

Bus trip to romance as Henry springs Valentine's surprise

A ROMANTIC dinner turned into a surprise Valentine's Day mystery tour when one love-struck hubby hired a London bus to take his wife out for a meal.

Romeo Henry Kirtley, of East Herrington, has spent every February 14 since he met Jill 30 years ago doing something with a difference.

He has taken her for a special candle-lit dinner in a car park and set up a table for two in a kebab shop.

But nothing could have prepared her for what he had in store this Valentine's Day.

When Henry, 47, clapped eyes on a traditional London bus in a car park, he knew what he was going to do this Valentine's Day – hire it for his wife and 15 pals to take them on a whistlestop tour of the area.

Starting in Grangetown, they stopped off in Washington and Gateshead before parking at Newcastle's Quayside where they enjoyed a candle-lit

roadside dinner.

But for Henry this is what Valentine's Day is all about. He said: "It's a special day, isn't it? I do something every year and when I saw the red double-decker bus parked up in a car park I knew I had to make some enquiries."

The couple, who met when they were teenagers and also work together, have two daughters Alex, 17, and Toni, 15.



LOVE BUS: Henry Kirtley and his wife Jill, setting off in a London double-decker bus to collect friends and family for a Valentine's Day meal. Inset, the friends enjoy a celebration drink on board.