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Welcome



Dear Consett Magazine Readers,

With a whole host of interesting stories, photographs, events, articles, and local businesses, our team is proud to present you with the April 2016 and 40th free edition of Consett Magazine.
Yes, you read that right; 40 editions and we look forward to continuing to bring you Consett Magazine both online and in print for another 40 editions!

We especially look forward to hearing from you every month, this month we've been contacted by people from all walks of life and would like to take this opportunity to reach out to those people and thank them very kindly for their stories, photographs, and feedback on how we can improve the Consett Magazine.

Send in your story, adverts, photos, or videos to editor@consettmagazine.com or call us on 01207 438 292 to get in touch directly with us.

We hope you have a beautiful spring day in Consett!

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The Front Cover

A big thank you to Lee Nixson for providing the fantastic photo on 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:
editor@consettmagazine.com

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DEMOLITION AND REBUILD - THE BIRTH OF THE MODERN TOWN



Consett had grown at a massive rate after its transformation from a small Hamlet and fell side to the giant industrial town of the mid to late 19th century. Houses which had been built in the 1840's were no longer suitable for the modern living of the new century. The First World War had bolstered the Iron Works and by 1920 the town began to moan with age. The housing had to be upgraded and the area refreshed.

The Omnibus services had started to appear making the area seemingly reduce in size and give a greater accessibility to the major local towns and cities. Major demolition took place throughout the town and the first housing to go was the Company Rows in 1924, now the site of Wetherspoons, Argos, etc.. This initially made way for the Market Square and the new Omnibus Station. The roads were adjusted and the town began to change. Houses in Leadgate, Crookhall and Blackhill were also demolished to make way for the new. It was an industrious time and ushered in a new more modern Consett. The general strikes of 1921 and 1922 were still sore memories for many in the area who had gone without for months. But this boom was seen as a new start.

Delves Lane had steadily been growing from 1920 and was now a bustling village. The most impressive builds however were that of the outlying area's in which the new housing estates had sprung up, The Grove, Bridgehill, Moorside and Villa Real. Funded by private businesses and also the recently formed Consett Urban District Council it was a major triumph. New modern homes for the people of the area with indoor toilets and services.

Some of the older housing however stayed for quite some time. Notably was Bottle Bank, Blackhill as well as the the other rows than ran adjacent such as West Row. These lasted up until the 1950's with the old middens out back.

However, it was the 1970's which saw the greatest changes.

The housing estate of Delves Lane was completed with the building of the last row of Iveston Road in 1973, joining the bottom and top of Delves Lane. The houses between Middle Street and Albert Road were also demolished as well as the likes of George Street, of which only No.1 remains of the odd side, known to most as Montixi's Jewellers. The New estate at Blackhill replaced the older streets of Ridley Street and the ones which ran off it as well as all the ones to the back of Derwent Street. The older housing maybe gone but the memories for the people that called them home live on with fondness and lots of community pride.

Over the past decade Consett is once again booming with new estates and is increasing at an amazing rate with no green space seeming to be safe from the builders. The open spaces between the different parts of the areas have shrunk and in some places disappeared altogether.

Delves Lane and Templetown is a perfect example. No longer a major employment town the commute is the importance. We have to face the fact that with our beautiful area and everything it now has to offer as well as its accessibility to the major cities of Newcastle, Durham and Sunderland it is only going to grow.

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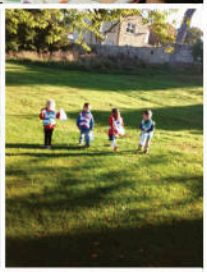
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SPRING FEVER



Almost every culture in the world has some kind of festival in the first months of the year to celebrate the end of winter and the return of Spring. Anthropologists call these "renewal festivals." April Fool's Day has all the characteristics of a renewal festival.

For one day, behaviour that is normally not allowed (lying, deception, playing pranks) becomes acceptable. Traditionally, no pranks are supposed to be played after 12 noon on the first day of April. So if you want to catch someone out you have to be organised.

My friend and I had already prepared our prank by stuffing cotton wool into the toes of our families shoes, knowing that when they were running late for church the following morning, this would hold them up even more.

We, on the other hand, after finishing our Saturday job, had bigger fish to fry. Now that we had reached the grand old age of eighteen and were allowed to go out and socialise, we thought it was high time we tried 'The Bottoms Up Club.' Affectionately known as Botto's it was open until 2am and we couldn't wait to find out what it was like. However, having to be home by 11o' clock was no fun so we arranged to stay at another friends house.

Dressed in our flared Levi's, striped T shirts and platform shoes we got signed into the 'The Trades' and danced until the band finished.

Passing crowds at the bus stand on their way home, we headed for Botto's with our forty pence entry fee jangling in our tiny purses.
Joining the queue, which snaked up past The Empire towards Lloyds corner we couldn't contain our excitement.

When the half door finally opened, we squeezed in and raced up the straight stairs where a nice lady wearing a winter coat collected our money.

And there it was - the New York skyline painted on the back wall, crowded tables, a long bar with queues three deep on the right hand side and at the back a disco and dance floor; we were in paradise! Finding a good spot in the middle we danced to - among others - 'Love Train', 'Crocodile Rock', 'Stuck in the Middle with You' and 'Little Willy'. Exploring further we found another area downstairs devoted to selling chip butties. This place had everything!

Leaving our drinks on ledges we headed back to the dance floor as we'd been told the 'Heavy Spot' was about to start at Midnight.

Looking forward to 'All Right Now', 'Smoke on the Water' and 'Free Bird' we were mortified to see the lights go on as our names were announced over the microphone, followed by, 'Please make your way downstairs, your Auntie Rose is waiting; for you, and an explanation!

COMIC-CON



The rise of the Film and Comic-Cons, as they are generally known, has increased somewhat sensationally over the last five or so years. The Newcastle Film and Comic Con attracts specialist stall holders and members of the increasingly popular "Cosplay" community. The two shows usually take place in the Spring and Autumn and the attending "Costume Playing Community" has grown in number with each show. The growth of the "Cosplay" community was in spectacular evidence at the first ever Moira-Con at the Civic Hall in Stanley. 2016's event is on July 23rd - Will you be there?

Read the full article at consettmagazine.com

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PROPERTY TIPS:

WHY HAVING AN ESTATE AGENT MAKES A DIFFERENCE



This month's tip for selling your property is to make full use of your estate agent. Obviously your agent will be advertising your property and booking in viewers but you could be missing a trick by stopping just there. If it's possible, let your agent conduct the viewings as well as these other things.

Agents are used to speaking and dealing with potential buyers and talking about properties so why not utilise their knowledge. They are also used to being asked tricky questions which could slip up those not prepared for them.

But mainly having an agent show the property instead of the owner allows buyers to envisage themselves living in the property, they won't see who lives there now and can feel at ease looking around.

Whereas when an owner is there it can feel intimidating being watched and can put people off asking any questions and giving their honest opinions in case they cause any offence. However with an agent who doesn't own the property, a potential buyer can openly raise any concerns or queries, which may have a simple answer or solution right there and then, which otherwise may have put the buyer off pursuing the property any further.

This approach also allows an agents salesmanship to come into play where they can point out all the features and talking points and really help to sell the property to the viewers.
So why worry yourself? Pop out for a quick coffee, walk the dog, go do your weekly shop and let your agent do what they do and know best.

To arrange a free valuation with Watson & Jackson call us on 01207 241 111 email: dan.richardson@watsonjackson.co.uk



Or why not visit our local branch located in Blackhill next to Tesco Express and enjoy a chat and freshly ground coffee.

OUT AND ABOUT WITH CRAIG KEERS

Craig Keers has one of the most interesting and admirable jobs in County Durham. Out and About is a professional companionship service which helps disabled, elderly, or anyone who needs a little help getting "out and about".

Craig loves to help people get out of the house, he offers social care with a smile, taking his clients to the bingo, football matches, shopping, doctors visits, the cinema, and even down to the pub for a pint.

When asked to tell us a little about what his job involves, Craig replied,

"I have two regular customers from Consett with learning disabilities and a couple who have a regular date night assisted by me who hail from Leadgate. Also a gentleman called Stan, gets picked up and dropped off home every Thursday Night. I simply provide him with a lift to his Games Club in Durham. We always have a bit of a chat and good laugh on our journey."

Jeanine Keers, Craig's cousin is competing in a boxing match for Cancer Research UK on the 16th / 17th April at the Rainton Meadows Arena and Out & About will be sponsoring her.

"I'm proud to be a part of something to raise money for an excellent cause!"

If you or someone you know is disabled, elderly and finding it hard to be mobile, or just in need of some help getting to where they want to go, give Craig a call. Craig can be reached on 07415342801, he is DBS checked, and is the proud founder and owner of "Out & About".

It's good to get Out & About!



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CONSETT AFC FIXTURES



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Mon 4th	April - 7:30pm	Away - Newcastle Benfield
Wed 6th	April - 7:30pm	Away - Penrith
Sat 9th	April - 3:00pm	Home - North Shields
Tue 12th	April - 7:30pm	Away - Marske United
Sat 16th	April - 3:00pm	Away - Whitley Bay
Tue 19th	April - 7:30pm	Home - Sunderland RCA
Sat 23rd	April - 3:00pm	Away - Bedlington Terriers
Tue 26th	April - 7:30pm	Home - Bishop Auckland
Sat 30th	April - 3:00pm	Home - Newton Aycliffe

Function Room

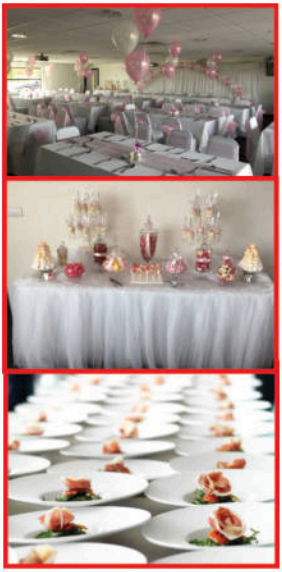
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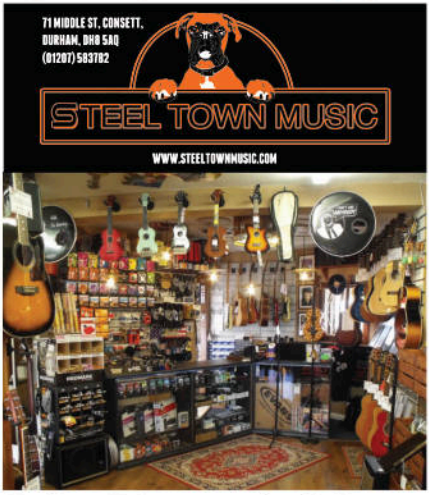


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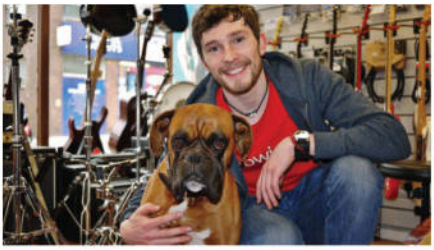
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STEEL TOWN MUSIC
TURNING TEN YEARS OLD



Steel Town Music was opened on the August bank holiday weekend 2006 by Ged Connor and his son Matt in a bid to nurture the local talent in the then thriving music scene. This included offering discounted PA hire and the opportunity to sell demo CDs at no cost. As well as selling all the necessary instruments and accessories required to start (and maintain) a band.



Tell us a little about Arnold.
Arnold is Matt's boxer dog, who he's had since he was a pup. He's now nearing his 7th birthday so he's been in the shop for all of his (and most of its) life! He can be seen most days lying in his bed in the window.

For the full interview please visit the Consett Magazine website.

www.consettmagazine.com

GEORDIE GIRL
WINS BEST IN SHOW



Marie Burns from Top Trimz Pet Grooming here in Consett last month won the coveted title of "Best in Show" at Crufts 2016 with her dog Geordie Girl, who is also known as Devon.

Speaking after being given the top spot Miss Burns said: *"Am I dreaming? This is absolutely amazing, I can't believe it and can't find words to describe how I feel." "Thanks to everyone who made it happen."*



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ASK The VET PRINCE BISHOP VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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

Should I worry if my dog is drinking more than normal?

There are many reasons why a dog may start to drink more than normal and it may be nothing more serious than the weather being warmer. However there are some important conditions which can show themselves in this way such as diabetes, kidney failure, hormone problems, womb infections or many other diseases. It is important to take your dog to the vets to find out what, if anything, is wrong, because, as in people, the earlier the diagnosis is made the more likely we are to be able to do something. Many of these conditions are not curable, but with modern treatments our pets can continue to live happy lives with the condition under control.

princebishopvets.co.uk/client-advice

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