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Consett's Independent Magazine

ISSUE 09/ April 2013

32 PAGE SPECIAL EDITION

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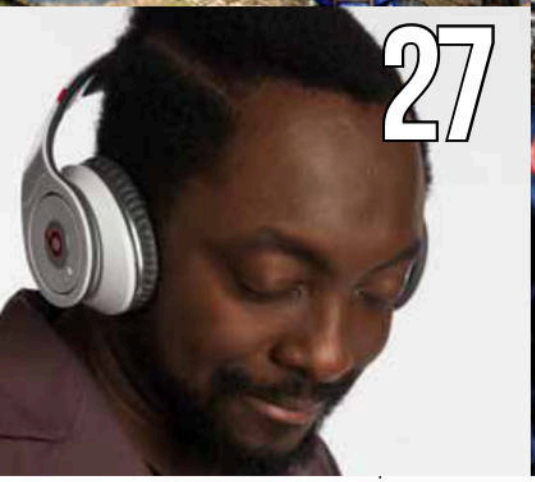



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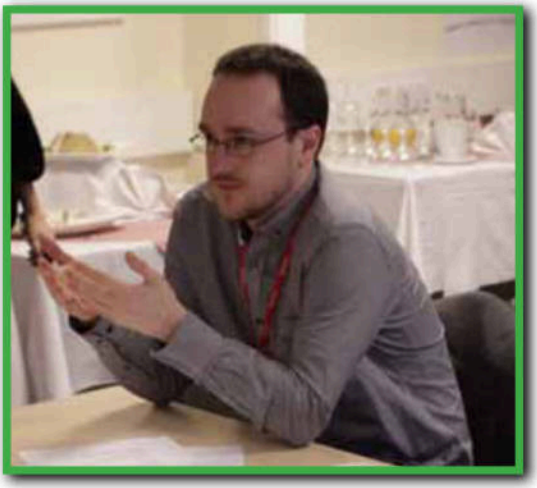
A word from...

THE EDITOR



Hello everyone and welcome to the April issue of Consett Magazine...

Things have been extremely busy at the Consett Magazine offices this month as we have gone out of our way to produce an even bigger and better edition of Consett's only independent magazine. We'd like to thank all of our readers and advertisers for helping us to make this month's issue the best yet.

April is a busy month for businesses and musicians all across Consett as we get ready for the Consett Festival which is happening on Saturday the 27th April at Consett Rugby Club. This event is going to be one to remember as local businesses will be promoting their services, local musicians will be gracing the stage and free activities will be available for all children at the event. In this issue of the magazine you will find a wealth of information on what's happening at the festival including a handy map of the festival site.

Make sure you get yourself down for an awesome day of fun and music!

Along with all of our Consett Festival coverage we have some great articles for you to have a look at. Ever wondered about the story of The Transformers on the moors between Leadgate and Stanley? These iron giants are a constant reminder of our local industrial past and the cornerstones of our town. There are loads of events going on during April that we need to remember including Earth Day, St Georges Day and the Queen's birthday!

So, without further ado, here is the April edition of Consett Magazine.

Ivan J. Laidler,
Editor-in-chief

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ST GEORGE'S DAY

by Ivan Laidler

April sees the return of celebration of the patron saint of England, St George. Although less celebrated than St Patrick's Day last month, St George has his roots firmly placed in English history and deserves to be remembered and celebrated. The first documented mention of the legendary St George was by local religious figure, the venerable Bede who lived between the years 673 and 735. Although very little is known about St George, he was most likely born in Greece as far back as the year 275. He has become one of the most respected saints in all areas of Christianity.

It's not just England which revels in the tale of St George and the Dragon as he is the patron saint of a number of countries across the globe. These include Iraq, Georgia, Ukraine, Ethiopia and of course England. The cross of St George is known as the English flag and is also the basis for a number of countries across the globe.

St George's day is a time for us to celebrate our English heritage. There are so many great things that have happened in this small part of the world that need to be remembered and passed on to the younger generation of the nation. Whilst there have been campaigns to make the 23rd of April a public holiday for the people of Britain they have so far been unsuccessful. We should celebrate everything that makes us English on this day and remember what this small nation has done. From the invention of the world's first passenger train line, the vaccination of the smallpox virus to the literary works of William Shakespeare, English citizens have performed some amazing feats over the years.



Why not take St George's day to remember everything that makes England the great nation it is.





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INDUSTRY IN DISGUISE

by Ivan Laidler

As we all know Consett is an area with a rich industrial history. Consett Steel Works was once one of the biggest producers of steel in the whole of Europe and the legacy it has left behind will always be remembered by those who worked in the heat and danger of the works. There isn't much left of the old steel works with just a few remnants of the plant being scattered about Consett as a poignant reminder. Along with the ore buckets strewn across Genesis Way, one of the best landmarks in our area are the Transformers on the Durham Moors near Leadgate.

The Transformers were commissioned to be created by Northern Arts and Sustrans back in 1990 as a way to pay homage to the industrial past in our area. By using redundant machinery from a number of sources across the North East the artists were able to give the giant sculptures a unique and extremely interesting look. The machinery which was once used for coal mining, ship building and steel manufacturing was pieced together at the old N.E.E.B shipyard by David Kemp and Tom Leaper.

Looking over the horizon where the old steel works used to reside, the transformers individually represent the images of a coal miner and a steel master who would have once been the cornerstones of the local economy. Although Consett isn't the same centre of industry it once was, the town is still thriving with the hustle and bustle of self employed businessmen plying their trade.

These awesome and imposing figures on our local landscape will be a constant reminder of what our region once was.

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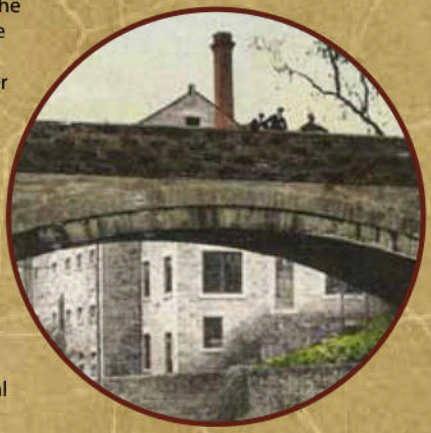
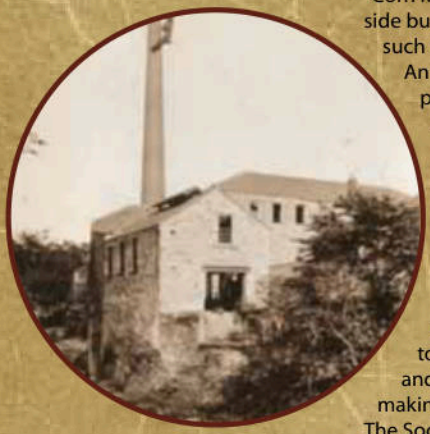
A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE MILLS AT SHOTLEY BRIDGE

by Brian Harrison

The River Derwent has long been a source of power and industry in our area. From as early as the 14th Century there are accounts of an ancient water mill in the Parish of Benfieldside given in Bishop Hatfield's Survey of 1345-1381 AD. At that time it was stated as being unoccupied. However, a few years later a Mr John Bateson undertook the task of rebuilding it at his own cost. The next mention of the Mill came some 200 odd years later in 1545 when two of the local tenants were fined for milling their own grain and not using the Lord of the Manors Mill, which all the villagers were obliged to do at that time. There were numerous owners named from the 1600's including Ann Backworth and William Blaxton but we do know that by 1799 the Mill and lots more of the river bank were now in the possession of the Annandale family. In that year John Annandale opened his paper mills at Shotley Grove. This was a very successful venture which saw in excess of 300 people employed and the production of over 4000 tons of paper per annum. John died in 1834 but the family business was taken up first by his son's and then his grandson's and ran very successfully until its eventual closure in the early 1900s.





As well as the paper mill, the Annandales also owned the "Corn Mill". This was more of a side business for them and as such was bought up by Andrew Annandale along with other parts of the overall estate. Andrew then sold it to the Co-operative Flour Mill Society Ltd in 1872. It was noted very rapidly that during the summer months there was just not enough water power to keep the mill in good operation. So it was decided to invest in new technology and a turbine was purchased making it a modern steam-mill. The Society flourished until the 1940s and at its closing saw the end of all major industry in Shotley Bridge.

Brian is part of the Consett & District Heritage Initiative. For more info contact cdhi@live.co.uk or drop into The Lodge, Blackhill & Consett Park, Wednesdays 10am-4pm.

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EARTH DAY

by Chris Brown

Planet Earth is one amazing place. With deserts, mountains, jungles and frozen tundra, our planet is one of the most majestic places in the entire known universe. Our planet is a fragile ecosystem which is constantly being affected by the waste we produce and our insatiable need for resources like oil and wood. Although originally only recognised in the United States of America, by 1990 Earth Day had spread across the globe as more and more people could see the need to look after the planet.

Although we here in Consett have had one of the coldest starts to the year in 2013, global warming is an issue that is causing sea levels to rise due to the melting ice caps. If everyone does their bit to protect our ecosystem then we can significantly reduce the impact which we are having on the planet. Why not walk short journeys rather than using the car. Doing this on a regular basis will help reduce carbon emissions and create a cleaner and better Consett for everyone.

> "WE HERE IN CONSETT HAVE HAD ONE OF THE COLDEST STARTS TO THE YEAR IN 2013"

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APRIL GARDENING TIPS - BRIARY GARDEN SERVICES

April again, time to make the most of the longer days and get out into the garden. Work done during fine spells now pays off in spades later in the year. Weeds that are dug out now are gone forever. They won't spread and won't seed. Timely pruning of shrubs can produce a better shape with larger flowers in the months ahead.

Hardy perennials (mostly plants that die back to ground level over the winter) can be lifted and divided while it's also time to plant your summer flowering bulbs. Deadhead daffodil flowers as they fade but leave the foliage for a few weeks so that the bulbs get more goodness for next year.

(For more gardening tips from Briary Garden Services go to consettmagazine.com to find out more)

FRAJA ELLIE APPEAL





The Fraja Ellie Appeal is trying to raise a sum of £500,000 to get Neuroblastoma relapse protocol treatment abroad. Fraja is a 4 year old girl who has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer called Neuroblastoma with MYCN amplification placing her in the high risk category. With her current therapy there is always a chance that her cancer could relapse. Currently in the UK there are no facilities to provide relapse protocol treatment so Fraja would have to go abroad to get the treatment she requires.

Unfortunately 80% of children with Neuroblastoma relapse. Until the facilities are available in the UK going abroad is the only way to get the necessary treatment.

A bucket collection has been organised on the 13th of April around Consett to help raise money for Fraja's cause. Be sure to donate to this noble cause and help a little girl live a normal life.

There is also a fund raising event being held on the 11th of April at The Steel Club at 19:00 with a raffle and many other fun fund raising activities.

> "IN THE UK THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO RELAPSE PROTOCOL TREATMENT CENTRES"



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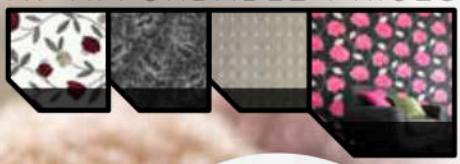

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REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST

by Chris Brown

April sees us remember one of the most atrocious acts of violence this planet has ever seen. During World War Two the Nazi government of Germany decided to commit a mass genocide of a number of minorities including an estimated figure of 6 million Jewish people living in Europe. These dark times saw Jews rounded up into ghettos and concentration camps, treated worse than dirt and then eventually killed in a systematic and hideous manner. April 7th is Holocaust Memorial Day and is a time to look back and learn from the mistakes of the past.

Lest we never forget the atrocities that were committed throughout World War Two but we should remember those whose stories have captivated and inspired us through their acts of defiance and kindness. The story of Anne Frank is one of these which shows us the strength and determination we possess as humans as this young girl and her family hid in an attic in Holland to evade capture from their German pursuers.

Another tale of extraordinary kindness from the Holocaust was the tale of the German businessman Oskar Schindler who although being a member of the Nazi party protected a number of Jewish people by giving them jobs in his enamelware and ammunition factories in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Although this day sees us remember one of the darkest times in modern history, it also gives us a chance to see the strength and determination of the people involved to survive and protect those around them.

Do you know anyone who was involved in the Holocaust? Why not contact us and share their story on our website consettmagazine.com

ADULT LEARNING COURSES WITH SMARTT

Local company SMARTT North East Ltd was very pleased to be chosen by Durham County Council to offer new learning opportunities for adults.

SMARTT is working in partnership with Consett AFC to bring courses to the local area. The club has already hosted short courses in Emergency First Aid and Paediatric First Aid for a total of 30 learners. Barry also delivered Paediatric First Aid in Craghead with 16 local residents turning up on often snowy nights in January to increase their knowledge of first aid in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

For more info and course dates visit: **www.smartt.me.uk**

Durham County Council

SMARTT



CONSETT AFC KICK OFF NEW STADIUM

> "CONSETT AFC HOPE TO GET RUGBY, CRICKET, ATHLETICS AND MUCH MORE GOING ON AT THE GROUNDS"

by Chris Brown

Since the plans for the new Consett Academy have been set into motion, Consett AFC has also announced the building of their new football stadium and sports facility. This is to replace the old ground at Belle Vue which is lined up for the new Academy. The new facility at Belle Vue will contain the new Academy building alongside a new leisure centre and swimming pool to replace the current facilities located at the site. These facilities will be available to the academy giving the children a great sporting and educational environment.

The new Consett AFC stadium facility will be built behind Tesco on the way to Delves Lane and will be used for a number of different sporting activities. Alongside the football, Consett AFC hope to get rugby, cricket, athletics and much more going on at the grounds creating a tightly knit sporting community in Consett. Along with the sports facilities the new ground will have a function room available for hire to be used for events like christenings and charity functions helping to bring the community and football together.

Chairman Frank Bell was at the new site breaking ground with a number of the Consett youth football teams there to commemorate this momentous occasion. This new development in Consett will be a great step forward and in combination with the new academy, new business and families will move into the area bringing more business to our local area.

The future looks bright for Consett AFC and we here at Consett Magazine wish them all the best in whatever the future holds.

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A LIFE OF POVERTY

by Ivan Laidler

As benefits are cut and taxes are raised it is obvious that people around the country will not be making enough money to properly support themselves or their families. This worrying information released by TUC shows that a significant number of people across the country will soon be living below the minimum recommended household income.

If that isn't bad enough, the report also states that more than 50% of the country's children will be living beneath the recommended income level. In the next 2 years, 7.1 million of the 13 million children in Britain will be living beneath this threshold.

By 2015 the level of income considered acceptable for a single parent, single child family will have risen to £19,226 while a 2 parent 2 child family will have to earn £29,093 to be at the acceptable earning standard.

Most single parents won't be able to work a job that allows them to earn over £19,000 and still give them enough time to care for their children. This is disgusting when we consider the UK to be a developed nation at the forefront of living standards and human rights.

Many people believe that the Government don't have a real idea what life is like in middle to lower Classes. Research from Ipsos MORI shows that 69% of people from all classes believe the government don't understand the financial pressures of the life in the UK.

As inflation is on the increase and wages are not increasing in line with the cost of living, it is easy to see why so many people in the near future will be living below the breadline. With a large number of people currently living below these new standards in our local area what can be done to alleviate these issues?



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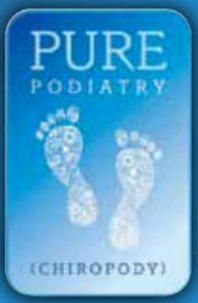

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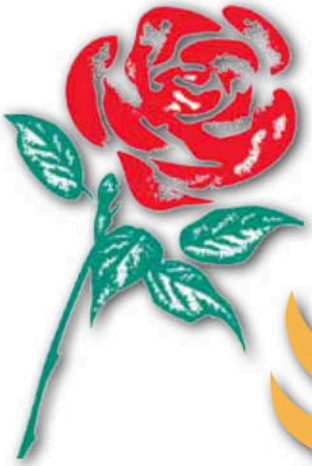
LOCAL ELECTIONS LOOMING

by Ivan Laidler

On the 2nd of May voting for the local county councillors will be held across the Durham region. This is your chance to make a difference and have your say on how our area is governed. With the PCC election held in our area in November having such an abysmal turn out, now is the time to get to the ballot and share your views. Getting involved in your local government is one of the greatest advantages of living in a democratic society. Being involved in the voting process allows you to have a say in what goes on when shaping the Consett of the future.





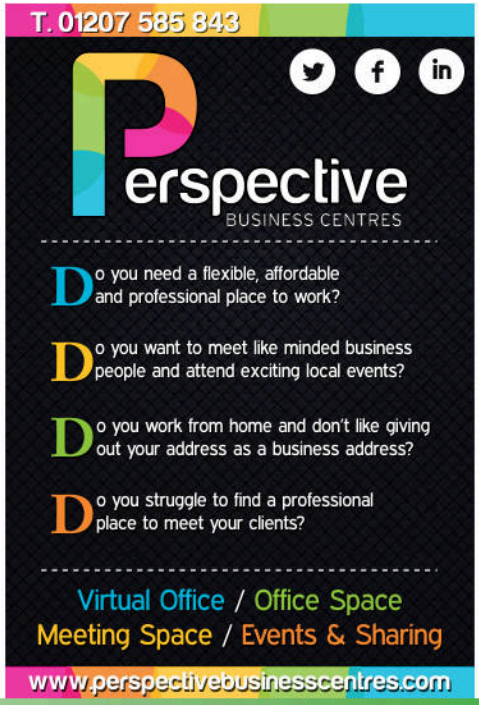


There are 3 councillors to be elected to represent the Consett area over two different electoral divisions. These are divided into two groups with Consett North voting 2 representatives and Consett South needing only 1 representative.

Along with Consett, other parts of our local community will also be voting for their local council representatives. These areas include Delves Lane, Leadgate and Medomsley, Lanchester and also Benfieldside who will all be voting for 2 people to represent their respective areas. Lanchester and Hamsterley will also be able to vote for their parish council on the day with 15 and 7 positions available respectively.

Although local politics are generally low on the agenda for most residents in the area, local councillors are working to make our area a better place to be. So on Thursday 2nd of May make sure you get to your polling station and let your voice be heard.





GLOBAL WARMING DEBATE COOLS OFF

by Chris Brown

> THERE IS MORE CARBON DIOXIDE IN THE ATMOSPHERE TODAY THAN AT ANY POINT IN THE LAST 800,000 YEARS

New guidelines on the school curriculum for key stages 1 through to 3 don't contain any information or subject matter in relation to the issue of climate change and sustainable living. This comes as a shock to many scientists and environmental groups all across the country. With pressure being put on a number of industries across the globe to reduce carbon emissions to slow down the damage being caused to our environment it is somewhat strange that there is no mention of these issues in the school curriculum.

Both geography and the sciences don't contain any mentions of the processes involved in global warming with only a small part dedicated to the efficacy of recycling as part of the chemistry curriculum. As we are offered incentives such as free road tax for hybrid and electric cars as a way to reduce carbon emissions it makes very little sense to leave this out of our children's education. The young people in question will one day grow up and become the people running and working this country who need to know such important information. Leaving it too late could cause significant problems in our efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of the nation.

Another highlighted issue is that teaching of global warming will be a subject that will be covered under the banner of GCSE Geography. The issue is that Geography at GCSE is an optional subject that a majority of students will decide not to pursue at GCSE level. This will leave a large proportion of students in Britain without sufficient knowledge of the damage being caused in our environment.

Do you think global warming should be taught in schools from a young age or saved until GCSE level? Share your views over at consettmagazine.com



IT'S FINALLY HERE! CONSETT FESTIVAL!

Consett Festival will take place this month on the 27th of April at the Consett Rugby Club grounds. The festivities will begin at 12 noon.

The festival will consist of a range of music, children's activites, paintball, good food, good beer, art, local culture, farmyard animals and much, much more!

There will literally be something for everyone no matter what age you are.



Turn the Page for More Festival Info!

FUNDING ANNOUNCED FOR LOCAL PROJECTS

Altogether better Durham

Derwent Valley Area Action Partnership

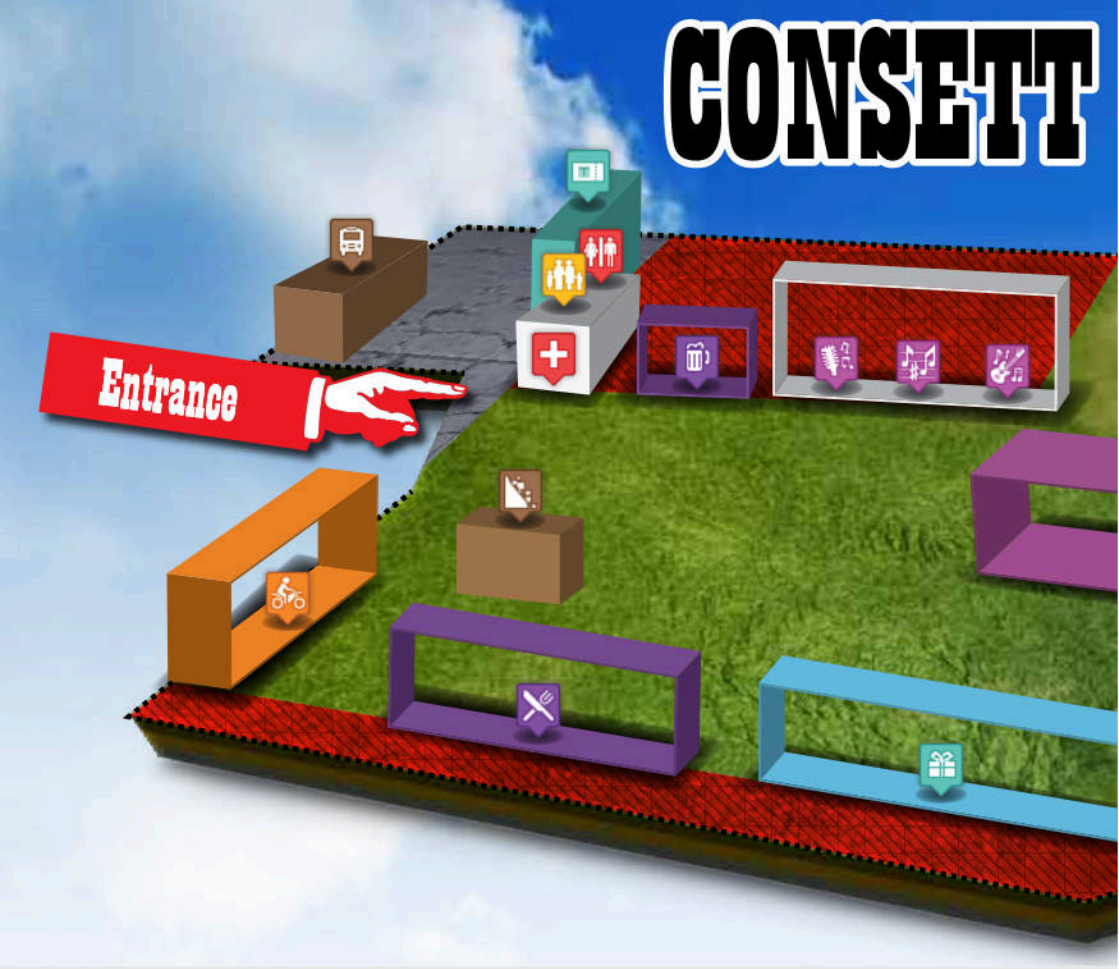
Results from the It's Up 2 U event to decide which local projects were to receive a share of a £40,000 pot of money available have been revealed. After a session of voting on Saturday 2nd of March at Derwentside College, the funding granted to a number of deserving groups has been announced.

The big winner on the day was Willowburn Hospice who received a funding boost of £1392 to purchase two outdoor marquees to help during a number of fund raising events over the summer. We all know what the British summer weather can be like so these gazebos will be a great help to the hospice and their fund raising events.

Another community group which took home the maximum £3000 funding grant was the youth group Act On Theatre Group. Based at the Consett YMCA this group of aspiring young thespians have already performed at a number of established venues across the local area such as the Empire and the Lamplight Theatres. The £3000 grant will go to help fund their staging of the seminal classic Les Miserables later in the year.

Along with these winners a number of community groups got their share of the £40,000 including the Salvation Army, Consett AFC juniors, Leadgate Area Partnership, Derwentside Mind and many others. Congratulations to all of the groups who were awarded with funding and we here at Consett Magazine hope that it is a big help for whatever lies ahead in the future.

> LOCAL PROJECTS WERE TO RECEIVE A SHARE OF A £40,000



Schedule

	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM
Main Stage			Consett Phoenix Youth	Six Nowt	The Last Fakers	Ska Mania		La Kil
Second Stage	Joe Hyam	Ben Trennery	Chris Justice	Anthony Fish	Meghan	Jo Gordon		

All festival details subject to change. Information correct at time of going to print.

FESTIVAL



MAP KEY

8PM	9PM	10PM
dy lers	The Dust Town Dogs	Bone Shakers
	Pegz	Ego Trip

- Tickets/Wristbands
- Main Entrance
- Toilets + First Aid
- + Lost Children
- Real Ale Bar
- The Stages
- Ladies/Childrens Toilets
- Bouncy Castles
- Climbing Wall
- Paint Ball Arena
- The Dance Max Stage
- The Pamper Tent
- Consett Gallery
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* The festival ale price applies to the festival ales only, the full list of which can be seen in the tasting notes.

ANOTHER KIND OF FESTIVAL

Beer enthusiasts will be able to enjoy a range of real ales from the UK and overseas during a 19-day beer festival at a Consett pub.

The overseas beers on offer at The Company Row in Victoria Road have been sourced from brewers in New Zealand, Greece, Russia, Canada, USA, Netherlands and Czech Republic.

They will complement the beers from across the UK being served in the pub during the festival.

The festival will run from Wednesday April 3 until Sunday April 21 inclusive, with all beers priced at £1.75 a pint.

It will feature new, seasonal and speciality beers, including a passion fruit beer, coffee and chocolate bean beer, wheat beer, blackberry porter, cask lager and a coffee porter.

(To find out more about the Beer Festival, check out the rest of this article online.)



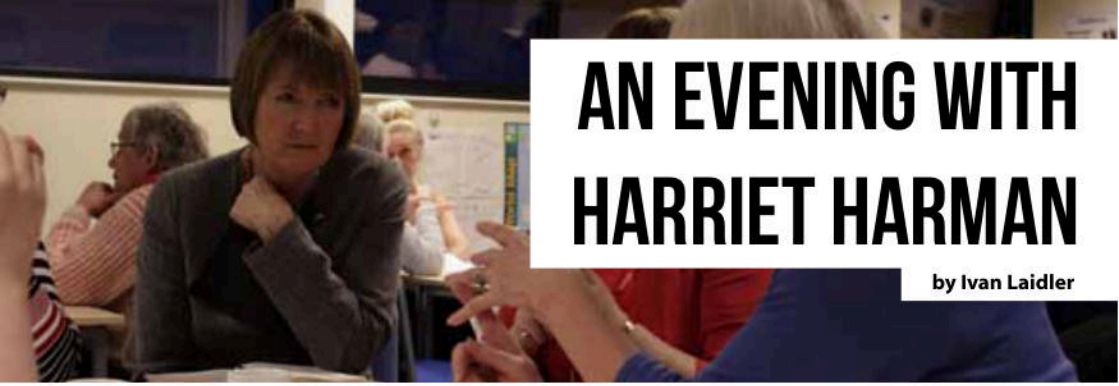
A CURE FOR AIDS ON THE HORIZON?

by Ivan Laidler

Scientists in America have recently moved one step closer to finding a cure for AIDS. AIDS is known across the world as one of the most deadly diseases in existence. It killed over 1.7 million people diagnosed with the condition in 2011. Scientists have been striving to cure this awful disease since its discovery and recognition in 1981. One major issue with the spread of the disease is that it can be passed from the mother to the unborn child. Researchers have now claimed they have found the key to functionally cure children born with the HIV virus.

A functional cure does not mean that the disease has been eradicated; it remains in the body but does not cause any harm to the infected person. A new born was recently cured of HIV inherited from the mother. The baby in question was treated with readily available antiretroviral drugs without the use of any invasive surgeries. What made this case different is the time at which the baby received their first dose of these important drugs. Receiving the medicine less than 30 hours after birth seems to be the key in disabling the HIV virus before it has a chance to take hold.

This process meant that 29 days after being born, the baby had no trace of the virus after testing. Whilst this does on occasion happen naturally it is only in 0.5% of people infected with the virus. Hopefully this scientific breakthrough will help people all over the world who suffer from the disease to overcome the obstacles that stand in the way of living a normal life.



AN EVENING WITH HARRIET HARMAN

by Ivan Laidler

> "OVER 21,000 OLDER WOMEN ACROSS THE NORTH EAST WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE UPCOMING WELFARE REFORMS"

Influential Labour politician Harriet Harman paid a visit to Derwentside College to discuss some of the issues currently affecting older women in our local area. Accompanied by Consett MP Pat Glass, Harriet Harman held a forum to get a better idea of the struggles older women in our community often suffer.

The meeting was set up to ask the local people of Consett about their views in relation to the Labour Party's Old Women's Commission which has been set up to help the future Labour government to find a way to help older women across the UK in their work, their personal lives and financial security after retirement. This meeting came about after research from the House of Commons that states over 21,000 older women across the North East will be affected by the upcoming welfare reforms. Women born between 1952 and 1953 will not be eligible for the single tier pensions as they are due to retire in 2017.

Pat Glass invited the important Labour politician to our region to get a better idea of how these changes would affect older women in our region. When asked about coming to Consett Harriet said, "I was more than keen to respond to her (Pat Glass) invitation and discuss some of the issues that she and I are taking forward to the Older Women Commission."

It's great to see politicians who play such a vital role in the running of this country as a whole taking the time to come to Consett to discuss the issues that matter with our local residents.



Pat Glass, our local MP, speaking with Harriet Harman, deputy leader of the labour party at Derwentside College

All enquiries please call: 01207 438292

AUGMENTED REALITY - THE FUTURE?

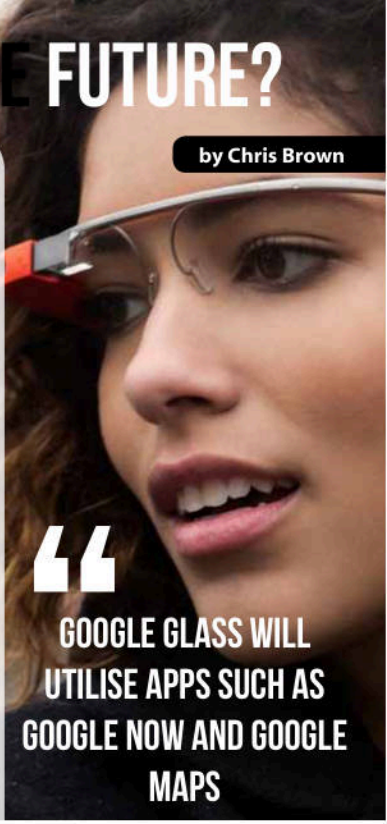
by Chris Brown

At South by South West (SXSW) festival in Austin Texas, Google have released more details on the up and coming Google Glass technology. The idea behind Google Glass is to allow easy access to the internet and useful applications to use when on the move. The device will run in a small screen over the right eye to provide navigation, music, information, media and a whole host of apps similar to a modern smart phone.

The idea of a screen displaying information in this manner is not new. Jet fighter and helicopter pilots use a similar system for aiming and targeting when in combat situations.

Google Glass is looking to change the way we use mobile technology by having it integrated into everyday life rather than using a tablet or mobile phone. Imagine you are in a new city and need to find a restaurant to get something to eat. By using the internet and navigation features you will have the best route provided in the corner of your eye to make sure you never get lost. This technology could be start of intuitive devices that look like they may have came from a science fiction film.

Although Google has kept a lot of details about Google Glass secret, they have told the world that the glasses will be available with prescription lenses meaning current glasses users will be able to get a pair matched to their needs. At an initial cost of around $1500 (£1002) without considering the cost of 4G wireless internet, augmented reality devices won't be instantly accessible to the masses but expect as time goes on for AR to become commonplace around the globe.



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THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY!

On the 21st of April we need to give a big happy birthday to one of the most important people in the UK. Queen Elizabeth II will be turning the grand old age of 87 this month after an amazing 61 years on the throne as monarch of our nation. Although the official celebration of the Queen's birthday is next month in June, cannons and guns will be fired across the nation's army facilities to celebrate our Queen's special day.

by Robbie Morning



PRINCE'S TRUST - TEAM PROGRAM

The Prince's Trust team program (run locally by the YMCA) is a 12 week course for people aged between 16 and 25. The course's purpose is to help those seeking work to build their confidence and gain experience in their field of interest. Since I started the course I have been working on team building skills and self-confidence. We all went on a 1 week action packed residential at Allenheads Lodge where all the activities were based on teamwork such as canoeing, rock climbing, orienteering, night walking, mountain walking and mountain biking. The following activities helped me gain more confidence and improved my communication skills. What I am most proud of is helping out the community of Felledge for the RSPCA as our community project. Since we have taken on this task we have cleaned up the place, laid new paths and put up some new fence panels. I signed up for this 12 week course because I am seeking advice on starting my own business as a Website Designer & IT Technician. I am currently on a 2 week work placement with Firefly New Media. This company will also help me gain the necessary skills in different areas including how to go about setting up my own business and helping me to learn about marketing and advertising.

Prince's Trust

by Richard Oliver

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HANDHELD HEALTH CHECK

by Ivan Laidler



Fujitsu have released details of their new mobile phone plan which has an interesting and unique feature built into the handset. The Japanese firm have created a new application which can read a person's pulse by pointing the camera at their face. The program is designed to be used on any piece of hardware which has a camera. This has a number of interesting applications such as detecting any health issues and also to detect pulse changes in someone acting suspiciously. Fujitsu have stated that this technology is planned to be available in the next year.

What interesting and unique features would you want to see on your mobile phone? Why not let us know on consettmagazine.com

EUROPEAN DREAMS COMING TRUE?

by Chris Brown

On the 4th of April Newcastle United will be continuing on their quest for European glory after surprising the majority of pundits by making it to the quarter finals of the EUFA Europa League after a tense 1-0 win against Russian opposition Anzhi Makhachkala in the home leg. Newcastle have set their sights on getting through to the Europa League Final in Amsterdam in May. Newcastle have a titanic challenge ahead of them as they play Portuguese team Benfica in the quarter finals.

Benfica who are also known as "SLB" are currently doing extremely well in the Portuguese league and are currently sitting in first with 61 points at the time of writing and in 23 domestic games have drawn 4 and won a staggering 19 games. This means they are currently unbeaten domestically this season. This doesn't come as a surprise as SLB have an astounding 67 domestic titles to their name placing them 2nd overall. They are not an opponent to be sniffed at and could cause some serious issues for the Magpies as they try to progress to their first major title since the 1969 Fairs Cup Final.

Things are not looking good for the Magpies after their sudden burst of quality after receiving a number of French reinforcements in January as a number of players have been sidelined with injury. Most notably is the absence of midfield maestro Hatem Ben Arfa who aggravated his condition against Anzhi and will now be out for the rest of the season with a hamstring problem. Along with him injuries to Massadio Haidara, Ryan Taylor, Fabricio Coloccini and Mathieu Debuchy are leaving the Toon back four looking a bit thin on the ground.

Let's hope that new England International Steven Taylor and the boys can overcome this monumental challenge and take an advantage into the home leg on the 11th of the month at St James' Park.

> "NEWCASTLE HAVE SET THEIR SIGHTS ON GETTING THROUGH TO THE EUROPA LEAGUE FINAL IN AMSTERDAM IN MAY



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CONSETT MAGAZINE

UP AND COMING ALBUM RELEASES

April of 2013 will see a number of great albums being released to suit a wide range of musical tastes. Let's have a look and see what great new music will be gracing our ears this month.

WILL.I.AM - #WILLPOWER

American hip-hop artist will.i.am will be releasing his 4th studio album named #willpower. This star studded release sees will.i.am collaborate with a huge range of artists from around the globe to give his album a unique and original feel. The star studded list of collaborators on the album include RnB icon Kanye West, pop queen Britney Spears, house legend David Guetta and local heroine Cheryl Cole. Due for release on the 23rd of April this CD has the potential to be one of the biggest releases of the year.

PARAMORE - SELF-TITLED

Self Titled: Popular female fronted pop punk act Paramore will be releasing their 4th studio album on the 9th of April. Although the band doesn't currently have a full line up they have been working with the legendary Justin Meldal-Johnsen who has previously played bass in Nine Inch Nails and Beck. The band have tried to create an album which has a much more edgy feel more like something which was recorded in the 1980s rather than 2012. Keep an eye out for this release if you are looking for some fun loving, hard hitting pop punk.



SAY NEIGH TO HORSE MEAT

by Chris Brown

In light of recent events surrounding the presence of horse DNA in beef products across the UK, many people are looking for high quality food from trusted retailers. With many national chains such as Tesco, Findus and Burger King all taking precautions after being dragged into this scandal the British public are looking to find out more about their food. This can only be a good thing for local organic food suppliers and high street butchers in their fight against the big supermarket brands. This scandal is making people start to think about where their food comes from and how it is farmed.



Moving away from the Supermarkets to a local butchers shop is a great move to ensure that your meat is high quality and from a reliable source. Butchers have a great supply of local meat that is far superior to the frozen goods found in every supermarket. Any local butcher will be able to give you a fine cut of meat from a well reared animal.

Organic food is another trend that has taken off somewhat in recent years. When it first hit the shelves organic food was overly expensive and was out of reach of the average shopper. As time has gone on, more cost effective methods of organic farming mean that prices are now more competitive. Farmers who rear organic animals refrain from using chemicals on grazing land and can't give the animals any antibiotics or growth hormones to increase product size. This creates a better product which not only tastes better, but has no nasty chemicals hidden within.

By going to your local butchers shop you can avoid meat which may not be what it says on the packet and have a better dining experience in the process.

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CONQUER THE WORLD ALL OVER AGAIN IN HIGH DEFINITION

by Ivan Laidler

The 9th of April will see re-release of one of the greatest real time strategy games of all time on the PC. The original Age of Empires 2: Age of Kings was released back in 1999 to critical acclaim from reviewers around the globe as PC gamers went crazy over the intuitive controls, intense action and historical accuracy. The game gave players a great idea of the struggle and the lives of people in that period of time. The game originally received a rating of 9.2 on the review aggregator Metacritic which is outstanding considering very few games ever break the 8.0 mark.

Even now in 2013 there is still a huge fan base of gamers who regularly play using the online multiplayer in competitive tournaments which often contain have a cash prize. Even though the game is still loved in its original guise, April 9th sees the high definition rerelease of the game come to PC and Mac. Technology has moved on leaps and bounds since 1999 and this new version will bring this classic real time strategy game into 2013 in emphatic style. The new edition will feature improved textures, ambient lighting, exciting new visual effects and a full set of Steam achievements.

Bringing AEO II into the modern age will delight the diehard fan base of the game and bring new players into the exciting world of real time strategy.



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