

# 'Take That' freezer firm celebrates ten years of thaw rescue



**BIG FREEZE:** Drivers Paul McConnell and Richard Moon, Nick, Katrina and Gerry Appleyard

A MOBILE freezer company is celebrating its tenth year of helping businesses out of hot water when cold storage breaks down.

Big Fridge, which is co-owned by a couple from Lartington, helped out a national hotel chain and a Teesside-based food company that were in danger of losing more than £30,000 worth of stock.

Middlesbrough Sausage has operated a trailer seven days a week in the town centre for the past 11 years but were in trouble when much-needed freezers broke down.

But the Big Fridge company, which has kept food cool for an array of stars including Jamie Oliver and Take That when they opened their recent Progress tour, came to the rescue within hours before the frozen sausages could thaw out.

Nick Appleyard, who runs the business with his wife Katrina, said: "We were only too pleased to help Middlesbrough Sausage.

"This sort of breakdown happens a lot in the industry and it's

exactly what we are set up to tackle.

"Because our chillers and freezers are mobile and versatile we can be on site very quickly.

"Many businesses use us for contingency planning and have us on call 24/7 in case of emergencies. It's peace of mind so they know they have a back-up whenever it's needed."

The proprietor of Middlesbrough Sausage, Philippa Burgess of Northallerton, explained: "Our big freezer broke down without warning and I was in a real panic. We didn't have much time before the temperature rose too much.

"I got on the phone to Big Fridge, who were brilliant. They were round as soon as they could collect one of their mobile freezers. We hung on to it until the engineers managed to repair our freezer and we could transfer the stock back over."

The sausage salvage was just one of the unusual uses for the equipment operated by Big Fridge which is marking ten years

of hiring mobile chiller and freezer trailers.

Nick said: "We were thrilled to secure the Take That tour. As well as the Sunderland leg, where we supplied the backstage cold storage, we were drafted in as an emergency for the band's Glasgow concerts.

"A truck leaving the Hampden Park Stadium damaged the on-site cold room compressors which left the caterers with no chillers.

"We drove one of our fridge trailers to Glasgow on the Saturday night and it was there within a few hours of us receiving the call.

"The National Trust is also a client and uses the freezers for the conservation of valuable tapestries and water-soaked books.

"The Royal Shakespeare Company used a trailer to manufacture ice stalagmites in moulds for its production of The Merchant of Venice. We don't use our usual food refrigeration for those kinds of requests."