

People

BILLINGHAM-based McGill Services, a subsidiary of Hertel, has appointed Jon Rokk as managing director. Jon, who lives in Hartlepool, joins from Billingham-based JCM Group Ltd and has also held positions at ICL, Fujitsu and IBM Xyratex. Prior to JCM, he worked for Enron Teesside Operations Ltd (ETOL), later acquired by Sembcorp, where he became assistant vice president responsible for the fulfilment services business and Wilton International site development.



TOP DUO:
David Dodd, left, and Christopher Fleetwood

DARLINGTON Building Society has made a double appointment following a restructuring exercise. Christopher Fleetwood has taken over from William Baker Baker as the society's chairman, while David Dodd has been appointed Chief Executive. David joined the society in 1998 and has 35 years' experience of working in the building society sector. Meanwhile chartered accountant Christopher, a non-executive director of the society since 1995, runs his own e-consultancy and advises clients in the public, private and education sectors.



BILLINGHAM manpower and dispute resolution consultancy, Cal. Group, has strengthened its sales operation with the appointment of Andy Temple as business development manager. Working out of the company's Teesside and Glasgow offices, Andy will be responsible for developing the client base throughout the north of England and Scotland.

He brings with him 12 years' managerial experience gained in the armed forces as well as seven years in

Creature comforts

AN Eaglescliffe entrepreneur has launched a pet-friendly product range as she looks to double sales within a year at her home accessories business.

Former policewoman Kerrie Murray launched Pins and Ribbons from her kitchen in 2006 and quickly turned her crafts hobby into a business, taking on three staff and growing annual revenues to £100,000.

Now she aims to supplement her doorstops, aprons, laundry bags and French-style memo boards with personalised pooch and feline beds and cushions.

Kerrie says: "I went to Harrods recently and found that the pet emporium was bigger than the children's clothing department! People want to go the extra mile to buy something special for their pet."

The business sells products directly to homeowners and through retail shops and stores. Kerrie has sourced more than 45 new stockists for her products since April.

She plans to take on more staff, launch a new Christmas range and open a shop in Yarm, not far from her Eaglescliffe manufacturing operation.

Kerrie spent several years in the police before a serious car crash and decided the time had come to find a way of spending more time with her children, eight-year-old Grace and Eve, 5.



LUXURY FOR PETS:
Kerrie Murray has added a range of pet friendly products to her stock at her crafts business Pins and Ribbons so that pet owners can bring some comfort to man's best friend. Picture by PETER BENN