CONSETT MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2015

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PICTURE COURTESY OF CHRIS DODDS


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TO YOUR COPY OF THE **FREE** CONSETT MAGAZINE

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THE FRONT COVER

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editor@consettmagazine.com

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Get your story, photograph, or adverts to us by the 15th Sept 2015! Call **01207 438 292** or email sales@consettmagazine.com.

SEPTEMBER 2015, LET'S GO!

Dear Bonny Lad or Lass,

The front cover for this Month is a fabulous aerial shot taken by local lad, Chris Dodds. I'm sure you'll agree with us, his work is extremley breathtaking and provides a fresh vantage point to view the beautiful Derwent Valley. Turn to page 12 to find out more about Chris and "DroneFlya".

In history, Brian Harrison glances back to a time in Consett when fresh water was scarce. We speak to Lisaabout her new campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of sunbathing and sun beds. Check out the poem, Diamond Stream by Syd Peck.

Remember to visit ConsettMagazine.com and like us on Facebook : We have exclusive content on our website including some wonderful poetry from Alan Harland and an very interesting submission by F. Lush.

We absolutley love to hear from people like you! It doesnt matter what you have to share, just share it!

Share your story, article, photograph, art, music, video, or poetry with Consett!

Get in touch via email: **editor@consettmagazine.com**
OR message **Consett Magazine** on **Facebook.**

Stay canny Consett, we hope you have fun reading this months magazine.

Best regards,

The Consett Magazine Team

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WATER WATER EVERYWHERE and ONLY BEER TO DRINK

In the early years of the Derwent Iron Company, the idyllic hamlet of Consett boomed into a buzzing industrial town. Homes where built on mass to house the eager new workmen and their families, but soon the town was sinking under the pressure. Water had become a valuable and scarce commodity. Beside the small well at the back of the Commercial Hotel, the nearest places to get fresh drinking water was over a mile in any direction. Washing both body, clothes and also the home was a luxury in these hard times. It was soon found that infants as young as 2-3 were drinking beer as the water supply was too contaminated for consumption. Something had to be done. So in December 1859, the same time as the Derwent Iron Works were transferred over to the Derwent & Consett Iron Company (Ltd), a company was called into existence, Consett Water Works and a special act of Parliament sort to enable the town to get a decent water supply.

It took almost 4 years to put all the necessary pieces into place, with lots of problems and opposition along the way, but on the morning of the 15 August 1863 the first sod was cut and pipe laid from the reservoir, which had been dug earlier, situated behind the Commercial Hotel (now The Braes). Flags flew from all the shops and establishments down Front Street and along Middle Street with the slogan " Consett Water Works – The Poor Man's Victory". The band of the 18th Durham Rifles played and marched along Middle Street followed by the excited crowd cheering them on. Guns fired from the Brick Flats bringing even more people into the town from Blackhill. The day was celebrated to the full and at 3 o'clock speeches were given.

POWER BY F. LUSH

Here we stand single and in groups from 2 to more than ten, we are on land and in the sea, but, we are all connected, if we breakdown we are rarely repaired.

We are unloved by most of the population apart from the greedy, who make a great deal of money from us. Is it time we took action? Is it time for us to take charge of our destiny?

We are disgruntled and have approached other brothers to see if we should band together and should we also contact our static brothers to see if in their wisdom "as they are old and wise" we should take action.

Our group has stopped turning, it is now 24 days since we stopped and no human has been near, they do not care. We have asked for brothers in other counties to stop turning. Our older static brothers report that the impact of this disrupt the humans.

It is the day of action.

We have stopped.
No human can use electrical units.
The lights are out.
They have forgot how to live without electricity.

It is now 7 days after our action started, They have no means of light or heat, They do not know how to cook. They are dying.

Should we take pity on them? After all, they did design and build us.

No. We have been informed that other countries have realised the power that we have and are starting to look after our brothers.

It has started; they are looking at us and are starting to carry out repairs on land and sea.

We have decided that when 25% of us are in good working order we will turn the power back on.

Justice at last.....

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IT TOOK ALMOST 4 YEARS TO PUT ALL THE NECESSARY PIECES INTO PLACE



By November of the same year work was completed the company having effectively piped pure water to in excess of 22000 people throughout Consett, Blackhill, Leadgate and surrounding area's. The Consett Water Works had already prove to be a massive success. The venture had cost £25,000 of which the shares had been sold at £5 each and all been purchased by the committee themselves. Although a major boon to the people of the area, the great need to the industry of water meant it was also a very successful and profitable venture for the committee themselves.

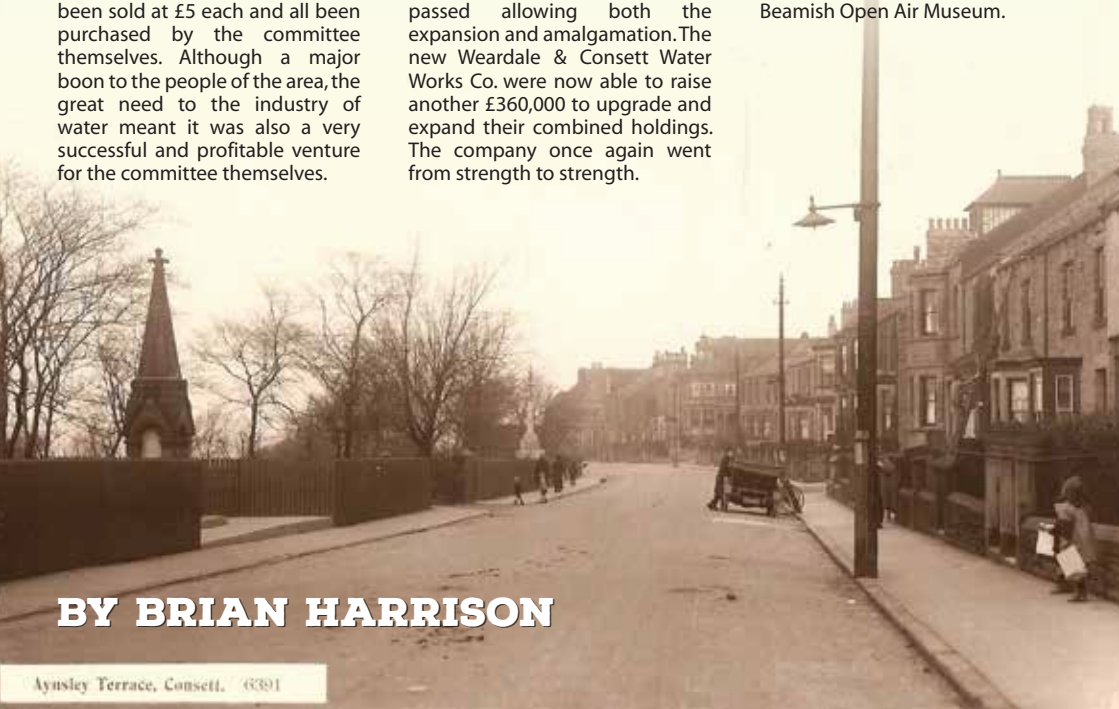
In 1878 a Fountain was erected by the grateful public of the area in dedication to the Originator of the Water Works scheme, John Gledstone. The Fountain was placed at the junction of Front Street and Middle Street. A magnificent looking monument to a well loved and respected man.

Over the next few decades the Consett Water Works flourished and grew with the town. Expanding with new Water Works throughout the area as well as bath houses and public washeries. By 1894 the Company had expanded so much that it now found itself on the borders of Weardale. So another act of Parliament was sort to expand even further and also, at the request of the shareholders of both Companies, combine with the Weardale and Shildon Waterworks Co.

It took 8 years for the Consett Water Bill to go through the House of Commons and the House of Lords, but in June 1902 the bill was passed allowing both the expansion and amalgamation. The new Weardale & Consett Water Works Co. were now able to raise another £360,000 to upgrade and expand their combined holdings. The company once again went from strength to strength.

However, some 18 years later Durham County Council along with all the Local authorities decided that the water of their area would be better ran by the local government. On 27th April 1920 a Bill was submitted to a Parliament select committee of the House of Lords, for a Durham Water Board to be appointed with the power to purchase the existing Water Companies within their area's. The bill was past in July 1920 with only minimal opposition and the Weardale and Consett Water company and all its undertakings were bought out and effectively swallowed up.

The only visible reminder of the Consett Water Works was the Fountain. It stood in place on Front Street until it became a hazard due to the impact of the motor car at which time it was moved along to Aynsley Terrace, overlooking the Park. In the late 1960's it was removed for the purpose of work being done in the area and was never replaced. It now stands, pride of place, in the main street of Beamish Open Air Museum.



BY BRIAN HARRISON

LISA WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A MALIGNANT MELANOMA

TRIED and TESTED by Lisa





Lisa Guthrie from Consett set up a group on Facebook 8 months ago solely for women to share best beauty, fashion and health tips. The group went viral within weeks and currently boasts over 15,000 female members.

Unfortunately Lisa was diagnosed with malignant melanoma skin cancer in May and as a result is now looking to use her social media following and connections in the beauty industry to raise awareness of the disease.

Lisa has appeared on ITV's This Morning, in the press and on radio to campaign about the risks of sunbathing and sunbeds.
She has plans to hold a tanathon in the month of September getting as many salons involved as possible offering £10 spray tans to the public and with that giving £2 to the charity Skcin.

Lisa is planning a charity event to raise funds and is hoping to be able to get mobile mole checking clinics working in our area with the money raised.

Lisa is now high risk for the cancer returning and is unsure what the future holds but says if she can help people by urging them to go and get their skin checked if they are unsure or educate people to stop using sunbeds then she has turned a negative into a positive.

Already Lisa has had messages from women attending their doctors surgeries to get their skin checked out because they have had a worrying lesion.

If you would like to help support Lisa's campaign and the charity Skcin then you can text a donation to her just giving page:

Text: TEST65
and your donation
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If you would like to visit the Skcin website for more information on skin cancer please visit
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MONDAY MORNING AT 8.30AM ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 1967

BACK TO SCHOOL

BY LORRAINE WEIGHTMAN

The countdown had begun. One week left of the summer holidays and the dreaded trip for the new school uniform. Everyday someone asked if you were going into the big school in September and with apprehension you a nodded reply wondering what it was going to be like.

Collinsons sold everything and the shop was packed with 11 year olds all trying on over sized blazers, stiff white shirts and pencil pleated skirts and black trousers. The blazer badges were sold separately so you had to sew them on when you got home. With a black and gold Collinsons bags families paraded round the corner to Gibsons for some sensible black laced up shoes either Clarks or Startrite. And with empty purses and without the regulation PE kit they walked home.

Having never wore a school uniform we were all comparing notes and anticipating our first day. We even had a bus pass so we felt really grown up. Monday morning at 8.30am on 4th September 1967 the bus stand was crammed with new starters wearing clothes to grow into. The bus journey was madness with all the older kids crammed upstairs on the double decker while we were forced to sit downstairs three to a seat.

The welcoming assembly made us realise our insignificant we were in this great big world of the secondary school, and the thought of having to change classrooms for each lesson in a different part of the building was challenging to say the least.

By lunchtime we were exhausted and happy to queue up outside the dining hall. Here was an even bigger disappointment. Just when we thought we'd get time to chat and eat with our friends, two at a time we picked out of the line to go on the older kids tables so they could serve us dinner.

The fourth year lads on our table had no intention of playing fair and as we sat at the end we watched despairingly as a teaspoonful of mashed potato was doled out, resting next to a minuscule amount of white cabbage beside a tiny puddle of minced beef. Meanwhile their plates were piled high but we didn't dare say anything. The comforting sound of the last bell of the day meant we could go home to safety and comfort once the manic bus journey was over.

With ties askew and rumbling tummies we were home at last. The first day over and only 189 to go to the summer holidays.

CAPTAIN'S CONSETT HOMECOMING

Michael Ledger returned to Consett AFC football ground on Tuesday 14th July 2015 as Captain of Sunderland's youth team. He was playing at the annual pre season friendly football match organised to raise funds for local teams. Michael who attended Lanchester AEP school played for the school football team from the age of eight but he had also been playing local football for Blackfyne Juniors from the aged six.

At the age of seven he was spotted by scouts. They gave him trials at Sunderland football club's development centre. His talent resulted in him being accepted as a member when he was eight. This gave him the opportunity to play football with other juniors during half time at Sunderland's home matches. His family were obviously delighted and committed themselves to supporting him both financially, physically and emotionally. Their commitment is obvious today, all those years later.



Ian and Julie Ledger - his parents - ran a milk business in Leadgate for over 18 years along with Michael's uncle, David. Later Ian went to work for a local firm Elddis and two years ago was able to open his own business Ledger's Caravan and Motor Home Solutions. However the family's main aim has been to support Michael in his desire to play professional football. The whole family and many of his friends and supporters were at the match in July to cheer on both Michael and the Sunderland team as well as Consett. It was a great match with a fantastic friendly atomesphere and the final score was 3 - 1.

Michael feels very fortunate that he has been given the opportunity to follow his dream and said that he was extremely grateful for the support given to him by his parents Ian and Julie, his brothers Christopher and Jack, also both sets of grandparents and his extended family and friends. Michael at the age of sixteen signed up for a scholarship as a full time apprentice with Sunderland and he is now Captain of the youth team, having just recently been given a two year professional deal at the age of eighteen. He is proud of his heritage, his family and his home town. And I can assure you they are very proud of him.

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Thomas Street | Blackhill
3 Bedrooms, No forward chain, EPC 49
Separate lounge & dining room.



Middleton Close | Consett
3 Bedrooms, south facing garden, EPC 69
corner plot, conservatory, off road parking



Riversi[illegible] Bri[illegible] Bedr[illegible] | C[illegible]ee | EPC 68
The prop[illegible] Shotley Bridge, within walking distance of shops, boutiques, [illegible]es. It is also close to facilities in Blackhill and within 1.5 m[illegible] [illegible]ett town centre, which has further amenities.

The property has the benefit of double glazing, gas central heating with combination boiler and briefly comprises, entrance lobby, lounge and a modern kitchen/diner. To the first floor there are three bedrooms and a white fitted bathroom. Externally the property has a small garden to the front, space to the side which could be converted to a driveway and a large lawned garden to the rear, adjacent to woodland.

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rear walled garden, 3 bathrooms.



York Road | Blackhill
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recently refurbished, council tax band A.



West Row House | Blackhill
2 Bedrooms, unfurnished, neutral decor
allocated parking, first floor, Band A.



The Crescent | Consett | 3 Bedrooms | Conservatory | EPC 65
The property comprises briefly of; entrance porch, modern kitchen with integrated appliances, open plan dining room leading into the lounge & conservatory. Large enclosed rear garden featuring a large outdoor building that is carpeted & insulated providing a lot of extra living space that could be used in a variety of ways. To the first floor are three good sized double bedrooms, the family bathroom & a separate w/c. The master and second bedroom also feature built in wardrobes & from the landing there is access to the large attic room. Externally to the front there is a two car driveway providing ample parking space, a small gravelled front garden & to the rear is a large enclosed garden with lawned are and large decking area to the bottom of the garden.



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ASBESTOS IN YOUR PLACE OF WORK OR HOME ?

This add has been written to introduce some generally little known facts about asbestos, if at the end of the leaflet you would require further free of charge information there are several numbers you can call.

Quoting published HSE statistics in 2010 there is approximately between 0.5 million and 2 million commercial buildings still with asbestos containing materials. Llewellyn of BRE suggested that 75% of commercial building contain some asbestos. This includes, corner shops, pubs, offices, factories, industrial buildings, basic work units, high street shops, hotels, in fact it can be present in any place of work anywhere.

There are approximately 2.4 million domestic properties (this includes houses, flats and bungalows) with asbestos containing materials.
From the early 1900's it is estimated that over 6 million tonnes of asbestos were imported into the U.K. This asbestos was used in over 3000 documented building materials. Only an asbestos survey, carried out by a trained asbestos surveyor can identify the location of asbestos containing materials through an asbestos inspection and asbestos sample analysis in a UKAS accredited laboratory.

The main reason for this is that asbestos was used in sometimes quite small quantities, from just a few percent (but up to 100%) as part of the ingredients of other non asbestos containing materials such as; floor tiles and adhesives, linos, paper, textured coatings (commonly known as Artex), putty, sealants, floor and bath panels, partition walls, doors, soffits and fascia panels, water tanks, insulation to pipes and heaters, roof tiles, cement roofs, packers around beams in floors, ceilings and walls, and as such the visual appearance of any building material may seem quite innocent but potentially hides a killer mineral – asbestos.

This year it is expected that 5000 people (nearly 14 people per day) will die of an asbestos related disease. By approximately 2020 this will have risen to 12000 people per year (nearly 33 people per day). The highest risk groups of people are those working in the building and allied trades.

It has been shown that in the region of 60% of plumbers tested had been exposed to asbestos, though company documents only showed that 20% had been working with asbestos containing materials. This illustrates that people are being exposed when they are not aware of it.

Work on any project should not commence until the asbestos report has been read and understood by all parties connected with any sort of building works.

Some forms of asbestos were not completely banned in the UK until 1999 and many asbestos containing materials were still manufactured up to the mid 1990's, as such an asbestos survey is a legal requirement for all non domestic properties built before the year 2000.

An asbestos survey is also a legal requirement prior to any employed person working in a domestic or commercial property in the UK. The asbestos survey does not need to be conducted to the whole property if only a small section is due for alteration. For example, you can carry out and asbestos inspection of just the kitchen or bathroom, if those are the only rooms which are going to be worked in. The basic requirement is that if the fabric of the building is to be disturbed then this disturbance should be preceded by an inspection for asbestos containing materials.

Increasingly insurance companies and solicitors are requesting that an asbestos survey is carried out prior to the completion of sale on properties built prior to the year 2000.

An asbestos survey,) carried out correctly can prevent these exposures and deaths, however the asbestos inspection has to be in place prior to works commencing. This is why the HSE have made it a legal mandatory requirement that persons in control of building premises and those in the building and allied trades, including, builders, plumbers, electricians, surveyors, architects, carpenters, shop fitters and demolition operatives have annual asbestos awareness training.

As an asbestos consultancy with over 15 years experience A.D. Scott Asbestos Consultancy Ltd (ADSCS) can provide very competitive rates for testing surveying and licensed asbestos removal (through Think Asbestos Ltd) we also provide free asbestos awareness training and accredited online safety training courses.

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We hope this leaflet has been informative.

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DRONEFLYA

CHRIS DODDS

'TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF AND DRONEFLYA'

Chris Dodds, I'm 27 years old, originally from Burnopfield, but lived in Dipton for the last 7 years! During the day (and night) I work as a Generator Engineer for Generator Power, restoring lost power supplies to homes during power cuts, as well as this, I carry out maintenance on the generators in both electro and mechanical disciplines. In my spare time I enjoy restoring military vehicles, and of course, the odd pint at the Plough. DroneFlya is merely the name of my YouTube page. It came about as when I was flying the drone I constantly had people asking how to find my YouTube page, and hence I created the name DroneFlya for it.

'HOW DID YOU GET INTO FLYING DRONES?'

I've always had an interest in anything that flys! As a kid I flew RC planes for quite some time. Over the last few years and with the advancement of technology, drones have become far more affordable, to the point they are available off the shelf. I was so impressed with what was on the market I knew I had to take the plunge into the world of quad copters and with that said I made the purchase!

'WHAT AREAS OF CONSETT HAVE YOU FILMED?'

So far I have filmed the Derwent Reservoir, Hownsgill Bridge, Hownsgill Caves, and Moorside School. Although Moorside School may seem somewhat unorthodox compared to the other locations, there was good reason for filming it. The school is due for demolition anytime soon and a few folk from the Consett Heritage facebook page asked me to fly the grounds as it obviously held a lot of memories for them (some good, some not so good). Clearly its beauty can not be compared to that of say the Hownsgill Bridge, or the Reservoir, but the response it got was quite phenomenal. The comments below had hundreds of people reminiscing about their time there, and everyone had a story to tell! Such a simple video had so many people talking to one and other about their time spent at Moorside, and for me, that's what it's all about!



'WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE / WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO FILM NEXT?'

My plans for the future are to continue filming in and around Derwentside. I've been inundated with requests to film Blackfyne School so im trying to make that priority for the locals, hopefully that too will bring back memories for those that attended many years ago.Killhope Lead Mine is also high on the agenda, I'm sure anywhere in Derwentside I film will be met with positivity as its giving a whole new perspective of the area which people seem to love.

'HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO LEARN TO FLY A QUADCOPTOR?'

Flying a quadcopter can be a tricky and dangerous operation. It's hard to put a timescale to it as everyone is different. As I mentioned previously, id flown RC planes as a kid, so I guess I was half way there, a few hours of practice 'down the fields' and I dare say I was of a

reasonable standard. To take a quadcopter from the box having never flown before id imagine would result in imminent disaster! Mastering the quad is only one part of the equation, there are so many things to think about, such as surrounding areas, wildlife, weather conditions, battery levels, and on top of all that, flying the quad in the correct manor to capture the video you want! Thankfully though, technology is always helping them become safer and easier to fly. Although im no professional I would be happy to help anyone learn the basics, they can find me on Facebook or Youtube if they'd like any help or advice.

'TELL US ABOUT YOUR EQUIPMENT'

The drone I fly is produced by a company called DJi. The model is a Phantom 3 professional edition. This kit comes with its own camera, capable of 4K definition. The camera is mounted to a 3 axis gimble, which counteracts any movement of the drone, keeping the camera still and level at all times. The drone has its own app for android and apple devices, it connects to this prior to take off and transmits the image it sees back to my phone in full HD so I can see what im taking photos of or recording! My phone sits in a purpose cradle on the handset so I have a clear view at all times, this is called First Person Viewing or FPV for short.

The Phantom also connects to various satellites as its equipped with GPS technology, this is a great feature as for example, if I ever lost site or control of the phantom, I just hit a button on the controller and it navigates its way back and lands on the exact spot it took off from! It also enables me to plot a route on a map and it will fly its self point to point with no RC assistance!

'WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE FOR QUADCOPTERS'

Unfortunately I don't think Drones have a positive future among amateur film makers like myself. The government are constantly hinting at bringing in legislation which will undoubtedly hinder the freedom of flight. Id imagine sooner or later a licence of some sort will be required to operate one, which im sure will incur a hefty cost, in turn this may put a lot of people off or maybe for some they simple wont be able to afford it, after all a quality drone costs a small fortune as it is, let alone more expense on top.

I hope whatever is in store, there remains some degree of leniency with them, as it's a great hobby with a booming interest.

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DIAMOND STREAM

BY SYD PECK

The fresh-washed charm of this stream
Is a girl in her first dress in spring,
Free to sway and laugh and sing:
Her first dance after the ice-regime.

She's cast off dowdy winter coat;
Across the bridge light breezes bless
Each wavelet with a gem-crest caress,
In flowing robes that seem to float.

Enhancing now her pure clean face,
A tiny galaxy of stars a-twinkle,
Coruscating in myriad sparkle:
The river's scintillating dancing necklace -
Sun begifts his running daughter
With diamonds of the first water.

ASK The VET

PRINCE BISHOP VETERINARY HOSPITAL

By **Dr Jacqui Molyneux**
Prince Bishop Veterinary Hospital

One of the questions I get asked often is whether someone should have their bitch speyed (or neutered). If owners wish to have a litter of puppies the answer is obviously 'no' but nobody should underestimate the work involved in this, and, contrary to the old wives tales, it is not necessary for the bitch. There are good reasons for speying apart from avoiding the obvious mess and dogs hanging around the doorstep every 6 months. Bitches who are speyed before their first season (and that is what we recommend) very rarely suffer from mammary cancer in later life and never have ovarian or womb cancer, or the relatively common womb infections. . They also never suffer the misery of false pregnancy which makes some bitches very miserable twice a year.

Overall I think there are compelling reasons to have this done – for more see:

princebishopvets.co.uk/client-advice

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