NEWS

CCC Always in the News...

The past year has seen Castle Comfort Centre hitting the news on lots of occasions. Front page headline coverage was given by the Evening Sentinel when staff turned up at work to find 02 mobile phone company had not only blighted the village with a 15 metre Thunderbirds rocket-style mast - but this now unwelcome landmark is messing up electrical equipment.



CCC's MD was up to his usual tricks gallivanting around South America looking for stories for both the Clarion and the Buenos Aires Herald. Keith Simpson was kept in jail for the day (at his own request) as a VIP visitor, and was only released when he promised the town Chief of Police that he would appeal through the Evening Sentinel back home for unwanted musical instruments for poor young Argentine music students. The Sentinel ran the appeal and now Keith's bounty of various old saxophones and flutes etc has been exported.

Staff at the Wolstanton Homecare Products Company were horrified when an 89 year old was violently attacked and robbed a mile from their showroom. Clubbing funds together they asked the Sentinel to announce a £500 reward to catch the verminious culprits who had ruined the life of a frail defenceless lady. The day after the reward was announced, Newcastle CID telephoned Castle Comfort to inform them that 2 teenagers had been arrested. Back to the phone mast saga - the local planning department have admitted an almighty clanger, after a member of their staff (now departed) wrongly allowed 02 to change it from a slim pretty inoffensive pole to the eyesore (since painted accordingly by a very tall resident) that we are all now stuck with.

Things are supposed to be happening to get it changed but Castle Comfort Centre's guess is that the financial clout of the communications industry will win.

However, Dillon Prendergast, CCC's Press Coordinator, told the Clarion "If someone comes along with the kind of money to buy Man United, they could fund a successful legal fight against the Council and 02 and probably get the mast removed - but other than that we'll be happy just to win our County Court action to get the money back for a replacement security system which we now need"

"My own belief," continued Dillon "and I hope I'm wrong - is that the future will reveal bigger health damage from electromagnetic transmissions than smoking could ever cause. Experts won't allow these masts in front of schools or hospitals - but they allow them 100 yards down the road".

"We did our best on this one - including faxing and writing to the Newcastle MP Mr Paul Farrelly, despite the fact that a local councillor tipped us off that we might



as well write to Noddy. The councillor had a point - except Noddy might just have replied - Mr Farrelly didn't. Perhaps he forgot - or he likes phone masts" and Dillon concluded. "Newcastle people might bear our experience in mind when they next go into a polling booth".

Doctor Stirling of CCC presented a £1,000 'Giant' cheque to Terry Conroy for the Doug Brown Motor Neurone Fund. – Without much prompting the Sentinel's star cameraman, Horace Wetton turned up at the Wolstanton showroom and had a field day capturing shots galore (see Readers' Letters on page 14).



Comfort When Castle directors heard of PORT VALE's appeal to raise £2,000 for a specialised wheelchair for MS victim Russell Evans it was all action stations. 53 year old Russell faced waiting until Christmas for his transport to get to Vale games, so CCC along with Rod Smith of North Staffs Housing bought the wheelchair themselves to be presented at Vale's following home match. Five Towns Care Centre of Stoke kindly supplied the item to CCC & N Staffs Housing at cost price, entirely without profit. (Well done Eric of Five Towns.)

Mr Bill Bratt, Chairman of Port Vale, has listened to suggestions from Rod Smith and Russell himself that the extra cash still being raised (but now not needed for the wheelchair) is put towards the Doug Brown MN Charity. **Bill deserves three** extra points for that!