



SET UP CHARITY Teresa

## Motorbike ride in tribute to husband

A WIDOW who lost her husband in a motorcycle accident has organised a memorial ride in his honour.

Dad-of-five Rob Mills was well-known among the North East's motorbiking community.

His family were devastated when the 48-year-old was hit by a car while out riding on the B6318 Military Road in Corbridge, Northumberland, in June, 2010.

Rob's wife Teresa, 48, of Aster Place, Fenham, set up Dying to Ride, a motorcycle awareness group that aims to save lives on the road.

The first Dying to Ride annual Fallen Riders Memorial will take place on Saturday, June 9.

The event will begin with a commemorative motorcycle ride, followed by a motorcycle awareness presentation.

The names of bikers who have lost their lives in accidents will then be read out during a memorial ceremony.

To add a name to the memorial, send an email to Teresa at [dyingtoride@hotmail.com](mailto:dyingtoride@hotmail.com), or call her on 0191 241 4230.

# Tourism in the North wins national awards

## Museums take prizes in 2012 Visit England contest

ANDREW GLOVER

TYNESIDE'S tourism industry has won national recognition in the 2012 Visit England awards.

The ceremony, which celebrates the best the country has to offer visitors, saw the Great North Museum grab gold in the Access for All Tourism category.

And taxi boss Alan Fidler received his Tourism Superstar award for the warm welcome his East Coast Tours company provides.

Mr Fidler, from North Shields, takes visitors around the region in the back of a cab and links up with ferry firm DFDS Seaways to put on top packages for overseas groups.

Helen White from the Great North Museum said: "We are delighted to have won this award, particularly as it is so important to be recognised at a national level alongside such prestigious organisations."

"Since we opened in 2009, the museum has gone from strength to strength with over 1.7 million visitors enjoying a variety of exhibitions and events. We

continue to strive to maintain the standards expected from our 'Great' name."

Sarah Stewart, chief executive at tourism body Newcastle Gateshead Initiative (NGI), was delighted with the amount of recognition Tyneside received and paid tribute to all the winners.

She said: "Their collective achievement is testament to the North East's continued strength as a destination for tourism with some truly stand-out attractions and hotels."

"In also recognising Alan Fidler's drive and commitment to ensuring the best possible experience for visitors as the nation's Tourism Superstar, we can be proud of the inspiring personalities and places that make the area so popular with both domestic and international visitors."

Elsewhere in the North East, Beamish in County Durham was named Large Visitor Attraction of the Year.

Richard Evans, museum director, said: "I am thrilled to accept this award on behalf of Beamish and all of the dedicated staff who are the essence of the



museum. It's a great honour to be considered by industry professionals as the best large visitor attraction in the whole of England.

"The award will help to raise awareness of Beamish and highlight North East

England as a first-class tourist destination."

Seaford Caravan Park in Northumberland won a silver award while Dowfold House Bed and Breakfast in County Durham took bronze.

### TOP CLASS

Beamish and, top, the Great North Museum which have won national recognition



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## Woodhorn hold miners' picnic

WOODHORN Museum and Northumberland Archives is holding its popular Miners' Picnic on June 9.

The event is inspired by the Miners' Picnics first held in the county nearly 150 years ago.

Traditionally, it was both a political meeting and a family day out.

It was considered a major national occasion with many key leaders of the day attending.

The National Union of Mineworkers will be holding events at various venues to mark Miners' Picnic weekend including the Miners' Memorial Service and the NUM lecture.

Experts from the Society of Antiquities will be on hand to identify and discuss historic objects brought along to the event.