



## **SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR SOME IMPORTANT SHOPPERS AT METROCENTRE**

**Special shoppers from nursing homes from around the region enjoyed some extra special treatment at MetroCentre recently when they visited the Centre to celebrate the launch of Christmas and start their all important shopping.**

MetroCentre hosted a Special Shopping Evening in conjunction with the Centre's launch of Christmas. 84 elderly and disabled people visited the Centre, travelling from care and nursing homes in Durham, Gateshead, Washington, Blyth and Whitley Bay.

Volunteers from the Territorial Army were on hand to make the evening extra special for the shoppers and were available to guide them around the Centre to help carry out their Christmas shopping.

Lt Col Jeremy Wilman, Commanding Officer of 72 (Tyne Electrical Engineers) Engineer Regiment (Volunteers), based in Gateshead commented: "We were delighted to be involved with the Special Shopping Evening at MetroCentre. It's great for us to get out and about among the local community to do our bit and raise the profile of the Territorial Army at the same time. 72 Regiment has just recently been formed and we are actively looking for new recruits. Events like this give us the chance to chat to the public and let them know more about the work of the TA."

The guests from local care and nursing homes also enjoyed the launch of Christmas at MetroCentre and saw Strictly Come Dancing Star Brian Capron switch on the Centre's Christmas decorations.

Brian brought some glitz and glamour to MetroCentre and launched Christmas with the help of MetroCentre's popular characters, the MetroGnomes, Santa Claus and Frosty the Snowman.

During the event Brian charmed shoppers and chatted to an excited audience, taking time out to meet and greet fans and sign autographs after the event.

**ENDS**

For further information please contact:

Denise McClintock, Marketing Co-ordinator. Tel: 0191 493 0224.

Fax: 0191 493 2756. Email: [denise-mcclintock@capshop.co.uk](mailto:denise-mcclintock@capshop.co.uk)

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**Caption:** Gnr Tony Joyce and Sgt David Cook of 101 Regiment Royal Artillery with Santa Claus and special shoppers Mildred Bedlington and Margaret Davenport from Donwell Nursing Home, Washington.