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Consett's Independent Magazine

ISSUE 19/ February 2014



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This month...



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NEWS

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To Issue 19 of Consett Magazine!

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Happy February everyone.

At the time of writing, we still haven't had any noteworthy snowy weather, so fingers crossed it'll have stayed that way by the time you read this!

Our squad of guest writers has grown even more this month with the addition of Kirsty Lawrence, Michael Dynes and Jackie Forbes. As always the Consett Magazine team very much appreciates the input you guys provide to our publication.

There is a story for everyone amongst our wide array of pieces this month; so grab a cup of tea and delve in!

Ivan J. Laidler,
Editor-in-chief

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by Kirsty Lawrence

Tesco Kilimanjaro Climb

Clair Gray, Community Champion at Tesco Genesis Extra Consett, is currently climbing Mount Kilimanjaro raising money for charity Bright Red, fighting blood cancer for a brighter future (registered charity number 1105891).

It started over a year ago with a conversation with Lee Robson and his partner about doing some fund raising for the charity with the idea of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. Sadly Lee lost his fight with Leukaemia so now this climb is in his memory.

Clair started the climb on 1st of February 2014 in Moshi, Tanzania, with the hope to conquer Mount Kilimanjaro 5,895m along the Machame route in a total of 10 days. Once down she is spending 2 days helping the local community paint the local school.

Before leaving England for her charity climb Clair has held a number of charity nights and bag packed to raise the money for the trip. Hopefully by the time she is back she will have raised a total of £3,500 for Bright Red.

Before Clair left she has already thought about her next big charity challenge trekking The Great Wall Of China, but not until she's had a well earned rest from climbing a mountain.

http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/KiliClimbers2014

We here at Consett Magazine wish Clair all the best in her challenge and fund raising for Bright Red.

Tesco Community Room Opens Its Doors

by Chris Brown

Tesco Extra on Genesis way have now done a little bit more to help the local community in Consett by opening their new Community Room at the new store. This was opened by local Labour MP Pat Glass in a ceremony with the new Community Champions working at the Tesco Store. The space is looking to be used for a number of community projects giving them a clean, safe and pleasant environment for them to meet.

STORE MANAGER GARY EWART SAID "A STRAPLINE WE LIKE TO USE IS 'USING OUR SKILLS FOR GOOD' THIS PROVES WE ARE TRYING TO DO JUST THAT."



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by Jackie Forbes

Xmas with the Detached Youth Project

On 11th of December a group of our young people planned, prepared and served Christmas Dinner for 45 senior citizens from around the area. They included residents from Victoria Court, Jubilee Court and a group from Leadgate Carers.

The event was held at Consett Methodist Church Hall. The young people came in early in the morning to prepare the food, set tables up and help with cooking.

The event was a huge success, everyone saying how much they had enjoyed their afternoon. A game of Bingo and a sing-a-long was enjoyed with enthusiasm by everyone. It was an inter-generational activity aimed at building bridges, breaking down barriers and prejudices on both sides.

Consett Churches Detached Youth Project was founded in June 1981 following the closure of the Steel Works, out of concern for the young people and their futures. Our youth workers engage young people on the streets, parks and bus shelters with the aim to improve quality of life, offer new learning opportunities and involve them in diverse activities aimed at steering them away from anti-social behaviour, binge drinking and behaviour putting themselves "at risk".

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Consett Festival Coming Once Again

by Chris Brown

After the success of the last Consett Festival held in April of 2013, festival organiser Brad Wilkinson has been planning an even bigger and better festival for 2014. Whilst 2013 was only a one day event, 2014 is set to bring acoustic folk to a special Friday night session limited to 400 tickets. Aimed primarily at the older audience, this night is set to extend the Consett Festival experience over the two days.

Local acts such as Slow Moving Targets, Hannah Lamb and Driven Serious are all taking to the stage over the weekend to set the soundtrack to this year's festival. All of the entertainment is looking to create another weekend to remember at the Consett Rugby Club.

Consett Festival will be running on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th of April. We here at Consett Magazine will be keeping you up to date with all the latest Consett Festival developments.

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by Chris Brown

Castleside Woman Reaches 100 Years of Age

Audrey Pattison of Castleside County Durham is an amazing woman with a lot of stories to tell. You expect this of someone who has lived in the area for a century. After turning 100 on January 9th, Audrey has received special Birthday cards from Tory MP and the secretary of state for the Department of Work and Pensions Iain Duncan Smith and the Queen herself. All of this attention has been making Audrey think back to the times when she was growing up in Castleside and how much Consett and the surrounding area has changed over the past century.



It didn't take Audrey long to start recalling tales of her youth. For someone who has lived through both World Wars, it's amazing how everything just seemed like it happened only yesterday. When asked about Consett, Audrey replied, "We never used to go up to Consett too often. This is probably because the buses didn't start running until 1931!". Think about the public transport network which we have today. Whilst not the most reliable or cost efficient, we have a way of getting around the region without having to use a car. This is a stark contrast to the life which we live today that's for sure.

Community life was also something which was different back in the 1920s and 1930s. There was once a much greater sense of community spirit between the residents of Castleside than there is today. Audrey explained, "There used to be such a great sense of community spirit in the village. I remember there were a lot of women we all referred to as Auntie. We had a lot of Aunties due to the number of men who never came back from the wars." People banded together in times of hardship and worked together to make the most of a bad situation. This is something which I think we could all learn from in the modern day. Too many people don't know their neighbours and this is saddening.

I learned a lot from sitting and talking to Audrey about how life had changed in the Consett area. Although in some aspects of life things have become better, there are areas which I feel we are definitely neglecting in this day and age.

Rotary Club Looking for Blood Pressure Premises

On Saturday the 5th of April the Derwentside Rotary Club will be hosting their 5th annual "Know Your Blood Pressure Day". Due to the closure of the In Shops on Middle Street, the club currently have no venue for their annual event. The club are now looking for a central location to host this year's event.

The event is registered with the Stroke Society and looks to inform the public about their blood pressure levels and spot the signs of a stoke before it happens. If you would be willing to help the Dewentside Rotary Club get in touch through their website.

www.derwentsiderotary.org.uk.

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Rotary Club of Derwentside Youth Competitions and Awards

by Michael Dynes

The Rotary Club of Derwentside is looking for young writers, photographers, good citizens and young leaders. If you know a young person who may fit into one or more of these categories, please visit their website.

There are prizes to win for our Young Writer and Young Photographer competitions and the winners will go through to the district round and if successful, the national finals. There are also prizes for our Young Citizen Awards.

RYLA stands for Rotary Youth Leadership Award. This is a residential one-week course developing leadership and teamwork skills. We are looking for a candidate to take part in the 2014 RYLA, which will be from the 4th to the 8th of August.

If you are interested in any of these competitions and awards, please visit their website at:

www.derwentsiderotary.org.uk





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TEA PARTY

BY LORRAINE WEIGHTMAN

I loved your Chinese tea set that lived on the bottom shelf of the sideboard; The cups and saucers that were the right size for my fingers and the pretty black teapot with its bamboo handle and strange lettering in gold. You told me it was written in Chinese and admitting your limited translational skills said it probably meant, be happy and drink tea. The milk jug was cream and gold and didn't match but you said she liked joining in so had to be invited to our tea party, while you retrieved the tiny sugar tongs with splayed fingers that snapped gently, from the top drawer.

I believed all you told me and looked forward to Saturday afternoons when we as family visited you. This was my happiest time, yet the others didn't seem as excited as me as we turned the corner into your street; perhaps because they were older and didn't understand or maybe they were immune to your magic. But I loved you, your stories about the Irish rebellion and your ancestors being kings; and how our name went so far back in history that we rubbed shoulders with Boudicca. And how you could burst into to song at a moment's notice and close your eyes as you let out the notes, living the story in your face.

You are my Auntie Rose and to my five year old eyes you appear old yet your smile and twinkle let me know you understand me better than anyone else. We pull out the black glass topped coffee table together and scatter cushions around it. The kettle is ready to boil as you bring out triangle sandwiches half the size of my hand filled with beef paste - an oriental delicacy - and chocolate coated cornflake crispies in dollied paper cases that are one bite big. Your thick ankled legs struggle to cross on the cushion opposite me and I wait in anticipation for the tea ceremony. 'Remember Lorraine guests are always served first', I sip my tea with delight and nod my approval as you pour your own. We talk and laugh as the beef paste goes down and soon there are only crumbs left and it's time to go.
My parents and brothers have been watching television in the other room and have missed the party- it's their loss. I offer to clear up, but you tell me that guests are never expected to do that and press sixpence into my tiny palm, telling me to spend it wisely on good chocolate.

That was thirty five years ago. And now I'm holding your hand as you stare past me. I sing the words of Danny Boy softly hoping you'll remember and your eyes will flicker.

It's Saturday afternoon and the carer wheels in the tea trolley and hands me a plastic beaker with a spout that fits into your mouth so you don't spill tea on your bib. The beef paste sandwiches are curled at the edges and too big for your arthritic hands and the cakes are not homemade. The others in the home dive in to the sandwiches and chatter laboriously as I try to spoon feed you the mashed banana and custard. The years have taken you away from me.

The visitors' bell tells me it's time to go and I press my lips against your sunken cheek and leave the tea party behind.

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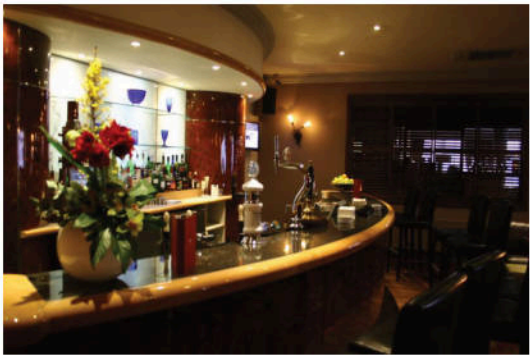
BEAMISH PARK HOTEL

by Lorraine Weightman

The Full Package

The Beamish Park Hotel is an independently owned establishment situated in beautiful countryside just one mile from Beamish, the North of England Open Air Museum. The owner Bill Walker should be congratulated for providing an exceptional experience which caters for all.

The hotel not only offers first class accommodation but its award winning restaurant has held a 2 AA rosette award for the last 16 years. Being family run it provides a warm, comfortable, friendly atmosphere and is an ideal place for the business or leisure guest.



The lounge and bar are tastefully decorated providing a wide ranging choice of wines, beers, spirits and cocktails making it an ideal meeting place for drinks with friends, family, colleagues or business associates.

It is complimented by The Conservatory Bistro which boasts delicious fine food, cooked to perfection by Head Chef Chris Walker using top quality available produce. Chris recently produced a cookery book 'Modern Classic Cooking, A Celebration of 30 Years' to celebrate the hotel's birthday. Chris also runs specialist cookery schools, teaching techniques in the art of cooking.

From entering the Beamish Park Hotel you are welcomed and looked after. Staff members are friendly and offer a professional and personal service which makes the whole experience delightful.

Beamish Park Hotel is also an ideal wedding venue having two licensed areas: A personal wedding coordinator along with the Manager and staff are experienced in providing an exceptional individual specialist package. The suite is also perfect for any celebration, function or conference.

The Golf Academy is right next door to the hotel and provides PGA approved professional tuition at all levels. It has a nine hole par three golf course, bunker area, putting green and short game practice facility. To add to this there is a 20 bay floodlit driving range. Golfers are also treated to an extensive all day menu if they wish to dine. Beamish Park Hotel really does have the full package and comes well recommended.



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'Bar 1898' Opens in Consett

by Malcolm Clarke

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The week before Christmas saw 'Bar 1898' open for business on the corner of Newmarket Street in Consett. An intriguing addition to the local community, 'Bar 1898' offers an upmarket taste of the big city with soft lighting, ambient music and plenty of natural light via the full size floor to ceiling windows. The new bar presents customers with a classy and sophisticated atmosphere.

There are cheaper places to drink in Consett but if you are looking for a high end socialising experience then look no further than 'Bar 1898'. Live DJ's increase the pace of the venue at weekends and they are open over lunch during the week. This will appeal to business people wanting to impress a client over a quiet drink or to have a meeting. I hope it is successful and recommend you to pay 'Bar 1898' a visit.

Malcolm Clarke
http://malcolmclarke.blogspot.com



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Rubarb Compote

Rhubarb is a popular seasonal ingredient which is commonly seen around the winter times in the UK. The bright pink colour and unique flavour make rhubarb so popular. One way to prepare rhubarb is in a tasty compote. This can be used as an accompaniment for a whole host of sweet treats.

You will need; -

- 100 grams of butter
- 750 grams of washed and chopped rhubarb
- 100 grams of sugar
- 1 vanilla pod

Instructions

1. Melt the butter in a stainless steel pan.
2. Once melted, add the sugar, rhubarb and vanilla pod into the pan.
3. Cook gently until the mixture turns into a purée.
4. Remove the vanilla pod and blend the remaining mixture.
5. If you want to serve it cool then place into a container and place in the fridge. If you want it as a hot dessert topping place it back in the pan and warm through

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Saints Day

A Consett Childhood Memory - by Lorraine Weightman

No one needed to wake me that morning as I had been counting the rings on the curtains since six o' clock. I heard stirrings downstairs but waited a bit longer as I knew the bathroom wouldn't be empty and being the youngest I had to wait my turn. My newly ironed pale green shorts and tee shirt were laid out on the pink candlewick counterpane on the bottom of the bed and white ankle socks were tucked into my new green plastic 'Sunny San' sandals. It was the 29th June – the school trip - the highlight of mine and everyone else that mattered in my life's social calendar. Our whole family were going and the eight printed tickets were behind the clock in the living room. We were on bus five - which would be quite near the front - so that was a bonus.

I heard my Uncle Joe coughing up his breakfast into the toilet and smelt the white swirling smoke of his newly lit Player's Navy Cut as it slid under my door.

Uncle Gerard was in the kitchen when I came downstairs, meticulously cutting neat slices from the large white loaf with the concave bread knife with the faded wooden handle that had been sharpened so many times on the outside kitchen windowsill.

The egg and tomato had already been mashed and waited in its bowl alongside Auntie Ellen's home-made sugar topped apple pie, which had been sliced and wrapped in greaseproof paper for the journey.



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The Consett Co-operative Stores - Our First Superstore

by Brian Harrison

The Co-op was an important place for the people of Consett. It was the place to go to buy local produce, clothing and shoes as well as many other items. If you ask the older generation's I will guarantee many will still remember their membership number.



Consett Industrial & Providential Society was formed in May 1863 and after 2 years laid the foundation stone of its own store on Saturday 1st July 1865 in Newmarket Street. 8 cottages were purchased at a cost £505 to make way for the new store. The store consisted of Grocers, Butchers with adjoining Slaughter House, Drapers, Tailors, Shoemakers and Provision departments as well as a Milliners show room. It also boasted a large Lecture and Committee Rooms as well as manager's living accommodation and a Reading Room.

Designed by Mr John Smith of Medomsley, who also oversaw the building, it was completed a year later in 1866 at a cost of a little over £1,100.

By 1894 the Co-op had become well established having now opened stores in both Blackhill and Castleside. They also owned No 1 Farm and other properties in the area. However, disaster struck on 16th November 1897 with what was described as the most destructive fire Consett had ever seen. The Fire brigade tried their best but the store was totally destroyed with damages of over £20,000, luckily covered by insurance.

The new premises were opened on 10 March 1900 by the Bishop of Durham. The Store became a place for the community being used for numerous activities, from public meetings to social gatherings and at one time even a place of worship. The Co-op stores thrived and grew taking on further property close by. Unfortunately, as with many other Co-ops by the 1970's the store was no longer viable and its doors closed for the last time.

So from an initial idea of co-operation and hard work the Consett Co-op and its members lasted over 100 years helping shape our town and memories. A true Superstore of its day!

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DESIGNED BY MR JOHN SMITH OF MEDOMSLEY, WHO ALSO OVERSAW THE BUILDING, IT WAS COMPLETED A YEAR LATER IN 1866 AT A COST OF A LITTLE OVER £1,100

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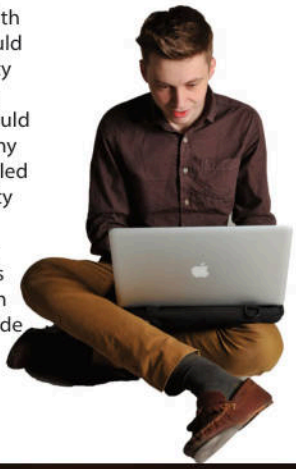
Redundancy – Threat or Opportunity?

by Donna Pears

"We need to make some redundancies" are words that any employee hopes never to hear. The word in itself – redundant – has only negative connotations of being an unnecessary burden and surplus to requirements. Unfortunately, this is a word being heard by many people in our community as a consequence of the UK's current economic climate.

It has been acknowledged that being made redundant can have a huge impact on a person's self-esteem, relationships, finances and personal health but could this also provide some with the freedom to decide their own future.

Have you always dreamed of running your own business? Do you want to spend more time with your children? For some, this could provide you with the opportunity to find the work/life balance you crave. A visit to the job centre could confirm that you are receiving any financial assistance you are entitled to while you take the opportunity to re-group, re-train and make exciting plans for the future. We mustn't question our capabilities and expertise but must use them in the best way possible to provide for ourselves and our families.



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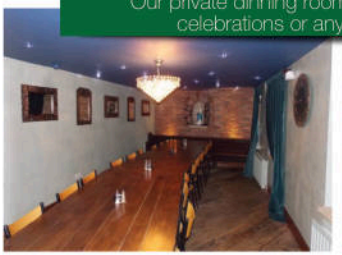



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Enjoy Yourself! It's Later Than You Think

by Rob Grinter

"When our old age pension cheque comes to our door we won't have to dread the poor house anymore" (Roy Acuff 1939). Some things never change do they?

The Government is introducing major changes to the way employees save for their retirement and employers will have to contribute too.

All employers, starting with the largest employers first, must automatically enrol their eligible workers into a workplace pension, if they:

- Are at least 22 years old;
- Have not reached state pension age;
- Earn more than a £9,440 per year
- Are not already in a qualifying scheme

Certain employees who are not eligible may also choose to "opt in" to their employer's scheme. The employer must automatically enrol employees into a pension scheme but the employee can opt out of it. Research shows that very few employees opt out.

Under this new system the employer pays a monthly contribution and the government tops this up by adding tax relief to it. The employer also pays a monthly contribution.

If your employer decides to contribute the minimum required, the total contribution to your pension pot is made up as follows (source: The Pensions Regulator).

You Pay	Your Employer Pays	The Government Pays (your tax relief)
0.8% of your qualifying earnings rising to 4% by 2018	1% of your qualifying earnings rising to 3% by 2018	0.2% of your qualifying earnings rising to 1% by 2018

Employers need to find out when they will have to "go live". They can do this by finding out their staging date on Pension Regulators website at www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk .

Employers may need to consult a pension advisor and to leave at least four months to set up a pension scheme. They will also have to communicate how the scheme will work to their employees at an early stage. Employees can find out how much they will have to contribute by visiting The Money Advice Service website at :

moneyadviceservice.org.uk

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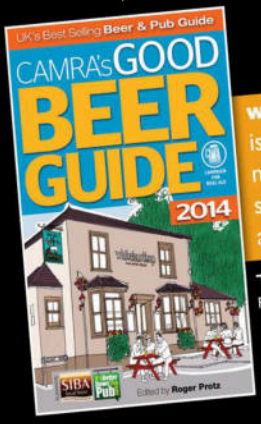

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Tablets for the Tots?

by Chris Brown

Recent statistics have been released which show that almost 3.5 million children in the UK under the age of 8 own a tablet computer. This works out at a staggering 27% of all children under 8 in the country. As tablets become a more popular means of surfing the internet, watching media and playing games, they appeal to a large range of ages with young people embracing this new technology.

Whilst new applications aimed at younger children are currently being released this has been noted as somewhat of a double edged sword. Whilst these games and apps have created an environment for children to easily learn the basics of touch screen computing they often include in-app purchases which cost real money. Many younger users fail to realise this and have racked up significant bills which their parents have later had to deal with. Tablet giants Apple have recently announced a refund of over £20 million to parents who's children unknowingly spent significant sums without their knowledge.



While tablet computers have their strengths, is it smart to give this technology to younger children? One quarter of under 16's parents believe their children would feel lost without their smart phones. Whilst most of us older people were introduced to mobile technology at a much later date, the youth of today are growing up in an environment where connectivity is everywhere and interactive entertainment is only a touch away. As children are starting to spend less time outdoors are tablets computers really the best thing for the younger generation?



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Set to Launch

by Chris Brown

Nasa have announced plans for a new rocket to deliver large payloads into space which is set for it's first launch in 2017. The SLS, or Space Launch System, is already under construction and could well be the largest rocket to ever to be spent into space. At 117 metres tall and 2948 metric tonnes in weight, this behemoth was designed to act as transportation for over 130 metric tonnes of up into space. This could prove vital for efforts to explore deeper into the unknown.



THE SLS, OR SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM, IS ALREADY UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND COULD WELL BE THE LARGEST ROCKET TO EVER BE SPENT INTO SPACE. “

The SLS is will be developed with some grand ideas in mind as over time the rocket will be changed extensively to cover a number of roles which may even include manned missions to nearby asteroids or even Mars. Since the retirement of the Space Shuttle in 2013, there is currently no way for NASA to launch manned craft into the Earth's orbit. The SLS will be the vehicle which will take NASA back to space in glorious style.

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A Serious Competitor to Games Consoles?

by Peter Wood

At the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas last month, the PC gaming service Steam unveiled several of the first generation models of its much anticipated Steam Box, widely seen in the games industry as the first major attempt by the platform to muscle in on the console gaming market. The machines, which run on a special operating system known as SteamOS, are designed specifically for gaming and entertainment. With many models made by various computer manufacturers, unlike their competitors - mainly Playstation and Xbox - these machines can be customised and upgraded over time, something which could afford Steam a huge advantage.



This could be a landmark moment as Steam attempts to bring PC gaming into the living room and away from the desk. But some industry experts remain sceptical. Given the range of different machines (and the potential price range), could it simply put gamers off and lead them right back to Playstation and Xbox?

hits
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Looking to become more active or try something new?

The Health Improvement Through Sport programme offers fun and accessible activities throughout the community.





MON	Get Moving	The Demi, Consett 9.30 - 10.30a.m.	£30.00 for 10 weeks, Over 16's
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	Senior Netball	The Louisa Centre, Stanley 7.30 - 8.30 p.m.	£2.00, Over 16s
TUES	Table Tennis	St. James' Church Hall, Burnopfield | 6.00 - 7.30 p.m.	£1.50, Children welcome*
WED	Get Moving	The Demi, Consett 4.30 - 5.30p.m.	£30.00 for 10 weeks, Over 16's
	Cricket Conditioning	Beamish and East Stanley Cricket Club | 6.00 - 6.45p.m.	Free for club members, £2.00 for public, All welcome
	Pilates	Ebchester Village Hall 6.30 - 7.30 p.m.	£1.50, All welcome
	Low Impact Aerobics	Craghead Village Hall 7.15 - 8.15p.m.	£2.00, All welcome
	Over 40s Keep Fit	White-le-Head Methodist Church 7.15 - 8.15 p.m.	£1.50, Over 40s
THURS	No Strings Badminton	The Louisa Centre, Stanley 6.00 - 7.30 p.m.	£2.00, Children welcome*
SUN	Archery	Consett Academy (North Campus) 9.30 - 11.30 a.m.	£2.00, All welcome

*Children welcome but must be accompanied by a participating adult.

Contact: Rebecca Haynes, Sports Development Co-ordinator
Leisureworks, The Louisa Centre, Front Street, Stanley, DH9 0TE
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GET READY TO CELEBRATE THE REGION IN 2014

by Jim Callan



Now that the festive season is well and truly behind us, many parts of the north east are now looking towards the beginning of the seasonal festivals that begin later this month with the official Chinese New Year.

Over the last 20 years the Chinese New Year celebrations have become a major fixture in the national calendar and, in an increasing way, the north east. With more Chinese communities celebrating it now and at more locations.

For many years, the Newcastle Chinese New Year Festival, was the main focus in the region. However, there are now a number of the colourful events taking place in other cities. And, like the ones before it, the 2014 Year of the Horse promises to be equally as popular and spectacular.

As in previous years, the celebrations take place between the Westgate Road junction with Bath Lane (Where the main stage is located) and then along Stowell Street where the main parade takes place. (11am-4pm February 9th). Moving on from that, we then get into the major Easter and then summer festivals and this is where the region really shines.

Locally, we have the Consett Music Festival, primarily an event for the people of Consett and the surrounding areas and produced not only as a music festival, but also as a forum for local businesses and services to promote their services.

Then there's the Streets of Brass Festival that, although mainly based in the streets of Durham City Centre, also sees acts performing in locations from Blackhill Park in Consett to Stanley town centre and to other smaller communities throughout Durham.

Another major and traditional event that takes place during the Streets of Brass but which has been around since the days of the mines is the Durham Miner's Gala.

Traditionally held on the second Saturday in July, this is the most important annual even in the trade union movement with a parade of the various miner's association banners through the streets of central Durham.

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Tiger Bills is a unique dining experience available right here in Consett. When choosing somewhere to eat out there can always be problems deciding what to eat.

Tiger Bills' hybrid menu consisting of American grill choices and Thai classics gives guests two distinct and interesting flavours to choose from. Whatever your tastes, there will be something for you at Tiger Bills.

The best way to describe the dining experience at Tiger Bills is to look at the two separate halves of the menu individually. One side of the menu showcases the American style of cooking with great food fresh from the grill. The choice of starters and main courses means there is always something to tickle the pallet. One option worth checking out is the barbecue ribs. Covered in a smoky and aromatic sauce, this meaty treat is well worth checking out for any local carnivores.



The other side of the menu consists of Thai food in stark contrast to the grill menu.



Whilst this is probably new to a number of people, Thai food is sweet, exotic and most of all delicious.

There is a great variety of dishes which were all new to me when I sat down at the restaurant. The bite sized starters of satay chicken, golden bags and tiger prawns in filo pastry provided an idea of what was to come.

The main courses of chicken pad thai, duck curry and prawn stir-fry all had their own unique flavours which showed off the different aspects of Thai cuisine. The chicken had a sweet taste, the duck a rich and hearty flavour and the prawns were full of flavour.

With a great atmosphere and vibrant décor, Tiger Bills is the perfect spot to go for a bite to eat in Consett.

Rocking The Demi for a Good Cause

by Chris 'Parkway' Brown



> A NUMBER OF NORTH EAST ARTISTS GOT TOGETHER TO SUPPORT A NUMBER OF LOCAL CAUSES

On the 11th of January, the Demi was once again filled with the sound of music as a number of North East artists got together to support a number of local causes. The money raised is set to help them follow their dreams. Jenn has been given the opportunity to go and study in New York whilst Liam is planning a charitable trip to Costa Rica in the near future. This great night had music from a selection of fantastic artists all looking to support the causes of the night.

First up was a young local band Cryptic Metaphor who despite their lack of age made up for it on stage. Their selection of covers ranging from Blur to Jimi Hendrix made the audience take notice of these talented young teens. Despite snapping a string on stage, the band soldiered on and gave a great performance. Next up was 15 year old Jake Fletcher who graced the stage with only his acoustic guitar as company. Playing a selection of his own material and some covers, the young musician excelled impressing many people with his performance.

After a break for some fun fund-raising activities it was the turn of Punk legends Toxic to hit the stage. As always, Toxic brought a great deal of energy to the stage playing a mixture of classic punk covers which fans and newbies alike could appreciate. The final band of the night was local indie rock act Motion Tourist. This band have been playing together for some time now and it shows on the stage. This tight 4 piece never set a foot wrong all night playing a number of everyone's favourite indie tracks from bands like Razorlight, The Arctic Monkeys and The Cure.

Overall a fantastic night was had by all in support of Jenn and Liam. We here at Consett Magazine wish them all the best in their upcoming endeavours.

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The Brit Awards

by Chris Brown

The 2014 Brit Awards are coming on the 19th of the month where artists from around the world will get the recognition they deserve in the UK. This year a number of high profile artists have been snubbed by the Brit Award officials in favour of some new, talented musicians.

The two big names nominated at this year's awards are Bastille and Disclosure showing the progression of electronic music in the past years. Veterans such as Gary Barlow, Robbie Williams and Miley Cyrus have all been left out of this year's awards. Who do you think will win this year?

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Bring on the Summer!

by Rob Grinter

Photography by John Turner

It's cold, windy and dark at tea time. It's too cold to go out most evenings. No wonder we get the winter blues.

After months of spending our nights at home it's time to get ready for summer and long days in the sun with a glass of wine or beer to hand.

Oh well I can dream but it's a fact that we all feel better when the sun shines.

When the weather does get better there is no better place to spend an afternoon or evening than Shotley Bridge Cricket Club. With a match on most evenings and weekends there is always an excuse to pop out for a drink whilst taking in the delightful views of the Spa Grounds.

New players and social members are always welcome at a club where our motto is "more than just a cricket club". Formed in 1888 we have been a mainstay of the village since Victoria was Queen. If she came back to day she would see that the Club is alive and well and there is still a Collingwood playing for us.



Our teams had a successful season last year and we are keen to attract more youngsters to our weekly development sessions. Every Thursday evening in the summer our dedicated coaches impart the fundamental cricketing skills which young boys and girls will need as they progress through our junior teams.

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Four Months On at Consett AFC

by Chris Brown



Since Consett AFC moved to the new Belle Vue Stadium in November, a lot has been going on at the club on and off the pitch helping the club progress their place within the community. On the pitch the club has had mixed results in the league but managed to pull off an upset against League Two side Hartlepool United in the Durham Challenge Cup. This is a great step for the club who are looking to achieve bigger and better things this season.

It's not just on the pitch where Consett AFC have been busy. The community ethos of the club is still very much intact as the new facilities have been used on countless occasions by people from all across the local area. Birthday parties, christenings and engagement parties are just a few of the events the club has been able to host over the past few months. Over £4000 has been raised for numerous local charities using the venue to host fund raising events since the stadium opening in November.

February is looking like another great month for the club as on the 17th the Newcastle United Foundation will be returning for one of their legendary football fun days. With over 90 children attending the previous session, this was a record for the foundation greatly surpassing their expectations. For only £15 for four sessions, this is a great opportunity to get the kids involved in football at a reasonable price.

On the pitch there are 3 games in February with Newcastle Benfield on the 1st, Bishop Auckland on the 15th and finally league leaders Celtic Nation on the 22nd. Be sure to get down and support your local team.

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