

**FLYING HIGH:** scratch card win for Anthony

## £20,000 win's on the card

THERE were no back-to-reality blues for Anthony Teesdale when he flew home from a hol in Spain... he won £20,000 in an on-board competition.

Anthony, 19, of Sunderland, was travelling home with his girlfriend on an easyJet flight from Alicante to Newcastle when he decided to buy two of the airline's £1 scratch-cards.

And, as he scratched away the silver panel on one of the cards, he was shocked to find he'd won £20,000... and asked the cabin crew to double check he was a big winner.

Mark Hawyes, senior cabin crew member, said Anthony accidentally picked four cards as he paid for them, so handed two back.

Anthony said: "I'm not really one to believe in fate, but, because I handed back two cards, I must have been meant to win."

"I'm not normally lucky in that way and haven't really won anything before."

"Now I can get myself on the property ladder, but I think I will enjoy myself with it too."

**They won with Sun**  
 IN our Berghaus competition, Alan Edwards, of Sunderland wins his-and-her's jackets and fleeces.

## Hammer attack man loses finger

A MAN has had part of his finger removed by surgeons after an unprovoked attack with a claw hammer.

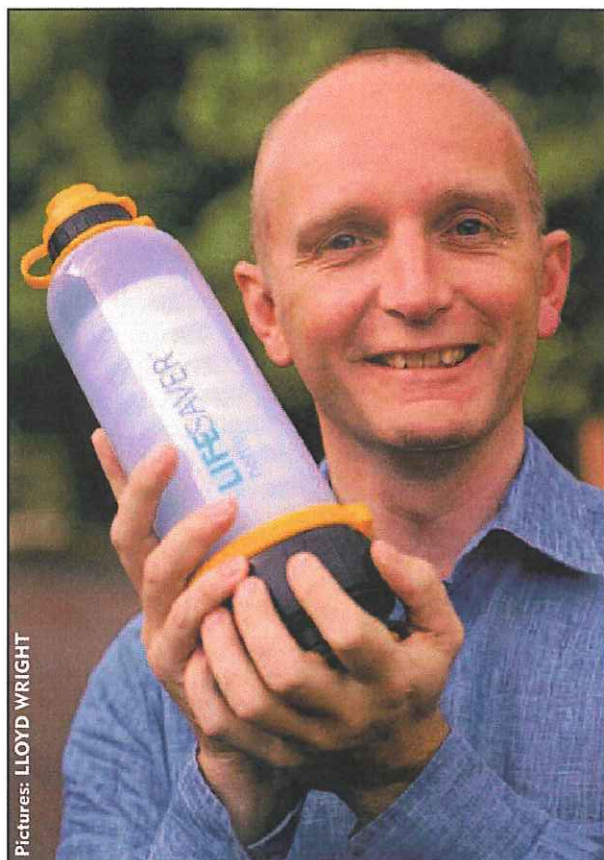
The 55-year-old victim was walking home with his brother, 59, after an evening out in Bolton, Greater Manchester, when they were attacked by three men.

The man was hit with the hammer, causing large cut to the back of his head.

He also had part of his index finger surgically removed after it was severed in the attack.

Two of the attackers are believed to be Asian, and the other white, and all three are aged between 17 and 21.

# MIRACLE BOTTLE HELPS SAVE LIVES



Pictures: LLOYD WRIGHT

**AMAZING:** inventor Michael Pritchard with his Lifesaver bottle

## EXCLUSIVE

By SARAH ROBERTSON

sarah.robertson@ncjmedia.co.uk  
 Telephone: 0191-201 6362

**IT looks like a regular plastic bottle, but this miracle device could save millions of lives... and it's being made here in the North.**

The revolutionary Lifesaver bottle instantly transforms polluted water, making it entirely safe to drink.

Determined Michael Pritchard has spent almost three years and all his life savings to develop his remarkable invention. And now the 40-year-old's idea has been brought to life by manufacturers Omega Plastics of Gateshead.

Technical engineer for the company, Peter Angus, said: "It is the best idea I have seen in my life."

The device is an all-in-one filtration bottle which removes all bacteria, viruses, cysts, parasites and fungi instantly from water without the aid of foul-tasting chemicals such as iodine or chlorine.

Using unique technology, the 750ml plastic bottle can be filled with water from a dirty pond or river and with just a few pumps and the twist of a cap, clean drinking water begins to flow.

It is expected to be seized by the military around the world and could revolutionise the way aid is given in flooded and war torn countries.

Michael, of Ipswich, Suffolk, said: "I have invented a product that will do the world some good and is going to save millions of lives."

"The Lifesaver will reduce the onset and spread of diseases and reduce the logistical support required when responding to events."

"It lowers the overall cost of response

## Inventor's brainwave

as in many cases no bottled water will be required. Also, it means you don't need to create extra landfill sites to get rid of plastic bottles."

Michael came up with the idea for his invention after watching TV coverage of the devastating Boxing Day Tsunami in 2004.

He said: "In the days and weeks afterwards, people were dying from drinking contaminated water and it took ages for response teams to reach them. That really affected me and I thought something had to be done."

"I felt there had to be way of making contaminated water drinkable and avoid this tragic waste of life."

"I am not a parasitologist and neither do I have a doctorate in viruses, but I am an inquisitive person and since I could sit up I have wanted to know how and why things worked."

Michael, who is a managing director of another company which specialises in water systems, had to juggle planning his wedding in October while working on his invention, which is patented both in the UK and internationally.

The bottle uses a highly advanced filtration system originally developed for industrial applications.

It will be officially launched on Tuesday, but Michael has already received calls from the UN and Army generals asking about the product, which was recently voted Best Technological Development for Future Soldier System Enhancement by Soldier Technology 2007.

For more information about Lifesaver call 01473-252831 or visit the website at [www.lifesaversystems.com](http://www.lifesaversystems.com)

## Put to the test

I AGREED to test Lifesaver to see how easy it was to produce a glass of pure water from a filthy river.

We filled the bottle from the River Team close to Gateshead's Team Valley Trading Estate. The water came out a dirty grey colour and had bits of sediment floating in it.

It looked far from appealing I

was more than a little sceptical that it could be transformed so quickly and simply.

But after just two pumps of the bottle, clear pure water flowed from the container into my glass.

The taste was slightly different to the hard water we are used to drinking in the North being softer and, to me, having less of a chemical aftertaste.



**TRIAL:** reporter Sarah takes a swig



**PARALYSED:** passenger Lee Marley

## MUM'S CRASH PLEA

**THE elderly mother of a man left paralysed in a road crash has made an emotional plea for witnesses to come forward to help catch the driver responsible.**

Lee Marley seriously injured his spine after the smash while travelling home for the weekend for the first time in months two weeks ago.

The 34-year-old was travelling in a Vauxhall Astra with workmates on the A1 northbound near Junction 61 when a white van, possibly a Ford Transit, appears to have driven across it from the

entry slip road. The Astra swerved across the central reservation before slamming into a metal fence.

Despite lifesaving surgery, Lee — who was a rear-seat passenger — is now paralysed from the neck down.

Speaking at the family home in Shiremoor, North Tyneside, his mother Marion, 69, said: "We just want the driver to come forward and clear up exactly what happened."

She went on to describe Lee's condition: "He is improving, he is very strong, but it's going to be a long job."

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