecare Products

*Available at selected salons

BARNARD CASTLE
01833 637 020

BISHOP AUCKLAND
01388 607 282

DURHAM
0191 384 3295

GUISBOROUGH
01287 630 055

NORTHALLERTON
01609 771 477

SCOTCH CORNER
01748 850 101

Saks
HAIR & BEAUTY
www.sakshairandbeauty.com

New & Nearly New Ladies Designer Clothes



ARMANI
VERSACE
MOSCHINO
LAUREL
BURBERRY

All these designer labels and more under one roof
Clothes & Accessories

coco's
DRESS AGENCY

11 Grange Road, Darlington
Tel (01325) 383720
Fax (01325) 247203

Robinson's
of Darlington

Bridal Specialist & Haute Couture

WHERE PERFECTION IS OUR AIM

Choose from the largest selection of bridal gowns, bridesmaid dresses & accessories in the North East



Also mother of the bride & guests our speciality
Appointment preferred

21 Grange Road, Darlington,
Tel: (01325) 461415

MAN		WOMAN
Odermark		Brax
Sand		Terre et Mer
Benvenuto		New Man
Gant		Sand
Point Of Italy		Original Blues
Brax		Liz Cox
New Man		Crew
Eterna		Chatham
Bugatti		Ollie & Nic

Geoffrey Gillow
45-49 Grange Road, Darlington
Tel/Fax 01325 469369

A complete lifestyle collection for your house and garden

Home Consultancy Service
Bespoke Curtains & Blinds
Natural Flooring
Painted Furniture
Childrens Furniture & Accessories
Garden Furniture & Gifts
Presents for every occasion

houseindigo

16 GRANGE ROAD DARLINGTON
T 01325 381806

MATTHEW WILLIAMSON

bo-ho to go



Joseph M

12 Grange Road Darlington tel: 01325 489 621
www.josephm.com

OLEO

Fashion with a difference

Stockists of:
Lauren Vidal
Staff
La Bottega Brunella
Steilmann
Gelco
Response
Desert Design



33, Grange Road
Darlington DL1 5NB
Tel: 01325381123

NE shopping DARLINGTON'S GRANGE ROAD



Grange Road: Darlington's designer quarter; below: Kingsley's sofa and upholstery shop. Front cover picture is of Carl Banks flower shop

Cheek-to-cheek chic street

Designer clothes and unusual furniture abound in Darlington's Grange Road. CHRISTEN PEARS goes window shopping

THE West End – chic, sophisticated and vibrant, renowned for designer shops and sophisticated restaurants. This is not London we're talking about, but Darlington.

The market town may not be an obvious shopping destination but it's home to a growing number of designer boutiques and stylish interior stores. Retail is currently high on Darlington's agenda. A number of big high street names already have a base in the town and last year, plans were announced for a £45m shopping centre. But Grange Road, the gateway to Darlington's affluent West End, has its own distinct identity.

Situated in what is known as the Imperial Quarter, just a couple of minutes' walk away from the market square, the street is slightly off the beaten track, but those who discover it come back

time and time again. Lined with independent boutiques and stores, it attracts shoppers from across the North-East.

Joseph M, Kate Saint, Geoffrey Gillow and Chestnut are magnets for the fashion-conscious. Between them, they stock an impressive range of designer labels that includes Betty Jackson, Farhi, Pringle and Armani. There are accessories by Mulberry, Patrick Cox and Anya Hindmarch, while Joseph M also has an irresistible range of designer children's clothes.

Fortunately, a trip to the Imperial Quarter need not have a debilitating effect on your credit card. Coco dress agency is positively overflowing with second hand clothes. If you're prepared to spend a little time rummaging through the tightly-packed rails, you could pick up a real bargain. Just a cursory glance reveals





Eastern Origins: a touch of the exotic; below: House Indigo's new homestyle store

Pictures: CHRIS BOOTH



People come here from all over the region because there is so much choice

Mulberry bags, a Dior T-shirt and a pair of Gucci shoes.

But there is much more to the Imperial Quarter than just clothing. The area is home to several homes and interiors stores. Cooks & Kitchens is run by husband and wife team, Andy and Mary Atkins and was born out of their passion for cooking. The shop is an Aladdin's cave for food lovers, selling state of the art kitchenware by the likes of Alessi, as well as old favourites by companies such as Le Creuset and Dualit.

Eastern Origins, as its name suggests, brings a touch of the exotic to the street. Recently expanded, the store has doubled its floorspace and stocks a wide range of furnishings and home accessories from pretty glass tealight holders to dining tables.

One of Grange Road's most intriguing stores is Drum Art Furniture, situated an art deco former billiard hall and specialising in African and other ethnic art furniture.

The improbably narrow shop front disguises an enormous showroom packed with everything from armchairs to nodding zebras, and you can browse for hours among the unusual pieces. The store is owned by Neville and Julie Campbell, both former dancers who gave

up careers in Zimbabwe to move into retail.

At the opposite end of the street is florist, Carl Banks, where the flowers spill out of the shop onto the pavement. There are beautiful blooms and plants, as well as exquisite floral arrangements.

If all that shopping tires you out, The Imperial is the perfect venue for a coffee. The sophisticated continental café has a relaxed atmosphere and serves some of the best food in town. For food on the go, there's the Angel's Share delicatessen. It's virtually impossible to walk past without being tempted by the delicious array of cakes displayed in the window.

Shop owner Linda Woods is passionate about Grange Road. She has worked for other retailers in the street for the last ten years and has just bought Elan, a long-established womenswear store. She says: "There is a great atmosphere. Everybody works very closely together and everybody has been incredibly supportive of me, offering me all sorts of advice. There's a real sense of community. "I think the key thing about Grange Road is its exclusivity. People come here from all over the region because there is so much choice and so many labels you wouldn't find in other places. It's a great shopping experience."

LIFE COACH

GROWTH: LEARNING FROM LIFE'S CHALLENGES

IT'S not just nature that's growing and budding all around at this time. Every experience in life is an opportunity for each of us to learn and grow. To see the lesson can be difficult sometimes, especially when life throws something difficult and painful at us. But it is there.





When time has passed, emotions have calmed and our thinking is clearer, then it is possible to find the opportunity being presented to us.

However, to see opportunity in difficult circumstances takes a positive attitude. It takes determination and courage to refuse to give in and to rise up again and again. Like flowers in springtime, there is always a chance to grow and blossom after winter.

So learn from nature, try and find the positive in every situation and you will grow and learn to live life more fully. Remember: "An optimist is the human personification of spring." – Susan J. Bissonette

● www.sunflowercoaching.com or tel (01748) 823010

The Croft Hotel COAST & COUNTRY HOTELS

The newly refurbished Croft Hotel is situated on the border line of County Durham and North Yorkshire in the historic village of Croft, overlooking the banks of the River Tees. Just 5 minutes from the centre of Darlington.

The venue for your Civil Ceremony, Wedding Breakfast and Evening Reception, your whole day and every detail taken care of by a professional management team.

The Croft Hotel Croft on Tees Darlington County Durham

Tel. 01325 720319 www.croft-hotel.co.uk



The Kingslodge Hotel is proud to announce its season of Jazz Cabaret

The award winning Knights Restaurant will be playing host to Carole Clegg and Speakeasy from April through till November.

The evening will begin with you enjoying a sumptuous three-course dinner in our Knights Restaurant with the band providing a stunning musical compliment.

The evening picks up a pace after dinner when the band will be joined by the amazing vocal talents of Ms Carole Clegg. With a wide and varied repertoire Carole and her band are sure to provide a truly magnificent evening of entertainment.

Make sure you don't miss what will be a very special season of live Jazz Cabaret here at the Kingslodge Hotel.

The following dates are available:

April: Monday 12th & Monday 26th
May: Monday 10th & Monday 24th
June: Monday 14th & Monday 28th
July: Monday 12th & Monday 26th
Aug: Monday 9th & Monday 23rd
Sep: Monday 13th & Monday 27th
Oct: Monday 11th & Monday 25th
Nov: Monday 8th & Monday 22nd

£25.00
per person to include three course dinner

Please contact the Kingslodge Hotel on
0191 370 9977
to make your reservation

Decor Supplies

CLOSING DOWN SALE

1,000's of Rolls from £1
All Paints and Borders Peeling Sticks £1

EVERYTHING MUST GO!

91-95 Church Street, Shildon,
Co. Durham

Tel. **01388 776300**



FACTORY DIRECT BEDS & PINE

SAVE POUNDS - BUY DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY
Quality Pine Beds, Furniture & Mattresses

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

Unit 5, First Avenue, Drum Ind. Est. Chester-le-Street, Tel: 0191 4109994

Branches also at Washington, Tel: 0191 4175277
Low Fell, Gateshead, Tel: 0191 4871414

VISA
Chester-le-Street Store - Open: Mon-Thurs 9-5;
Fri 9-4 Sat 10-4; Closed Sunday
Washington Store - Open: Mon-Fri 9.30-4.30;
Sat 10-4.30 Sun 11-4

The George Hotel at Piercebridge


Tel: 01325 374576

Carvery Sunday Lunch
Served 12 noon till 2.30 p.m.
Only £6.95 main course

BEAT THE CLOCK

Every Thursday Steak Night

Order at 6.00 p.m.....Only Pay £6
Order at 7.00 p.m.....Only Pay £7
Order at 8.00 p.m.....Only Pay £8
Last Orders 9.00 p.m.....Only Pay £9



catherine mitford
photographer

01325 249436 07941 808770
catherinemitford.co.uk

Discover The Real Taste at THORPE FARM PEEL HOUSE

*with a fantastic offer throughout April**

MONDAY-FRIDAY Receive 20% OFF all meals ordered from our Bistro upon receipt of this advert



*Offer valid until 30th April, 2004

Growers & Purveyors of Fine Regional Food. Country Deli and Gift Shop. Coffee Shop and Bistro. Picnic Area, Adventure Playground and Pets Corner

A GREAT DAY OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY

GRETA BRIDGE, BARNARD CASTLE
Telephone 01833 627 242
Email: info@thorpefarm.co.uk
www.thorpefarm.co.uk

OPENING TIMES:
Mon to Sat 9am - 5.30pm,
Sunday 10am - 5.30pm

The Scrapbook Shop

CRAFT MAKING *Want to learn more?*
CRAFTS BEAUTIFUL *Read the magazine?*
CREATE AND CRAFT *Seen it on TV?*
SCRAPBOOKING *Heard about it?*

The North East's Paper Crafting Specialist

We stock popular brands of rubber stamps, Hero Arts, Woodware Stamps, peel offs by Francoise Read and lots of patterned paper

A Crafters Paradise for original products

We sell the products and show you how to use them

Various bespoke classes running throughout the year on Wednesdays. Call for details.

6 Beech Road Framwellgate Moor (just past the Fire Station, next to Blockbuster Video)

Tel. 0191 3757515
www.scrapbookshop.co.uk

Is choosing a new bed keeping you awake?

Why not visit our new Showroom NOW OPEN in Consett?

CALL TODAY for the bed of your dreams

CHESTER-LE-STREET OPEN 7 DAYS

For every type of bed you need:
Children's Beds, Pine Beds, Metal Beds to top of the range Pocket Sprung Divans

OPPOSITE BATLEYS

Only the finest quality Beds and Pine Furniture at
TRADE PRICES



Exclusive to J&A's - have your favourite football name engraved on to a pine headboard

J&A's Beds & Furniture

Unit 3B, Drum Industrial Estate, Birtley, Chester-le-Street (0191) 4111415

13 Medomsley Road, Consett (01207) 588008

OPPOSITE BATLEYS **NEW SHOWROOM**

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY C.O.D. AVAILABLE

gadget man



You can pack your films for the beach, but they won't be easy to watch

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

Being a Gadget Man is no easy matter. Lovers of gizmos are the early adopters who run all the risks. For every VHS, there's a Betamax (or, God forbid, a V2000). NIGEL BURTON urges caution with one such unit

IF THE Apple iPod was the must-have gadget for 2003, could the portable movie viewer be the most lusted after gizmo of 2004?

The idea is pretty similar: stick a dirty great hard disk into a small plastic chassis, throw in a decoder and a screen, then sit back and wait for your product to fly off the shelves.

The movie players take the iPod concept to the next level. Not only can you store thousands of MP3 tracks, but moving pictures as well. There are various players emerging as I write this and most of them use MPEG-4 decoding (or Divx) as a way of storing as many films as possible.

The latest, the Thomson PDP 2860 uses this compression technology to pack 80 hours of video onto its 20 GB drive. It plays these back via a sharp 3.5-inch LCD screen.

Proponents of the MPEG-4 system reckon it gives DVD quality at vastly reduced storage volumes, but I'm not so sure. Having watched several Divx movies with picture quality worse than a fourth generation VHS pirate, I reckon the trade-off might be too high. The small screen of these players may hide the worst pixellation, but pipe the pictures into your TV and you'll be shocked by how poor they are.

There's another reason why I think these new hard drive multi-media players could be an expensive mistake. Have you ever tried to watch telly in the garden on a sunny day? Or how about writing a Word document on your laptop in the deckchair? If you have then you will be aware that it is virtually impossible to

see colour screens in direct sunlight. So forget about copying your favourite film to enjoy it at the beach while sipping a Tia Maria and Coke. You may as well take a three quid portable radio.

Then there's the battery life. Although these new units are sold with lithium ion cells, only the most optimistic of users will expect to get more than a couple of hours film viewing before they need a recharge. Not very useful when you're three-quarters of the way through Lord of the Rings with nary a power point in sight.

I suspect these gadgets will go the same way as those tiny hand-held TVs you could buy a few years ago (and still can in some shops) - a great idea, but totally useless in practice.

If you have 500 quid to spare then one of these multi-media units is bound to impress your mates - but I guarantee it'll be gathering dust in the loft before too long.

Are multi-media jukeboxes like this Archos the next big thing or a pointless expense?



The small screen of these players may hide the worst pixellation, but pipe the pictures into your TV and you'll be shocked by how poor they are



Deli-cious: Lynn Henshelwood has had a lifelong passion for food

A hidden gem

An award winning delicatessen is trying to put itself on the map – quite literally. IAN LAMMING reports

SURF your way through cyberspace and it is easy enough to find. There, on the end of a wwwdot lies a delidivine, an innovative delicatessen that boasts some heavenly creations.

Try to do the same in reality and the search is a lot more difficult. "It's why we came up with the website address www.delidivine.co.uk," says owner Lynn Henshelwood. "We reckoned it would be appropriate because you need divining rods to find us in York. It's just so annoying. We are in Newgate. But if you look on the A-Z or the York City map, or on the food trail, we are not listed. You see Parliament Street, you see the top of the Shambles, then, where we are, there is just a blank street."

Lynn is currently nagging the authorities to put the matter right. In the meantime she is determined to put herself firmly on the map with a growing reputation for fine foods. And it's something that didn't escape the attention of the judges recently when the deli picked up a prize in the prestigious Best Independent Food Retailer category of The Observer Food Monthly Awards.

Judges were impressed by the diverse range of products catering for individual tastes, the level of service provided to customers and the innovative approach combining traditional and modern cooking techniques.

Henshelwoods Delicatessen is noted for its wide range of traditional home-made vegetable preserves, with some recipes dating back to medieval times, including mulled red wine beets, onions a la Monegasque, vodka orange onions, sweet and spicy Indian style vegetables and bread and butter pickle.

A menu of home cooked meals, including mellow paprika beef, venison and port casserole, Lancashire hot pot and aubergine reggiano, are also available for special occasions or dinner parties. Each dish comes with a list of suggested accompaniments and wines.

Other popular delicacies on offer include home-made fresh Whitby crab pate, a range of over 60 exceptional quality cheeses,

many unpasteurised, cold meats and air-dried salamis from artisans around the world, mouth-watering confectionery and themed hampers.

"We are passionate about sourcing as much fresh produce locally as possible and believe in the virtues of traditional home cooked food, free from artificial colourings and preservatives," says Lynn, of Harrogate. "Because many of our dishes are cooked on the premises by me, we are happy to meet specific requests."

The range hints at a professional commitment to food stretching back years. But in actual fact Lynn is an archaeologist, who used to be director of an architectural practice, a business and finance manager for the National Health Service and a social worker in London.

"I have had a life-long passion for food which probably comes from sharing flats with all nationalities. You end up cooking together and there are dozens of influences in the things they cook. I do a lot of Turkish and Iraqi cooking and there is a lot of experimentation. The kitchen is like my laboratory and you just get in there and start putting things together. If it works, they end up on the specials board. But it's trial and error and sometimes the result is dire."

With such a keen interest in food, the deli seemed the obvious answer to a life back up North and Leeds-born Lynn chose York as the venue 22 months ago. "As a city, it is more cosmopolitan and we do sell some pretty strange things," she admits.

Her husband Bob does the admin and 16-year-old son Rory cleans and prepares the vegetables. "They are so supportive," says Lynn. "And my customers are absolutely fantastic – providing, of course, they can find us."



EATING OUT

WALWORTH CASTLE

WITH suits of armour in the entrance hall and a stunning, high-ceilinged restaurant, Walworth Castle Hotel, near Darlington is an impressive setting for dinner. With smart but friendly staff, the diner is made to feel very much at home in Hansards restaurant, named after the castle's first inhabitants. The cream and gold restaurant is hung with medieval-style tapestries; staff are smart and friendly.

We chose from an exciting range of starters including lamb, beef and goats' cheese tart, Peking duckling pancakes and roasted vine tomatoes. I opted for Parma ham wrapped in tiger prawns, which were absolutely delicious and cooked to perfection. My wife chose the lambs' liver, a generous portion she thoroughly enjoyed.

For the main course, we had a huge choice, including: cod glazed with ham and mushroom rarebit, Dover sole, roast loin of pork, lamb, halibut, fillet steak and maiden of vegetables.

I went for the pan-fried medallions of fillet steak served on bubble-and-squeak and a red pesto sauce. My wife chose the Hansards Royal Grill of peppered tournedos of beef, rack of lamb and plum-glazed pork.

The food was beautifully presented. My wife thought the taste and quality of the meat very good and was impressed by the freshness of the vegetables. I enjoyed my meal but was a little underwhelmed by my steak and the bed of bubble-and-squeak seemed to be mostly mashed potato.

For pudding I had a truly memorable lemon and ginger cheesecake while my wife opted for a very pleasant but slightly cold in the middle creme brulee.

Accompanied by a delicious bottle of pinotage red wine, the bill came to £68 for two.

● Walworth Castle Hotel, just outside Darlington, can be contacted on 01325 485470 or visit the website www.walworthcastle.co.uk.

Barry Nelson

THE ELEPHANT

Thai & Chinese Buffet Restaurant



Eat as many courses as you like!

ALL DAY HAPPY HOUR
Sunday to Thursday

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!
on bottles of Stella Artois and K Ice

Friday and Saturday
STELLA BOTTLES ONLY £1 EACH

The Big Lunch Buffet

£5.50

11.45-5.00pm
leave by 5.30pm

The Deluxe Grand Buffet

£8.50

7.01-10.30pm

The Huge Happy Hour Buffet

£6.50

5.01-7.00pm leave by 7.30pm

The Baby Elephant Buffet

£3.00

All day for children over 2 years and under 4ft 11ins in height

Unit 1-12, Millburngate Shopping Centre, Durham

Open Daily 11.45-10.30pm

Tel. 0191 375 7333



Car shown is 2.5 litre V6 Sport with metallic paint and silver roof rails at £26,915

Escapology. From £21,165.

For the first time ever, there is a Jaguar Estate car. With an economical 2 litre diesel engine and traction control, or 2.5 and 3 litre petrol engines with 'Traction 4' four-wheel-drive. Liberate yourself in luxury with the new X-TYPE Estate, from only £21,165.

Contact us for details.

X-TYPE ESTATE

Reg Vardy

Jaguar House, Preston Farm, Yarm Road, Stockton-on-Tees.
Tel: (01642) 665200.

www.regvardy.stocktonontees.jaguar.co.uk



Official fuel consumption figures for X-TYPE Estate mpg (l/100km) Urban 18.5(15.2) - 36.7(7.7), extra urban 35.9(7.9) - 60.4(4.7), combined 26.6(10.6) - 48.7(5.8), CO₂ emissions 254g/km - 154g/km.

JAGUAR APPROVED USED CARS

5 years' 0%^{apr} finance

from only £125 per month (plus deposit)

X-TYPE from £14,999



- Power steering
- Electric front windows
- ABS brakes
- Traction Control
- 8 Airbags
- 16" Cacios Alloy wheels
- Air conditioning
- Bronze Sapelle Veneer
- Alpine Stereo System

Car shown for illustration purposes only.

JAGUAR APPROVED USED COMMITMENT

- Minimum 12 month warranty
- 12 months' MOT and MOT insurance
- Service history and mileage check
- Full provenance check
- Jaguar Assistance
- 30 day / 1,000 mile exchange plan
- Comprehensive vehicle inspection

REG VARDY

Jaguar House, Yarm Road, Stockton,
01642 665 200
www.regvardy.stocktonontees.jaguar.co.uk



50% deposit required for 0% apr finance offer. Cash Price: £14999. Deposit: £7499.50 (50%). 260 Weekly Payments @ £28.84 or 60 Monthly Payments @ £125. Total Amount Payable £14999. APR 0%. Written quotations on request. Customers may choose to pay weekly or monthly. Finance subject to status. A guarantee may be required. Not in conjunction with any other offer.

NE motoring



Refined and economical: the new Jaguar X-Type Estate

The car that Joe built

A new sleek estate car is gracing our roads thanks to the magic pen of a North-East designer. IAN LAMMING reports

TO MANY, cars are little more than tin boxes in which to get from A to B. To some, they are automotive art forms which excite, lure and stimulate the prospective buyer.



Designer: Joe Buck

But where do the designs come from? Who decides how they look? And why do they appear as they do? It is easy to imagine white-coated boffins locked away in hi-tech towers labouring furiously over the next trendy car design. But in some cases, these faceless backroom boys are a lot closer to home.

Take Jaguar's new, brave estate car, for instance; new because it is literally just out the box; brave because Jaguar has never before attempted to create an estate. The fact the test car was provided by Reg Vardy Jaguar of Stockton couldn't have been more apt, because the man behind the X-Type Estate hails from just down the road.

Car designer Joe Buck comes from Middlesbrough. But for the past five years he has managed Jaguar's advanced design studio in Coventry and heads the team responsible for X-Type Estate.

His designers have also been responsible for the new XJ, XK and S-Type and, surprisingly, all designs start life as simple ball-point pen sketches on paper. These are then enhanced on a computer, before becoming full scale models and full-blown prototypes.

"Jaguar is more of a niche luxury brand than other executive marques," he says. "Owners tend to be more enthusiastic, artistic, eccentric. So we have a lot of customer clinics. You also have to remember the heritage of the product. We look at fashion. We go to Milan, Max Power and motorcycle shows and imagine where those designs will be in two or three years' time."

Buck says design is now heavily influenced by the host of safety and

environmental legislation coming out of Europe. For instance, they are now having to use spring-loaded bonnets and compressible headlamps to improve pedestrian safety.

A facelift can take anything up to five months, while a brand new model takes up to three years from design to production. Buck says: "Fifteen years ago I would have done this job for free, now I get paid for it. It's bizarre, my job is to draw cars, it's brilliant."

So what about the new X-Type Estate? Well it is an eye-catcher, if only because of the shock of seeing a shooting brake grafted on to a Jaguar front end. But this is no cut and shut job, the design flows from front to rear, is beautifully proportioned and homogenous.

The new load bay is large and well shaped with removable panels in the side should those extra millimetres be needed to swallow your golf clubs sideways. It's also sumptuously finished off in the finest materials, which may make you think twice before hurling in dirty boots or wet dogs.

A skip forward takes you into the back seats where room remains at a premium, then hop again into the front for a typically lavish Jaguar cockpit, brought up-to-date with modern instruments and switches. It all works very well indeed.

On the road, the Estate is pure X-Type, and none the worse for it. The 2.0 litre diesel engine is powerful, refined and economical, the gearbox is slick, the handling taut and controlled.

All in all it is a fine car in which to travel from A to B and nice enough to take a weekend jaunt to C if the mood takes you. The fact that it is as it is because of a North-East man only makes it better still.



NE connections

PLACES WITHIN EASY REACH OF THE NORTH-EAST



A great escape

CHOKED by weed and 6ft high brambles, a sad collection of concrete huts faded fast from view and memory. Once, they had housed the enemy, Italian prisoners of war captured in North Africa and forced to live on the exposed side of the valley in Weardale.

Later it was home to low risk German prisoners, as one of 1,500 PoW camps in the country, providing a valuable workforce for a rural area and also keeping themselves occupied making toys or in the theatre group and orchestra.

For 50 years the old camp lay virtually untouched but not entirely forgotten. Farmer Lisa McLeod remembered stories of the camp and its occupants, recounted to her as a child by her great grandfather. He told her how they used to work his land and help with the haymaking, how they asked him for pencils and crayons so they could write home to their loved ones. So when the opportunity arose in 2001, she and her husband James grabbed the chance to buy the old Harperley Camp, between Crook and Wolsingham in County Durham.

"Mind you, we were going to use it to put chickens and fence posts in," recalls James, who ran a fencing business at the time. "Then we put a story in the local paper asking for any old pictures of the place and were overwhelmed with the response. Until then, I hadn't been that interested in the war but Lisa was.

"As we got a feel for the camp we realised that the old theatre and some paintings on the wall were much more important than we had first thought and that it should be turned into some kind of museum," says Lisa.

English Heritage agreed and designated the camp a scheduled monument, the only one in the country, and a £3m restoration scheme was born. Funding became the next urgent issue and, among others the McLeods turned to Wear Valley Development Agency. "They have helped us with the business plan and pointed us

to the funding," says James. "Since we first approached them, we have never looked back."

WVDA chief executive Paul Robinson says: "It is such an exciting project, so unusual and novel, yet the ramifications for the region will be huge. No one could fail to be infected by James and Lisa's unbridled enthusiasm."

For months, Lisa and her husband James, employing a small army of workmen, worked flat out to transform the derelict prisoner of war camp into one of the region's most popular tourist attractions.

The weeds are now gone – so is their farm – the concrete huts repaired, the pictures on the wall preserved. Business is under way and the dale is looking forward to being revitalised after being blighted by job losses in recent years. There are hopes the 17-acre site could attract between 50,000 and 75,000 people a year, boosting the prosperity of the whole region.

The living wartime museum is packed with photographs and memorabilia. There are also holiday homes, a war-time B&B, campsite, tearoom cum restaurant, a souvenir shop, play area and car parking for 200 vehicles.

The war theme extends throughout, even down to the menu, with such delicacies as corn beef hash, rissoles and traditional afternoon tea. Visitors are expected from all over the world to see a piece of history captured for ever.

The McLeods have lived alongside the camp all their lives as their farm was nearby. "I've always been interested in the war and remember my great granddad's stories so clearly," recalls Lisa. "But it is strange where life takes you – I never would have thought that one day I would be running the camp as a tourist attraction."

The collection of concrete huts now stands proudly, free from weeds and brambles, keeping a piece of wartime history very much alive in people's memories, and housing friends, not foe.

The derelict prisoner of war camp given a new lease of life as a tourist attraction by an enthusiastic Weardale couple, opens for business this week. IAN LAMMING reports

"We realised that the old theatre and some paintings on the wall were much more important than we had first thought"

–The McLeods, pictured above left. Above: the tearooms

THE camp opens on Friday. Opening times will be 9am-5pm daily. The first phase includes a 1940s-style 82-seater tea-room/restaurant, 1940s street leading to traditional farm shop, children's adventure playground, garden centre and 35-pitch touring caravan site, parking for 80-plus cars and coach parking.

Unfortunately the PoW museum will not be open to visitors this spring. However, there will be guided tours of the camp from 11am and 2pm from Friday onwards. There is no charge for the tour although voluntary donations towards the charity are welcome. Call (01388) 767098 to book.

Principia
Bridal & Men's Formal Wear

The Dress

"Every bride is an individual... looking at photographs may give a clue as to what is available."

"The only model who can show the bride what she will look like is the bride herself..."

"Brochures and advice from 'friends' cannot tell you how comfortable the dress will feel."

The Bride

Exclusive Designer Dresses
sizes 6-36

Bridesmaids

Flowergirls to size 30

Sale or hire on selected ranges
Over 40 headaddresses to choose from
Large range of veils

With an exclusive selection of Morning Wear from boys to men
(all sizes available)

"With over 25 years of professional, friendly advice and service, our staff are only too happy to help you make your special day, a day to remember"



20 Dundas Arcade • Middlesbrough TS1 1JA

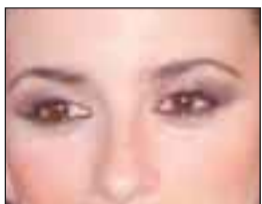
Tel 01642 224554 • Fax 01642 224558

www.principia.uk.com email enquiries@principia.uk.com

NE puzzles

Find a word that can follow the word on the left and precede the word on the right. When you have filled in all the answers, the name of a celebrity can be read from top to bottom in one of the lines.

BLUE					TRIAL
PLUM					KETCHUP
STERLING					LINING
TOUCH					POOL
PIRATE	■				STATION
GUM					NUMERAL
QUICK	■			■	LADDER
STYPTIC					SKIRT
FLEA					GARDEN
TWELFTH			■		OWL
HOUSING					AGENT
CLAPHAM					ROOM



Name the star pictured on the left

ANSWERS
Celebrity wordmatch: Murder, tomato, silver, typing, radio, arabic, step, pencil, market, night, estate, common and the celebrity is David Beckham
Celebrity stare: Penelope Cruz

WORD wise

The word may sound familiar, but do you know what it means?

TANGENT

- A Touchable
- B Line cutting a circle
- C Line touching a curve

ANSWER

C: Line touching a curve

IMPOSSIBLE PUZZLE

Each letter in this sum stands for a different digit. Can you work out which prime number is represented by GASSY?

S O D A
 P O P S
 G A S S Y

SOLUTION

GASSY was 14779.

Enjoy a hotel in your home

NE Magazine has teamed up with the Hall Garth Golf and Country Club Hotel to give one lucky reader the chance to sit back and relax while its head chef, Gary Rodgers, cooks a sumptuous evening meal in their home. The winner of the Hotel at Home Competition will also benefit from the help of a waitress, Clare Robson, from Hall Garth Golf and Country Club Hotel, in Coatham Mundeville, Darlington, who will lay the table and serve the meal. They will be supported by one of the hotel's housekeepers, Shirley Ashbridge, who will provide three hours of general cleaning duties, such as vacuuming, dusting, and tidying, around the winner's home. She will also wash up.

All the food will be provided by the hotel, which will offer three menu choices, and will cater for up to four people. It will also provide a complimentary bottle of champagne and a bottle of wine. Chef Gary joined Hall Garth Golf and Country Club Hotel at the end of last year. He has been in the catering industry for ten years and trained at hotels in London and Scotland.

Hall Garth Golf and Country Club Hotel, which is part of Corus hotels, is well known locally for its Hugo's Restaurant. It serves a variety of dishes made with the freshest ingredients. Set in a beautiful 16th century manor house adjoining 67 acres of parkland, Hall Garth Golf and Country Club Hotel has its own golf course and other leisure facilities, including an indoor swimming pool. It has 51 bedrooms, a pub, bar and two beautifully furnished lounges. There is parking for 150 vehicles at the hotel, which also has five meeting rooms. The hotel can be contacted on 0870 609 6131.

HOW TO ENTER

Just tell us the name of the head chef at the Hall Garth. Answers on a postcard or back of an envelope to Hall Garth Competition, Features, The Northern Echo, Priestgate, Darlington DL1 1NF. The closing date is the end of April.

Terms and Conditions: The winner can choose from three menu options provided by the hotel. The hotel will provide all food and will cater for a maximum of four people. The winner will need to provide the chef with a fully working oven and hob. The chef will bring kitchen utensils and pans from the hotel. Food and drinks will be served using the prize-winner's cutlery, plates and glasses.

To provide the washing up service, hotel staff must have the last of the cutlery by 10.30pm to enable them to be off site by 11pm. The hotel will provide the necessary equipment for cleaning, excluding a vacuum cleaner.

The winner must take the prize within two months of being notified. The winner must also give the hotel at least two weeks notice of their preferred date. The date must be mutually agreeable with the hotel. The winner must live within a 25-mile radius of the hotel. The winner must agree to publicity in The Northern Echo. The judge's decision is final.



NE directory

NE Motors

SPECIALIST REFINISHERS OF CARS & LIGHT COMMERCIALS

Accident and Insurance work welcome

01845 577893

Fax: 01845 577893
Mobile No: 077306 70306

SPRAY SHACK

Full valeting service
Paintless dent removal
Courtesey cars available

Alanbrooke Industrial Park, Station Road,
Topcliffe, Thirsk, YO7 3SE

Stay COOL

with **HIGH-QUALITY WINDOW TINTING**

FOR CARS, CONSERVATORIES etc.

- Look Cool and Sharp
- Improve Security and Safety
- Film blocks 99% of Suns u/v Rays
- Reduce interior Trim fading and cracking
- Create and maintain your privacy
- Choice of colours
- Professional Installation

Look Sharp the TINT SHOP @ monaghans

142 North Road (opposite Morrisons)
Darlington, Co. Durham
01325 357028

NE Leisure

Lapland in search of Father Christmas

2004 BROCHURE OUT NOW

CANTERBURY TRAVEL

☎ (01923) 822388

ABTA V6364 or visit www.santa-holidays.com
ATOL 739 Protected

Florida Villa To Rent

6 miles from Disney, 4 beds, ex location south facing pool

from **£385 per week**

Telephone: **01670 731922**

YORK Jorvik Hotel

Restaurant, bar, parking, col TV, tea / coffee facs.

All rooms en-suite, 4 posters available, city centre location.

Midweek DB&B Stay 2 nights GET 1 FREE

Transport from Station available
Tel. (01904) 653511

Asquith Court Nurseries

Providing Excellence in Early Years Learning and Childcare

- ▶ Relaxed, friendly environment
- ▶ Regular outings and activities to stimulate young minds
- ▶ Nutritious, freshly prepared meals
- ▶ Constantly updated selection of toys, games and equipment
- ▶ Attractively presented and secure nursery buildings with outdoor play areas and gardens

Open throughout the year - Monday to Friday from 8am - 6pm

c/o David Lloyd Leisure
Tees Barrage, Stockton-on-Tees
Telephone 01642 670676

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 Fellis.

Special Mid Week Rates

Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0EP
Tel. (015394) 32332
www.wateredgeinn.co.uk

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)

All blinds & samples brought to your home

Also fabulous range of Wood Venetians and Roller Blinds

(01325) 320666

For a FREE No Obligation Estimate Visit our website www.blinds.uk.com

NE directory

NE You

0% SILICONE **100% NATURAL** **Perfect C**

You're the One in control

Perfect C lets you control your own growth, putting you in charge of your body. The results achieved are permanent as the new tissue will not diminish even when you have stopped using the capsules.

What Perfect C can offer -
 Increase up to Three Full Cup Sizes
 Healthy and Long Lasting Results
 No Negative Side Effects
 Puts You in Control of Your Body

You can expect to see fuller firmer breast in little to no time at all, while gaining up to one, two even three full cup sizes within a few short months.

Better Still
 Regain the attention you deserve
 Fill your swimsuits and bras
 Your Self Confidence will soar
 You'll be the envy of all eyes

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER
 Purchase 2 months and receive 3rd month FREE
 Phone for details 0191 297 2212
 or view our website www.makemenpay.com

NE Homes & Gardens

10% DISCOUNT
 ON PRODUCTION OF THIS COUPON

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

Durham Sheds

Top quality sheds and playhouses at trade prices

Unit 2A, Thornley Station, Industrial Station, Shotton Colliery
 Telephone: **01429 835333**

Paving from £1

18 x 18 also 2x2 and 3x2 Paving
 Bricks from £34 a pack Old York
 £8.40 sq yard all plus VAT
 Telephone: **Eldon Hope (01388) 775261**

THE PAVING PEOPLE

Block Paving Driveways Patios
 Landscaping Fencing
 ★ Over 15 Years Experience ★
 ★ All Work Guaranteed ★
 ★ Free Estimates ★

Telephone **01325 307374**
 Mobile: **07963988398**

BTL WOODSHED

Garden Sheds • Pet Houses, Timber Decking • Log Wood Chipping

01388 608452
07711 436043

Casselville Farm, Toronto Bishop Auckland

Bow Street Centre, Guisborough

Business Units To Let

Start up your own business with our easy terms. Good access and parking.

(01642) 710742
(01287) 610600

WESTWOOD TIMBER & FENCING

Tel: **(01325) 378202**
www.westwoodtimber.co.uk

- Custom-made sheds and play huts
 - Fencing supplied and fixed
 - Panels, trellis, posts and rails
 - Hardwood railway sleepers in stock
 - Large selection of profile posts
 - We also supply hardwood logs
- Tall Trees, West Lane, Dalton on Tees DL2 2PP



Let the light shine with Homefair Blinds

• Vertical • Roller • Venetian
 All made to measure

Freephone **08000 729474**

www.homefair-blinds-uk.com

MULTI-TRADE

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATION

Decorating, tiling, flooring, plumbing, electrical, fencing and brickwork

ALL WORK GUARANTEED

Registered Company
 Tel. 01740 653717 Paul
 Mob 07752 895750 Paul
 Tel. 01388 812563 Dave
 Mob. 07751 445696 Dave

Daily Living Aids for the Disabled & Elderly

INDEPENDENCE RESTORED

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

Scoters, Wheelchairs, Walking Aids, Bathing, Toileting, Household, Kitchen and Dining

Unit 18, Drum Industrial Estate, Chester-le-Street

Tel: 0191 4922301

Beauty is within the eye of the Beholder

Quality and Value from EXPRESS BLINDS

Vertical • Roller • Venetian
 Pleated • Solar Film

0800 0745724
www.expressblinds.co.uk

Meynells Ltd

Stockists of all makes of sewing machines and everything you need for your hobby.

WE GUARANTEE YOU EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE

2 Southfield Road, Middlesbrough
 Tel: (01642) 247863

AGE Concern

East Parade
 Harrogate
 North Yorks
 HG1 5LQ

Telephone: **01423 502253**

INSURANCE SERVICES
 FUNERAL PLANS
 FINANCIAL ADVICE

Thomas Watson

Established 1840

Auctioneers of Distinction

The Gallery Saleroom
 Northumberland Street
 Darlington DL3 7HJ

Telephone **(01325) 462559** Fax **(01325) 284587**

add wood

REAL WOOD FLOORING

Ready finished Oak from **£23.99 per m²** (inc VAT)



Wide and Narrow Board
 Oiled and Lacquered
 Oak, Maple, Merbau, Beech, Kempas, Cherry and more

Our showroom is open Monday to Friday from 9 to 5 and Saturday from 9 to 12.30

- supply & professionally fit
- free site surveys
- free product & fitting advice

Add Wood,
 Unit 3,
 Littleburn Industrial Estate,
 Langley Moor,
 Durham, DH7 8JE
 (just off Mill Road)

0191 378 2800

www.addwood.co.uk
 Affiliated with
 Arbor Timber & Builders Merchant

For beautiful floors simply add wood

PRE SEASON SALE

Makita Garden Equipment Hire, Sales & Service

Mowers, strimmers, hedge cutters, scarifiers

Tel. **01642 604999**

Where's the best place to choose a **Quality New Fireplace?**



FIREPLACE
warehouse

Combining classical
with modern.

Quality and affordability.

All you need to create
warmth and ambiance.

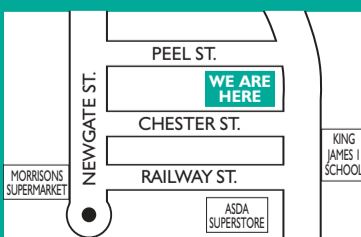


**Before you buy your fireplace you
must come and see the professionals**

DURHAM
INTERIORS

FIREPLACE
warehouse

**CORGI
REGISTERED**
FITTING SERVICE
AVAILABLE



FREE HOME CONSULTATIONS ARE NO PROBLEM

**18 CHESTER STREET
BISHOP AUCKLAND
Co DURHAM**

Tel 01388 600008