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MAGPIE FANS FACE HUGE RAIL BILL IN SUPPORT OF THE TOON ARMY

Website offers 'rideshares' to money conscious fans

As Kevin Keegan's men face travelling to London twice in four days next week, online classifieds site Gumtree is urging fans to save their cash by sharing rides, instead of potentially splashing out a total of £800,000* on rail fares, and facing rail replacement buses between Newcastle and Darlington, to support their team.

Newcastle United face Arsenal in the FA Cup fourth round on Saturday 26th January before immediately returning for a Premier League game the following Tuesday. To help ease costs, fans who are joining the travelling Toon Army for either journey can go to the UK's busiest classifieds site, Gumtree.com, to organise a rideshare to the capital. On www.gumtree.com/newcastle, fans can find like-minded Magpies who are also travelling to the games, as well as post requests for rides to London, allowing supporters to share driving duties as well as petrol bills.

By ride sharing to the games, not only will fans avoid rail chaos and astronomical train fares between Newcastle and the capital, but can also feel good about reducing their carbon footprint.

Gumtree spokesperson Sophy Silver said: "For those fans who aren't going down on supporters' coaches, Gumtree's rideshare section is the best way to

ease the strain of the long journey. This Saturday, buses replace trains between Newcastle and Darlington, and train tickets for a group of four fans will weigh in at nearly £400. We're urging fans to team up and share the driving as they set off to London – especially if they have an MPV and could perhaps fit 3 or 4 extra fans in their car.”

For more information please contact the Gumtree press office at Lexis Public Relations on 020 7908 6589 or email gumtree@lexispr.com

Notes to editors

* Based on all Newcastle support of 8,000 travelling by train for both games and a saver return Newcastle-London of £99.30

About Gumtree.com

- Gumtree.com was created in London in March 2000 and now covers 60 cities across 6 countries - the UK, and US Ireland, Poland, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa
- It is the UK's biggest website for local community classifieds including flat share, flat rentals and jobs
- Some Fast Facts
 - 20,000 new ads in a day
 - 100,000 new ads in a week
 - Half a million new ads in a month
 - One million ads live on the site at any one time
 - 150 million page impressions every month
 - Around 6 million visitors a month
 - Gumtree.com users spend 5,360,000 minutes on the website each month
- Gumtree is your local community online. Home to all the things you'd expect from your local community; a place to find and advertise rooms, flats and houses, a notice board for selling and buying stuff, somewhere to find job or a date even just to chat with friends

