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MAGAZINE
JUNE 2015
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Welcome

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WELCOME TO JUNE 2015

Dear Consett Readers, We can't believe that we are halfway through 2015 already, but at least the Summer is finally starting to shine through.

Have you heard about the Consett Masterplan? DCC is beginning phase four with improvements for Front Street starting July 2015 until February 2016. There will be new paving on both sides of the street, refurbished planters, new seating and bins, and new cycle racks. You can view the designs at both the Library and Customer Access Point until Friday 12th June.

On the 20th June at 2pm you can join Willowburn Hospice for their choir day,even if you're not a singer - you can go along for some fun while raising money for a great local cause. Email **cbooth@willowburnhospice.org.uk** or call 01207 523 900 to sign up.

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If you have any interesting events, stories or photographs you would like to share with the people of Consett go ahead and drop us an email to editor@consettmagazine.com.

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THINGS BECAME HARD AND THE MEN STILL HUNG ON.

THE COLLIERY BAND and THE CANDYMEN

In late 1885 at South Medomsley Pit, also known as Pontop Hall Pit, the masters and men clashed over pay and conditions, something that happened all to often in those days, the miners notices having expired on the 4th December.

It was a hard time of year and the masters of the pit decided in their wisdom to force the men round to their way of thinking. So in a cold hard winter they closed the pit and enforced a Lock-out until the men would agree too all their demands. With no money and only themselves to rely on they banded together to ride out the winter. Things became hard and the men still hung on.



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13th **I SUPPORT A HERO** *Charity Night - Rock For Heros - Four fab bands* - **A GREAT LOCAL CHARITY**
19th **CHARITY EVENT FOR ANIMAL WELFARE** *Live bands and raffles* - **WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE THEME**
20th **WESTERN SAND** *With guests Bulletproof Rose & Black Nevada* - **ALL THE WAY FROM BOURNEMOUTH**
26th **KNOWTFEST** *Featuring Slipnowt, Damaged Inc, Renegade & Eleventh Hour. 4 tributes to Slipnot, Metallica, Rage Against the Machine and Lamb of God*
27th **MANDORA** *What a show these guys put on, absolutly brillian band. Five piece metal band from South Shields* - **DON'T MISS THEM!**

THE BACKBONE OF OUR AREA FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS CEASED IN 1990,

By January 1886 the masters of the pit decided enough was enough and demanded the men return on the second Saturday of the month, but the men refused as their demands for pay and conditions had still not been met.


Pontop Hall

At this point Mr Tyzack, the Manager intimated that if they did not return that steps would be taken to eject them from their lodgings. Saturday came and went and the men waited for eviction notices to arrive, normal a 4 week notice. However, a secret plan had been hatched by the masters, who without notice had arranged for the men and families to be evicted.


Black Bull Inn, Dipton

Like clockwork in the early morning of Tuesday 12th January the Police arrived in force with about 32 men from Consett under the command Supt. Oliver taking up position at the Pit houses at High Stables, about one mile from Leadgate. At almost the exact same time 20 to 30 "candymen" arrived directly off the train from Newcastle.

The miners tried to explain that they had not been given enough notice or time which was granted them by law, but their pleas fell on deaf ears. A ring was formed round the two small rows of houses by the Police who then demanded the candymen to do their job and evict the miners and their families.

However something strange then happened, they resolutely refused to carry out any action. The police asked a second time and once again the request was refused. The miners looked on in amazement. The candymen themselves had been deceived many believing they were there to shovel snow for 5 shillings a day plus food and lodgings, others had been told that they would be moving furniture. All stated that the idea of throwing families out on the streets in winter was the last thing they would ever want to do.

The termination of the eviction's brought not only the union men and miners the greatest of satisfaction but cheers went up from the entire village. An almost carnival atmosphere took hold and the miners and candymen paraded through the village and head onto the Black Bull Inn in Dipton, then the headquarters of the Miners Lodge.

It snowed throughout the day with slight showers here and there but it did not stop the merriment. The celebration lasted throughout the morning and into the afternoon culminating in the candymen being escorted to Lintz Green Station by the Villagers and the Colliery Band for the 4pm train back to Newcastle. The police left a small contingency of men and returned to Consett. A happy reprieve for the miners and their families.

A major weather front hit the following day known as "The Great Snow Storm" which last from January 13th till February 12th without a break adding to the hardships of the people of the whole area. Although the first set of eviction's didn't happen it was on "Stormy Tuesday" 2nd March that the 2nd eviction's began which saw 60 miners and their families losing their homes.

Almost exactly 100 years later the great Miners Strike took place with similar events taking place throughout not only this area but the whole country, sharing echo's to the past.

If you ask most children now what coal is most wont even know. Coal the backbone of our area for hundreds of years ceased in 1990, with the exception of one small going concern. Country wide less than a handful of deep pits remain. A proud tradition blinked out by change.


High Stables Dipton

BY BRIAN HARRISON



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‘ARE WE THERE YET? ... I CAN SEE THE SEA’

THE SCHOOL TRIP

The days and nights were growing longer as the build up began. Tickets went on sale on June 1st and you could buy them from the secretary's office in school.

Everyone wanted to go as it was the highlight of our year, every year! The small green printed tickets had an official Saint Patrick's School oval stamp on the back to show they were genuine and they were numbered, so there were no forgeries!

When the day finally arrived the Venture buses were out in force. Fifteen 45 seaters lined up in John Street snaking their way towards Medomsley Road. Mass was at 9am and the church was packed, even the slide out side benches were occupied. We had all been instructed to to leave our bags and baskets in the church hall from 8.30 onwards. However the latecomers with only a minute to spare dragged their picnic and paraphernalia into the church porch rushing in before the bell signalled the beginning of Mass.

With over five hundred people wedged into the building on a hot June day there was an air of excitement as we belted out 'Faith of our Fathers' in honour of Saints Peter and Paul. The church's front doors having been left open for ventilation produced a welcome warm breeze mixed with the pungent smell of egg and tomato sandwiches and homemade corned beef pie.

As soon as the priest disappeared into the sacristy the deafening sound of a hundred kneelers being slammed back into place heralded the mass exodus.

Luminous buckets and spades, stripped beach balls and cotton windbreaks appeared from nowhere. Clutching the little green tickets every family, including mine tried to find their bus.

The excitement was electric. The kids all wore shorts, T-shirts and sunny san sandals. However the adults were more formal; I remember my Dad wearing a trilby and a sports jacket and most of the Mam's - to compliment their summer dresses - wore nylons and kitten heel shoes.

The unlucky few who didn't have tickets came to wave us off, and as bus Number 1 revved its engine we knew we were on an awfully big adventure. There was always one joker who started off the singing with '10 Green Bottles Hanging on the Wall' but they usually got pelted with jelly babies before they got down to 5.

We started eating our sandwiches as we passed over Leadgate Bridge and flicked the tops off the Fentiman's dandelion and burdock and cream soda to wash them down.

After what seemed a lifetime of travelling and a million 'Are we there yet's' someone shouted 'I can see the sea!' We all cheered out of our seats to the same side of the bus pressing our noses against the windows to catch a glimpse.

Before long, carrying string bags of food, pop and vacuum flasks we reached The Links of Whitley Bay, descended the stone steps to the sand, staking our claim on the beach until it was time to go to the Spanish City.

Exhausted and happy until next year, at 6 o'clock - just like the picnicking teddies in the song - their mammies and daddies will take them home to bed because they're tired little teddy bears.



BY LORRAINE WEIGHTMAN

MAJOR IMPROVEMENT SCHEME TO BEGIN

A major £2.4m scheme to ease congestion and promote economic growth is set to get underway.

Durham County Council is removing the disused railway bridge, which is beyond repair, and improving the layout of Leadgate Road, which links Villa Real to Front Street in Leadgate.

Currently, traffic lights only allow a single file of traffic from one direction to move across the bridge at any one time, creating a bottleneck. The system will be replaced by a straight and direct carriageway which will allow the continuous flow of two-way traffic.

Crossing islands will be installed, making it easier for both pedestrians and cyclists, including those on the Coast to Coast route, to cross and bus stops will also be created. The scheme, which will see an investment of more than £2.4m, will see the bottleneck disappear completely and remove the need for future maintenance of the bridge.

Alleviating traffic issues also promises to promote economic growth locally as potential investors and visitors may have been previously deterred from visiting the area. Cllr Neil Foster, Cabinet member for economic regeneration, Durham County Council, said: "We are absolutely delighted that these works are now starting and we look forward to delivering improvements which will make life easier for motorists and pedestrians.

"We would also like to assure everyone that we will do all we can to keep disruption and delays to a minimum."

The project will be carried out in three stages with the first set to begin on Tuesday (26 May) and continue until early August. Leadgate Road will be closed from Leadgate bypass to West Street, except for local access, to allow for utilities to be installed and alignment works to be carried out.

General traffic will be diverted along Leadgate bypass and buses will use Werdohl Way and New Watling Street where temporary bus stops will be in place. The second stage will see the bridge reopen to general traffic until the autumn/winter time while fibre optic cables are put in place.

During the third stage the existing bridge will be removed while the new road layout is completed. These works are expected to continue until spring/summer 2016.







Again, diversions for general traffic will be in place via Leadgate bypass and buses will be diverted via Werdohl Way and New Watling Street.

Adrian White, head of transport and contract services, Durham County Council, said: "This is a major investment in both the community and local infrastructure which will see a raft of improvements to the surrounding area.

"We would like to thank the public in advance for their patience while we carry out this important project and to take notice of the closures, diversions and temporary bus stops in place."

WE USED TO MAKE STEEL

There is a place high up on ground
It's workings can be seen from all around
Toil, sweat, graft and tears
Dry throats soothed by post-work beers
Iron, Steel, Ore and Heat
Their sturdy product could not be beat
Many a bridge and Blackpool Tower
Owed their debt to Consett's power
Men and women side by side
Working people full of pride
Consett steel- a thing you could trust
Remember the cloud of the old red dust ?
The smelters, the chimneys, the furnaces too
Prosperity, security as industry grew
People of substance,willing and able
Families needed food on their tables
Along came a woman who'd cause so much pain
The irony was she had IRON in her name
No second thought for what was to come
She ended an era – the deal was done
Years of industry resigned to the past
1980 proved to be last
1000s of people thrown to the dole
Dispair and depression soon took its toll
Though modern resurgence has hidden the pain
The iron image will always remain
Thirty five years later,I'll say how we feel

WE ARE FROM CONSETT, WE USED TO MAKE STEEL !

BY BARRIE DAVISON



THE ROTARY CLUB OF CONSETT SUPPORT WORLD CHALLENGE SCHOOLGIRL

Nicola Lines, a fifteen year old schoolgirl took the initiative to write to The Rotary Club of Consett and offer to speak to members about her trip to India with World Challenge.

Nicola who has been fundraising for almost two years to help fund her trip is seen here accepting a cheque from President Elect John Brierley on 30th April this year.

She prepared a professional presentation and delighted her audience by explaining what her journey involved.

Along with eight other young people, Nicola after exploring-and experiencing the culture of India for several days will travel to Jaipur where she will be helping to fund and build a classroom and toilet block in Sharda Primary School, so secondary education can be offered to the children there.

Members of Consett Rotary were very impressed with Nicola who over the Easter holidays walked St. Cuthbert's Way, a 65 mile track from Melrose to Lindisfarne to help raise funds for her adventure.

She has promised to return to the club later in the year with another informative talk on how the project went.



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Being one of only approximately 380 companies in the UK who currently hold a license to deal with asbestos we are vetted directly by the Health and Safety Executive under what is a very strict vetting process: This is because Asbestos is the second most legislated area of work in the UK and is second only to the Nuclear industry, and not without reason: There is more ill health and deaths in the UK as a result of exposure to asbestos than in any other work related area. At present this is in the region of approximately 4500 – 5000 deaths per year and this is rising.

Because of these alarming figures it is a legal requirement that any person working in building or the allied trades; plumbing, electrician, IT installation, telephone installation, demolition, surveying… the list is pretty comprehensive. It is a legal requirement that all persons have annual asbestos training appropriate to their work, this could range from basic awareness training to training on working with/in the vicinity of and the removal of asbestos.

As such we would like to extend our offer of a free awareness training course to anyone in the building or allied trades. This short awareness session takes approximately 3 hours. So why not start the year as you intend to go on.

I would like to state that this is **FREE**, simply email **info@adscs.co.uk** and we will be back in touch with dates for the course. We understand that time out of work can be difficult so there is the potential to hold this session on a Saturday or Sunday. Remember this is FREE and will keep you and your company compliant for a whole year, it could also save your life or that of a loved one.

If you really do find the time difficult we also have online accredited training facilities where you can simply login on the internet – these cover asbestos, fire and legionella just go to **www.adscs.co.uk/health-safety-e-learning/asbestos/**

If you have any questions or would simply like some advice, please feel free to call or email us via our web sites **www.adscs.co.uk** or **www.thinkasbestos.co.uk**

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Every time I witness this freak of nature I always threaten Ollie and Nina that I will rat them out to their best friends. Ollie would be mortified if Flynn, his big, butch Red Setter pal knew about his feline friends and their sissy goings on. And Nina would blush to the roots with embarrassment if Bentley her Working Cocker Spaniel boyfriend were to get wind of her cosy cat cuddles.

WELL THEY CAN ALL REST EASY FOR NOW BECAUSE THEIR FUNNY FURY CAPERS WILL REMAIN OUR LITTLE SECRET, NO ONE NEED EVER KNOW.





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THERE AND BACK AGAIN

THE ROTARY CLUB OF CONSETT

The Ride to the Top Or There and Back Again.

Enjoy a relaxed Cycle Ride on the Lanchester and Waskerley Way From Lanchester to Park Head Station and back.

21ST JUNE 2015 @ 10AM

For more information Contact The Rotary Club of Consett
bstobbs@damha.org.uk

Welcome to The Rotary Club of Consett's first cycle ride in aid of Rotary Charities.

Cyclists of all ages are invited to take part in a pleasant ride from Lanchester to Park Head Station using the dedicated cycle paths all the way.

Entry to the ride will cost £5.00 per person and the proceeds will be directed through Rotary to local charities such as Willowburn and Mind.

It is recommended that all cyclist wear a helmet and mitts. The route will take cyclists out of Lanchester on the sustrans track starting at the Ford Road junction. It is a direct route to the Lygetts junction where the route turns left on to the Waskerley Way. Once again straight on up to Park Head Station.

Refreshments can be bought at the cafe from Terry and Lorraine. Then you return the way you came. There will be check points along the way to keep track of cyclists and on completion you will receive a certificate to show to sponsors.

It is important to register at the start of the bike ride and leave a mobile telephone number in the event of an emergency.

You should also check that your cycle is in good working order before the event as there will be **no mechanics available on the day.**

Cyclists will be set off in groups of about 6 riders to prevent overcrowding on the track.

GOOD LUCK AND ENJOY THE RIDE!



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