CONSETT MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2015

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THE FRONT COVER

If you have a great photograph you would like to share, then send it across and it could be your photo we use - send any photographs to:
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DECEMBER 2015, BRASS MONKEYS

Dear Consett Magazine readers,

Thanks for picking up your FREE copy of the Consett Magazine.

Well, can you believe it?
We're in the final month of 2015 already!

It's that time of year again where family and friends come together to celebrate Christmas and New Year.

What part of the festive season are you looking forward to? Perhaps it's all the Christmas food?, maybe it's the sociable fun at the work/school/college/university Christmas party?, or could it be the delight in a child's face as he/she opens their gifts on Christmas morning?

Whatever your reason to feel the festive cheer, enjoy it because it comes but once a year!

From all of us at Consett Magazine, we'd like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

P.S . A special thanks goes out to the continued support we receive each month from local businesses featured in Consett Magazine, without their support we couldn't make this free publication possible. Please take a moment to look at the local companies featured in the magazine and where possible, please mention Consett Magazine when contacting them.

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BOGLEHOLE – THE DRIFT AND GOBLIN

As a young boy growing up in Delves Lane my playground stretched from the trainline at Consett to Knitsley and Iveston. Boglehole was a standard haunt and a fantastic place to play and forage. Whether it was blackberries or wood nuts, or the apples from the house in the dip, there was always plenty to find and enough for everyone. However, I had no idea how much history lay just beneath our feet and to be honest, in those days I wasn't all that bothered.

A while ago I was talking to a lady who was born in Stockerley House, which was situated on the lane between Crookhall and Boglehole. The only evidence of its existence now is the bend in the lane were it curved around the garden. This particular building was formerly the Pit offices for the Stockerley House Pit, the original Crookhall Colliery which was sunk in 1839 to help supply the foundling Derwent Iron Company. The straight track between that point and Crookhall was actually an old waggon way used for the transportation of coal. Although known later as Stockerley House, the original house actually lay about 100 yards further down the track, where the walled avenue still stands at Crook Hill, nearer Boglehole. The original house was demolished in the mid 1800's and the later burnt down in the 1960's.

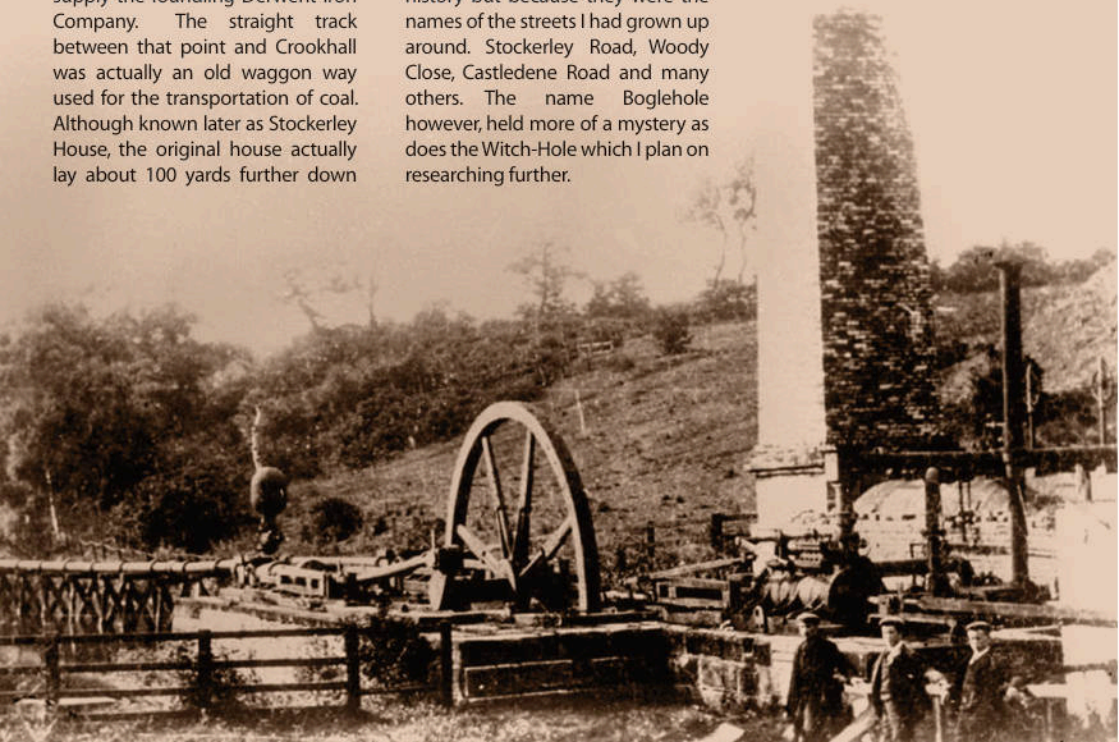
To the north of the house was the old Bogle Hole Drift which came out near to Stockerley Burn. In Mary Kipling's book, she also recounts memories of the area and of the men coming up for their bait. She writes about the Witch-Hole slightly higher up by Iveston, as the drift mine encompassed a large area. She also states about the pumping station at Boglehole which was used to pump out the water and send it up to Crookhall Colliery and Consett Iron Company. It was a simple system, but very effective.

The more I researched the area the more I realised that I knew all the names of the drifts and workings. Not because I knew the industrial history but because they were the names of the streets I had grown up around. Stockerley Road, Woody Close, Castledene Road and many others. The name Boglehole however, held more of a mystery as does the Witch-Hole which I plan on researching further.

Both have tales of Ghostly events and encounters. The name Bogle relates to a mischievous goblin or phantom known to play tricks on travellers. If you have ever been down that way at dusk or dawn I am sure you would agree that the place does hold an enchantment of those places found in the old folk tales. That is probably why so many of us kids were drawn to it.



BY BRIAN HARRISON



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DEATH OF THE VIDEO SHOP (PART 1) - BY STEVEN MONKEY MASON

Before all of this touch of a button, lighting fast Sky TV, Netflix, and downloading movies; life was different for movie lovers.

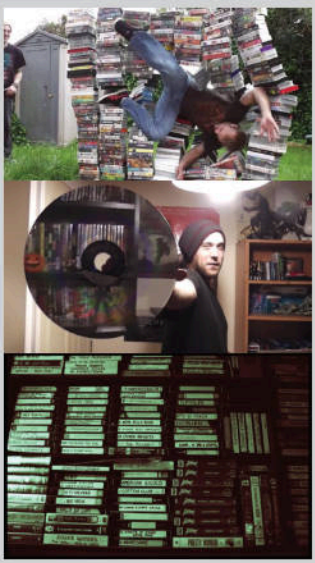
In the 1970s, 80s and on into the late 90s if you wanted to watch a film you had to go your local video shop or cinema. There was no online buzz, no mob flash marketing campaigns or paid advertising infecting everything media. It was all down to word of mouth, the art of the perfect movie poster, and a well made film.

VHS was a massive part of my childhood. Perhaps, that's the reason why I never read a proper book until I was 30, but that's a whole other story.

Going to the video shop was one of my most favorite things to do as a kid. I loved to find out what the new releases were and the video shop gave me my new movie fix. I know I'm not the only person who enjoyed the video shop for this reason.

Recently while reminiscing with friends about video shops, I found that my friend Mark (also known as Casper) used to look forward to visiting to the video shop to pick out films to watch every weekend. Today, Casper's collection of DVDs and Blu-rays is a jaw dropping scene (even if i think they are catalogued in a strange way).

Part Two - Look out for Consett Magazine in January 2016.







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ADVENT CALENDER

The first week in December heralds Advent, the season of preparation. Also the build up to the most exciting, busy and emotional time of the year. And for many, it can be the most confusing. The melting pot of Santa, angels, elves, the North Pole, fairies, presents, shepherds, Baby Jesus, wisemen, The Grinch, stockings, reindeers, Scrooge, pantomime, festivals of light, cake, decorations, mulled wine, markets, feel good films, Ferrero Rocher, shoe boxes, turkey and pressured over spending may be overwhelming, yet the magic still remains.

My childhood memories of Christmas always bring a smile to my lips as even though the preparations were ongoing through December they were very meagre by today's standards but still as marvellous through my child eyes. The thought of long grey socks wrapped round the bed post on Christmas Eve with the anticipation of a Jaffa orange or tangerine in tissue paper stuffed in the toe, the hardest Brazil and Walnuts to crack taking up the middle section and a box of Maltesers poking out of the top was a real treat to look forward to.

Making paper chain decorations that didn't match went on each evening after school and well before Kirstie's Homemade Christmas we baked hard ginger biscuits in the oven and threaded them with with red ribbon ready for the ritual of decorating the real tree we'd collected from the woods.

The turkey was ordered well in advance from Forster's, the sausages and bacon from Thackery's and the delicious pork dips from Yager's as a lunchtime treat for Christmas Eve. Deposits were put down on Christmas outfits from Collinson's and Mortimer's and a little was paid off every week.

Doggarts was my favourite shop as I was fascinated by the little metal rubber ended cylinder that was catapulted through the high pipework and came back with your change on its return journey. It always worked overtime in December. As everyone was having the same meal on Christmas Day, large green net bags of sprouts were stacked on the pavement outside Donaghy's next to the brown paper sacks of potatoes and close to the parsnips.

The Fentiman's pop order was in and they always delivered the Saturday before Christmas. With no room in the tiny fridge we left the dandelion and burdock and cream soda in the porch next to the back door where the wind whistled in and kept everything cold.

Holly wreaths were made at home and we sewed on tartan ribbon from Woolworths haberdashery counter and hung them on the outside door and the flowers came from Beveridge's so we could remember loved ones who were no longer with us.

As Christmas Eve approached, scores of families laden down with string bags full of vegetables and tissue paper wrapped bread rushed home to check the turkey and start wrapping presents.

We had the whole evening to prepare as we didn't need to be at church until 11.30 when the choir sang carols in preparation for Midnight Mass. Every year my family sang out their own rendition of favourites. Gathering round the piano we practised O LiitleTown of Bethlehem and Away in a Manger before the short walk to church.

My favourite memory is getting to the rousing last verse of Adeste Fidelis and seeing smoke billowing out of the top of the piano as someone had dropped a cigarette into the little dish that held the milk checks for the Co-op. Being a real trooper my Uncle Michael played on while my brother poured on water to extinguish the flames.

I remember laughing all the way to Mass as we braced the cold night air knowing that finally Christmas Day was just around the corner and the festivities and magic could begin.



BY LORRAINE WEIGHTMAN

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We are passionate about selling and letting property in County Durham and have recently launched our new branch in Consett to offer buyers, tenants, vendors and landlords a new high quality estate agent to showcase each property at its best and provide outstanding service.



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STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS:
INTERVIEW WITH MARK JACKSON FROM MARKS AWAY!



1. TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR BUSINESS?

I'm Mark, a Consett family man and proud father of three. I am the owner and operator of Marks Away! Carpet, upholstery and leather cleaning services.

2. WHAT HAS BEEN THE RESPONSE FROM CUSTOMERS SO FAR?

The response has been overwhelming, all the reviews have been positive. My customer's recommendations have played a major role in spreading the word about my services. I can't thank them enough for their support and encouragement.

3. HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH YOUR BUSINESS IDEA?

I met Simon Merritt who owns Extreme Clean in Consett about 10 years ago. I started to help him during busy periods, he taught me the trade from top to bottom. I can't thank him enough for the help, advice and guidance he has given me. At my last job I worked permanent night shift and missed valuable family time with the kids, the natural progression for me was to put the skills I had acquired from Simon into my new business and give me more time with the family.

4. HOW HARD IS IT TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS AND DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR OTHERS THINKING OF STARTING THEIR OWN BUSINESS?

Starting my business was hard, I had to source all my equipment and put together my business plan. I started with help and support from family and friends. I would advise anyone thinking of starting their own business to create a sound business plan. The best advice would be to stay positive and enthusiastic about your ability to succeed.

5. WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

The future for Marks Away! is to build a solid customer base throughout the North East in both domestic and commercial cleaning. My aim right now is to provide a friendly, local, and high quality service.

6. HOW CAN PEOPLE GET IN CONTACT WITH YOU?

You can get in touch with Marks Away! via their Facebook page, by calling **07572467624,** or emailing **mjacka83@gmail.com.**

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CONSETT AFC

DECEMBER/JANUARY FIXTURES 2015/16

WED	3nd	7:30pm	Away	West Allotment
SAT	5th	7:30pm	Away	Marske
SAT	12th	3:00pm	Home	Seaham Red Star
SAT	19th	7:30pm	Away	Penrith
SAT	26th	3:00pm	Away	Durham City
SAT	2nd	3:00pm	Away	Newcastle Benfield
SAT	9th	3:00pm	Home	Sunderland RCA

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YOUTH CRIME IN COUNTY DURHAM DOWN 51.5 PERCENT IN FIVE YEARS

You may have noticed that Consett Magazine very rarely will report on crime, it's part of our policy to spread positive and feel good news to the area. This piece of information, however is a positive step in the right direction for our County.

County Durham's Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) recently revealed that over the past five years the number of young people committing crime has fallen by 51.5 per cent, with the number of crimes they commit down by 46.8 per cent.

Each year the youth offending service works with both young people who offend, and victims, on a range of restorative justice projects that benefit not only those directly affected by crime, but the wider community.

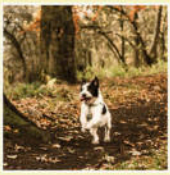
It also included working with local organisations, undertaking environmental projects, building maintenance and potentially any other project that a victim suggests - especially if it helps develop a young person's skills.

Charitable initiatives, including young people making poppies for Remembrance Sunday, Christmas wreathes, spring flower baskets and summer nesting boxes, have, over the last three years, helped raise nearly £5,000 for local charities.



HAVE YOUR SAY!
Do you have an opinion on this subject or others? Contact us at editor@consettmagazine.com

HELEN TAYLOR
PHOTOGRAPHY





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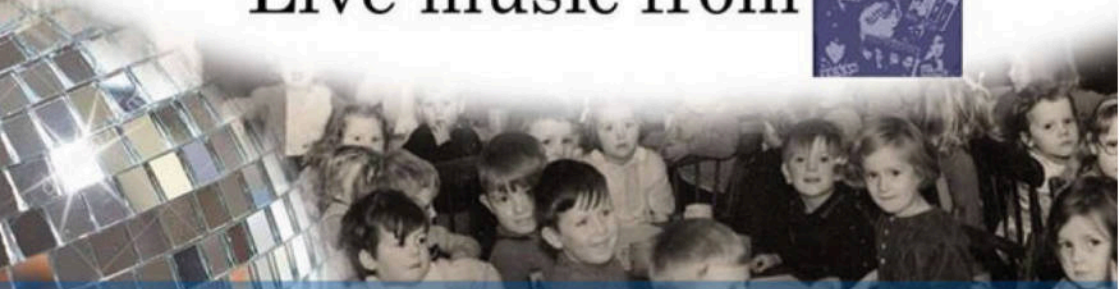

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CONSETT CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Everyone is invited to the Carol Brunch at The Salvation Army on Sherburn Terrace, Consett Saturday 19th December from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Take a break from your Christmas preparations and join in an informal way to sing your favourite carols with The Salvation Army Band, stay a little while or for the whole session and enjoy a selection of sandwiches, soup, mince pies ,ginger wine & refreshments.

Carols for All - The Salvation Army is holding two carol services on the 20th December.

The first at 10.00am is the children's Carol Service where the children take part in the service, the junior band and junior singers will also take part. The children's nativity play will be and it has been known for Santa Claus to take time out from his busy schedule to call in too In the evening at 5.30, the carol service will feature the Band and Songsters and the singing of both new and traditional carols and a special Christmas message. Come and enjoy the warm atmosphere and celebrate Christmas with us

The "Switch on" of the Lights in Consett's Middle Street will take place on the 4th of December. The event will feature special guests and some of your children's favourite characters. The Salvation Army Band will also be there from 4.30pm to play Carols and Christmas music.



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CHRISTMAS TIME PROBLEMS

BY SYD PECK

Time seems to be running out as Christmas approaches : and the nights are closing in. Around December 20 - 23 we will have the shortest day, and it is called the Winter Solstice. We do not think about it,but our Christmas ideas are closely linked to the observance of the December solstice. In fact, the christian celebrations in December were originally designed to supplant the pagan festival about the loss of daylight.

Originally, every town used its own 'local time' in the days when transport was slower, using horses (or reindeer). But around 1840, fast trains with timetables made the use of standard time essential. By 1855 more than nine out of ten of Britain's towns (including Consett) changed to Greenwich Mean Time. But Santa has always used 'local time', so how do we know he changed to GMT in 1855?

Maybe Santa still uses local time today? In terms of local time, he can arrive 7 minutes before midnight in Lowestoft on the east coast, or even 22 minutes after midnight in Penzance on the west coast. How does he manage In Consett? Well, Consett is more or less right in the middle of the island of Britain, so are we ok? Let's look at the Consett Magazine headquarters at West Wing Prospect Business Park, for which the exact latitude is 54.9° N and longitude is 1.8° W. This means that in the magazine office, our local time is 8 minutes behind GMT. So we have to wait for Santa an extra 8 minutes.

Now, what about the disappearance of the daylight, the so-called shortening of the days? Some parts of Britain are much further north, such as the Shetland islands, and they have less than 6 hours of daylight on the shortest day. But in the southerly Scilly Isles they have over 8 hours of daylight. It turns out that Consett again happens to be in the middle of the island of Britain - so we bask in 7 hours 10 minutes of daylight on the shortest day. Poor Santa and his reindeer have to work too fast up in the Shetlands, and too slow in the Scillies; but in Consett, Santa can just work normally, and has time to eat an occasional mince pie. And he deserves it !

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TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF AND HOW/WHY YOU STARTED THE INITIATIVE?

My name is Kelly Williamson. I started this appeal when we had a sort out of our childrens toys three years ago. I wanted to donate the toys to a good cause and after some research, I came across the local women's refuge.

COULD YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT THE NEEDS OF THE FAMILIES?

The ladies and children in the refuge are all experiencing unfortunate circumstances. They are living away from their family environment over the Christmas period, so we like to provide sweets, toiletries, clothes and toys in the hope that they will have a better Christmas.

The local families that we support are experiencing tough times for a variety of reasons, most of which have children to feed and they are struggling financially. We will help them by providing food, clothing (for men, women and children), toys and toiletries. We also have a number of pregnant ladies who we are assisting by providing baby items and baby clothes.

WHAT HAS THE RESPONSE BEEN LIKE FROM THE PUBLIC SO FAR?

Year on year the interest in this appeal has increased and so have the donations. This is our first year using the power social media and their are more businesses helping out than ever before.

HOW CAN PEOPLE HELP OR GET INVOLVED?

People can get involved by liking and sharing our Facebook page facebook.com/christmasdonationsNE. If people are looking to donate items please contact us via facebook or by calling 07931795293. We can arrange collection if necessary and have drop off points in the area. Contact Kelly if you need any help / support or if you have any questions.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE FOR YOUR INITIATIVE?

We are looking at the possibility of running this campaign year round. We appreciate that people need help all year and not just over the festive period. Discussion will be taking place in upcoming weeks to secure a drop off point beyond Christmas and we are also looking at the possibility of registering as a charity.

Find us on: facebook

http://www.facebook.com/christmasdonationsNE

CHRISTMAS READINGS

You are cordially invited to join us at **Consett Library** on **Tuesday 8th December** at **2.30pm** for our yearly **Christmas Readings** Everyone welcome.

Come along and get yourself into a festive mood with stories, verses and a mince pie or two.

DID YOU KNOW??

2,340,000 mph
is the speed Santa's sled travels to reach everyone in the world on Christmas Eve.

£18,000,000,000
Will be withdrawn from UK cash machines over Christmas.

25 Million
The number of Christmas puddings we eat in the UK every year

83 Square km
The amount of wrapping paper sold in the UK every Christmas.

300 Million
The number of mince pies eaten over Christmas.

230,000 Tonnes
The amount of Christmas food that is thrown away each year.

Blackhill Club



New Years Eve

from 7pm-12.30am Tickets £7.50

FEDERATION

New Years Day

from 12-5.30pm Tickets £10.00

PLUS! FREE JUKE BOX in the Lounge from 6pm

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

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Most conditions will be covered and you will only pay the first £75 – all the rest is paid by the insurance company. However it is important that you get the right policy.

I would recommend a lifetime cover policy as they will pay out for long term conditions for all of the pet's life.

However they are more expensive than limited policies but if this is all you can afford it will be better than nothing – just be sure you understand the limitations before you part with your money.

princebishopvets.co.uk/client-advice



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