# CONSETT MAGAZINE

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Consett's Independent Magazine

ISSUE 07// February 2013

## THAT'S RUBBISH

The closure of Consett's local refuse and recycling centre

## CONSETT FESTIVAL

Our humble town gets it's own major music event

## SHOTLEY SWORDSMITHS

German cutlers and sword makers in Shotley Bridge

## LOVE & ROMANCE

Ideas to liven up your St. Valentine's day

## A GREAT NIGHT OUT

Local band in the spotlight. It's Toxic!




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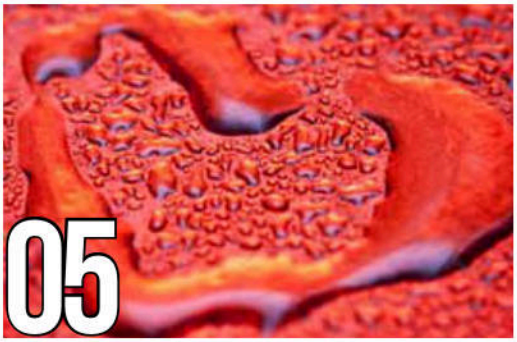














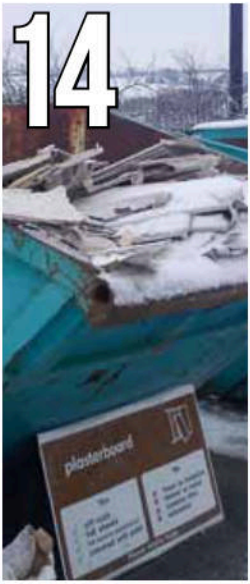


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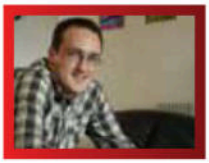

**Hello and welcome to the February issue of Consett Magazine...**

After a freezing cold January we can't wait for things to get warmer and brighter as we get ever further into 2013. As we all know, February is a time for celebrating the joys of Valentine's Day. All across the world lovers and romantics will be confessing their love for each other with ever more elaborate displays of affection. Valentine's Day splits opinion more so than any other day of the year as couples celebrate while singles are reminded of their lack of love.

In this issue we have included pieces for both ends of the Valentine's spectrum with our Valentine's Day ideas page. Here we suggest some great ideas for singles and couples on Valentine's Day to help make the day go that little bit smoother. If you are looking for love why not have a look at our page of our favourite funny chat up lines. We've included a selection of our favourites which will hopefully give you a laugh come February 14th.

In addition we have a showcase on the local punk band Toxic who are playing a show on the 15th at The Demi. This is going to be a great night with some awesome local music that shouldn't be missed. 2013 is certainly looking great for local music with Consett Festival arriving in April.

The unfortunate closure of Broomsdene Household Waste Recycling Centre near Leadgate will leave people in the area having to travel considerably further to get rid of their rubbish. In our history section we take a look at the story behind the German sword makers in Shotley Bridge.

**We here at Consett Magazine hope you have a great Valentine's Day be it with your partner or with your friends and family.**

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# THE TEAM

**Editor-in-chief**
Ivan J. Laidler

**Editing Team**
Ivan J. Laidler
Chris Brown

**Questions and feedback:**

26 Middle Street,
Consett,
Co. Durham, UK
DH8 5QJ

**Phone:**
(01207) 438292

**Email:**
editor@consettmagazine.com
sales@consettmagazine.com

**Photographers**
Chris Brown
Lee Costello

**Advertising/Sales**
Firefly New Media
sales@consettmagazine.com
01207 438292

**Graphic Design**
Firefly New Media

**Contributors**
Firefly New Media
Brian Harrison
Marco Elsy
Barry Kirkham
Toxic

**Competitions**
Consett Festival

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# Be My Valentine

by Chris Brown

## Singles

Being single on Valentine's Day is never fun. Everywhere you look is filled with happy couples expressing their feelings whilst you look on alone. Why not have a look at some ideas to help you get through the day and have some fun in the process?

♥ If you fancy staying indoors, why not have yourself a marathon of your favourite films? Grab a box set and get watching. Lord of the Rings, Star Wars and Bridget Jones' Diary are all great choices.

♥ Why not invite a few friends around and have an anti-Valentine's party? Invite your friends and have a blast with your nearest and dearest who are in the same position as you.

♥ Make Valentine's Day a family day and go to visit them. In the modern age people don't see as much of their families as they should.

## Couples

Valentine's Day is all about celebrating your love for your partner. With such a wide range of products marketed towards couples it's hard to decide what to do. Rather than buying your partner a box of chocolates or flowers from a garage forecourt; why not do something different? Here are some great ideas to make 2013 a Valentine's Day to remember.

♥ If you rarely cook for your partner why not surprise them with a home cooked feast. They'll love the effort and be impressed by your initiative.

♥ A massage is always a good idea on Valentine's Day. It's a great low cost way to shower your loved one with affection whilst making them feel fantastic.

♥ Back in the 80s it was the mix tape. The 2000s featured the mix CD. Bring this classic Valentine's idea into the present by making your partner a Spotify playlist with all of your favourite songs to show how much they mean to you.







# Festival Comes to Consett

by Ivan Laidler

Consett is a great town with a unique feel which can't be found anywhere else in the world. Our rich industrial history combined with a sense of community joins us together in this small corner in North West County Durham. One local man has made it his mission to celebrate what makes Consett so special by organising the Consett Festival. Roughly 33 years after the close of the Consett Steel Works, Brad Wilkinson is planning to bring the feel good factor back to Consett.

Bringing a selection of bands for all musical tastes to the Consett Rugby Club on the 27th of April, this day looks to be a great Saturday to pencil into the diary for the whole family. Along with the bands and entertainment performing at the festival, there are opportunities for local businesses in the area to promote their services. There will be many activities for the kids, even some which will be completely free.

**Keep checking Consett Magazine for more details about Consett Festival and what's going on in the run up to the big day in April.**




## Fun Festival Fact!

At the legendary Glastonbury Festival they use 30 megawatts of electricity over the weekend. About as much as the city of Bath!


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# Artist Spotlight

by Ivan Laidler

# TOXIC



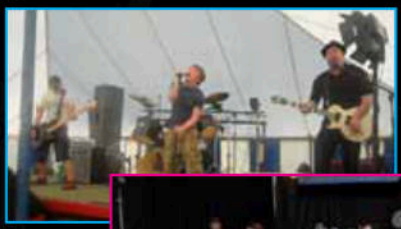
Local upbeat punk band Toxic have been on the rise playing shows all over the North East. This local four piece outfit have been gaining quite a reputation for themselves. With old school punk being something of a rarity these days, Toxic are bringing punk back to the golden days when the Mohican haircuts and leather jackets were in and the music was just as vibrant as the people who played it.

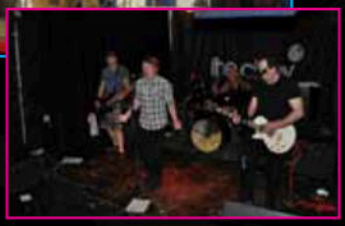
Founded in the summer of 2011, Toxic cater for a wide audience with their unique blend of songs. They play a selection of classic covers including the likes of punk legends Rancid, The Clash and The Damned. Some original songs are also in the works for the near future. The guys in Toxic clearly have a great appreciation of their musical roots; taking inspiration from both the early British scene along with their American counterparts. Toxic's sound has a great feel that encapsulates everything people love about punk rock. The guys have played with a number of musical legends since hitting the stage including the likes of Vice Squad and Ed Tudor Pole.

**The 15th of February will see Toxic back in Consett taking to the stage at The Demi.** Coincidentally it is just over one year since the band played their first show at the venue with their current vocalist Stephen McCrory. What better way to celebrate a successful year than to come back to the where it all began? Toxic always draw a great crowd of people from all walks of life and this show will be no exception. We can't wait to see how Stephen, Davey, Leigh and Mouse have matured over the past year and no doubt it will be a night to remember.

Toxic will be playing The Demi with Silva Method on the 15th of February at 7:30pm. Local DJ PEGZ will be there to mix things up before and after the bands.

Make sure you get yourself along for a night of great local music. **Go to facebook.com/toxicpunkrock to find out more about the band and hear some of their recordings.**



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# The German Sword Makers of Shotley Bridge

**by Brian Harrison**

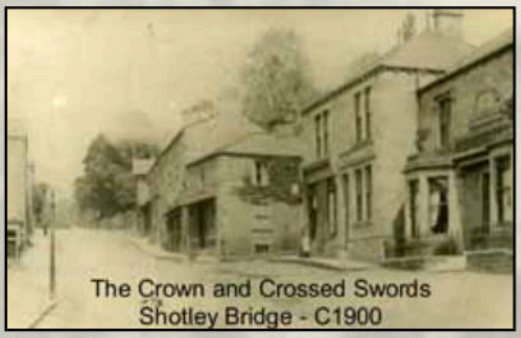



Consett has a long history of immigration and integration which all started almost 400 years ago with the arrival of the German Lutherans. In Surtees book he states that they settled here in the reign of William III. However, although there was an increase in the German settlement of the area at that time, there is an entry of baptism for an Eleanor Oley in Ebchester church in 1628 some 61 years prior to William III reign. As far as can be found there were 4 main families who fled Germany for the sake of their religious beliefs. They were Oley, Vooz, Mole and Bertram. They came from Solingen a small city of Cleve Berg, Germany. Solingen was renowned for its metal working and cutlery, the skills of which would stand the families in good stead for the next 2 centuries.

Each of the families had their own unique skills, the Oleys put theirs into the making of high quality hollow tipped swords which equalled that of the blades of Damascus and Toledo and even became sword makers to the crown. The Moles were expert sword grinders, the Vooz traded between Germany and England and finally the Bertrams were steel manufactures at Blackhall Mill, each adding to the skills and needs of the other. The families, especially the Oleys, became very prosperous, at no time more so than during the Napoleonic Wars were the demand for their swords were unequalled.

However, this time of prosperity also spelled the end for the families in this area. At the end of the Napoleonic wars the world began to change. The invention of new weapons and industrialisation meant they were no longer able to compete. By the 1900 all the families except the Oleys had died out or left the area. The Moles were said to have relocated to Birmingham and had been quite prolific sword makers throughout the 19th Century. The Oley's diversified into cutlery but unfortunately could not compete with the likes of Sheffield who had been specialising for centuries. As well as their story there are still lasting reminders of the Sword makers in the area. The naming of Cutlers Hall Road, the Crown & Crosswords as well as many houses and buildings built by the families has given us a lasting heritage to be proud of.

**For more info on local history you can contact us at cdhi@live.co.uk or drop in to The Lodge, Blackhill Park on Wednesdays between 10am and 4pm.**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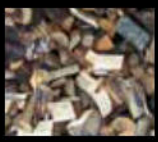

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# Chat 'em Up!

by Chris 'Casanova' Brown

Finding romance isn't always easy. In the ultra competitive dating world it's hard to make a lasting impression. Chat up lines have been around for as long as most people will remember as a way to break the ice and more often than not get a laugh or two in the process. To help you on your Valentine's quest for love we have compiled a list of some of our favourite chat up lines. Hopefully these witty words can give you a helping hand when the moment strikes*.

*Do you believe in love at first sight or should I walk by again?*

*I bet your name is Jacobs because you're a real cracker.*

*Keep it quiet but I'm totally naked under my clothes!*

*Hi, I'm doing a survey. What's your name? What's your phone number? Are you free next Saturday?*

*Hi, the voices in my head told me to come over and talk to you.*

*Excuse me; I seem to have lost my phone number, could I borrow yours?*

*Shhh - I'm a spy. Are you Natasha, my contact?*

*You must be a broom because you've swept me off my feet.*

*OK, which chat-up lines haven't you heard yet?*

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Chat up lines aren't meant to be serious. Just have a laugh and a joke and see where it takes you.

If you're really concerned, try it out on your mates before going for the real deal!

Consett Magazine wish you all a happy Valentine's Day!


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# Broomsdene Tip Set For Closure

by Chris Brown

The waste disposal site near Leadgate is set for closure at some point this year. Durham County Council have deemed that the site is under used and in need of massive investment to remedy the problems which were the major sticking point when deciding the fate of the long used waste disposal site. Affectionately known around the local area as "The Tip", the site is the first port of call for anyone in the Consett area who needs to get rid of their household waste. There has been a petition to try and save The Tip proposed and submitted by Councillor Watts Stelling to try and keep the waste disposal facilities operational for the local public.






To date, 5744 people in the local area signed Councillor Stelling's petition to save The Tip, but due to its proximity to other waste disposal and recycling centres in Annfield Plain and Durham and the extensive costs to fix issues with the site, things aren't looking positive. The main problem which has afflicted the The Tip is the drainage system. The site needs a new surface water drainage system which would cost in excess of £1,000,000. For an under used site this is cause for concern. In a certain light it makes sense to shut The Tip due to the extra investment needed to keep it operational; not to mention the dire financial situation of our local authority.

Broomsdene isn't the only household waste recycling centre, which will see closure in the near future with the Hett Hills site near Chester-le-Street also due to cease operating this year. These closures now mean that two largely populated areas will no longer have access to recycling centres, causing more strain on the remaining sites in Annfield Plain and Durham. Could the lack of a nearby household waste recycling centres lead to an increase in illegal fly tipping in the Consett area?

**What's your opinion on the matter? Are you happy with having to travel to Annfield Plain to dispose of your household waste? Have your say over at consettmagazine.com**

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The Tip takes approximately 6000 tonnes of waste every year.

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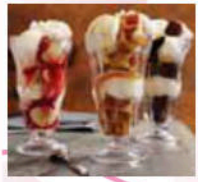

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