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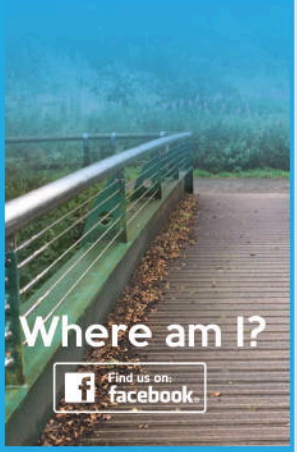
Welcome

Welcome Bonny Lads and Lasses,

It's that time of year again! Back to school. So if you're a student, a teacher, a school staff member, or parent of a student we wish you all the best for this new academic year. And for everyone else, just remember; every day's a school day!

The front cover for this Month is a fabulous shot by Valerie Winter. I'm sure you'll agree with us, her photograph is a beautiful snapshot of a local landmark. Can you guess where it was taken?

Let us know on Facebook.



If you'd like your image to be on the front cover next month, just email your high quality photos to editor@consettmagazine.com. We're looking for a fresh perspective of Consett life.

We absolutely love to hear from people like you! Share your story, article, photograph, art, business, event, charity, music, video, or poetry with the people of Consett.

Stay canny Consett, we hope you have fun reading the free* September edition of Consett Magazine.

Best regards,

*It'll always be free, contrary to rumours that we are to begin charging for the magazine.

From the Consett Magazine Team

PS - We also cover Durham City with the Durham Magazine. Your business can featured on consettmagazine.com & durhammagazine.co.uk, shared on social media and promoted in print.

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Contributors

Brian Harrison
Barry Kirkham
Marco Elsy
Frank Bell
Neil Sullivan
Lorraine Weightman
Marion Reed
Malcolm Clarke (Online)
Jim Callan
Luis Eduardo Plazas Barrios
Christina Stubbins
Valerie Winter
Charlie Hughes
Jillian Horan

The Front Cover

If you have a 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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COE.6 THE SWIMMING BATHS, CONSETT

RIVERS AND POOLS



I was standing watching the demolition of parts of Consett Swimming Baths the other day with a sad and unmistakeable knot in my stomach. It was a place which held lots of memories for me as a young boy. My parents had me at the Baths from the age of 6 months and at times it was like a second home. The smell of the antiseptic as you walked through the foot pools from the dressing rooms to the pool. The weird way that sound bounced around hitting you like a wall as you entered leaving the sound of laughter and fun ringing in your ears.

The baths were opened in the early 1960's and saw some major events. It was also home to Olympic champions and hopefuls and could boast a formidable swimming team across the decades. The later baths with its slides and spring boards was not the Baths I remember with affection, but the one with merely the high diving board and floats at fun time. We used to love to dive and somersault from all the heights, almost like a trial of passage. I was truly in my element.

I am sure many other people of the area will be the same as myself and will always look back with fondness. However, this was not the area's first baths. During the 1800's and into the early 1900's the main place to learn to swim was the river. Allensford and Shotley Bridge had always had a major pull for families of the area and further afield. Both area's catered to the public, although Shotley Bridge boasted the Spa which was well renowned and brought in lots of tourism to the area from the early 1800's right up to the WW2.

In around 1920 the Benfieldside Urban District Council decided that as the industry on the river had all but ceased it was time to do something a bit different and help boost the area. They set about building a magnificent pool. The pool was 147 yards long by 35 yards wide and had formerly been used as a water storage area for the defunct Paper Mill. Set in the beautiful surroundings of the Derwent the pool was 5ft 6in at the deep end and gradually lessening to 3ft 3in at the shallows. At the time it was opened it was the biggest open air swimming pool across the whole North of England

Major swimmers from across the country came to compete and enjoy this fantastic facility. On the day of its opening over 1200 people paid admission into the facilities of which 400 actually took to the pool. A gala event was held shortly after on 13th August which saw activities such as water polo, diving, life saving and swimming contests. The pool thrived until the outbreak of the war and unfortunately like lots of things at that time fell into disrepair. I am sure there will have been people who would have remembered that pool with the same fondness I will always remember the Baths. A common bond across the ages and a strong tradition of the area.

I have not had the chance yet to try out the new swimming pool attached to the new Consett Academy. I hope it manages to give people the same fond memories its predecessors have and keep the area's strong tradition of swimming and fun well and truly alive.

I must say thank you to the "Well Wisher" who sent me a small early paper cutting of the opening of the Swimming Pool at Shotley Bridge.

The Bathing Pool, Shotley Bridge. 5302 1929

YEAR 6
OPEN EVENING
21st & 22nd September 2016

CONSETT ACADEMY

A warm invitation is extended to parents and children to come along to our Information Evenings to find out more about the new campus and its facilities.

6-8pm, Wednesday 21st September, if your son/daughter is currently attending:

Moorside Primary School, The Grove Primary School, Ebchester CE Primary School, Consett Junior School Delves Lane Primary School

6-8pm, Thursday 22nd September, if your son/daughter is currently attending:

Benfieldside Primary School, Bishop Ian Ramsey C of E Primary School, Castleside Primary School, Leadgate Community Junior School, Shotley Bridge Junior School, or other non-feeder primary school

If your child does not attend one of these primary schools please feel free to attend either presentation. If you would like an informal chat or tour, we are happy to arrange this anytime.



consett-academy.org.uk

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You can purchase light refreshments, including a selection of delicious homemade cakes and pastries from the on-site café provided by our appointed contractor, Mellors Catering Services.

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OLD FLAMES

September arrived, but no more school. I had applied to Teacher Training College, and was awaiting confirmation of my place. My other friends were going their separate ways too. Some to Manchester, Liverpool, Nottingham and some to pursue jobs at home.

After studying the prospectus that came through the door, I settled on 23, Kensington Square, London W8 and my Auntie Rose agreed, telling me, she would have loved the opportunity to go there if she'd

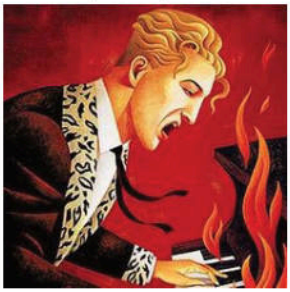


been given the chance.
It was a time for change, suddenly we were expected to grow up and make big decisions about our career and future. But seeing as we had a whole month before we left, it was time to enjoy ourselves.

Music was always a big part of my life, from singing around the piano as a child, to 'Wild Rover', 'Dear Old Donegal', and 'I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen', I'd now progressed to loving the Juke Box in The Masons Arms at the bottom of Havelock Street. This tiny pub, with its ripped seats had an extensive play list and it was the place to be on Saturdays.

I could never leave without selecting Golden Earring's 'Radar Love' and Deep Purple's 'Burn' and 'Smoke on the Water'

Recently we'd discovered 'The Back o' the Shaft' in Leadgate, a pub with live music. It was always a great night and really lively but the only drawback was, the dance floor was a 6 inch strip of carpet between the stage and the front tables, so dancing there without knocking over pints and crushing people's toes was almost impossible, but we

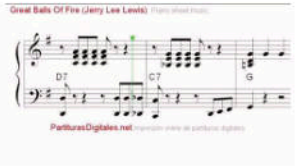


managed.
Seats were like gold dust, so once you'd perched yourself on a tiny padded stool it was advisable to leave your handbag on it - as a means of reservation - when you visited the Ladies. Last time we were all amused by one of the artistes who pulled curling tongs from her clutch bag, and started restyling her hair before returning to the room.
My Uncle Peter compared, and usually brought the house down with 'The Eye Of the Tiger' in the first half, before folk shared Tupperware sandwiches. Local singers were encouraged to get up and perform their party pieces so there was always a wide variety of talent. El Paso was a great favourite and everyone stood up to join in the chorus.

That Saturday, just before the Leadgate bus was due, we decided on one last song from the Juke Box in The Masons Arms and opted for Joe Walsh's 'Rocky Mountain Way', singing it all the way to the bus station. When we reached the Back o' the Shaft, there was another Joe singing, and one more waiting in the wings!
The place was packed and the night was going well, but when 'Great Balls of Fire' was accompanied by a distinct smell of burning, the music was stopped, pending investigations.

After a few minutes it was announced that all the electrical equipment was intact and the whiff was coming from the Ladies toilet where some paper towels had caught fire... 'And can the lass who owns the 'Braun Independent' please come and collect it from behind the bar, it's on the shelf next to the Tudor crisps!





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Ebchester Football Club celebrated their 50th birthday this August, following their formation in the summer of 1966.

The club, re-christened 'Blackhill and Ebchester Football Club' last summer, currently play in the Durham Alliance Combination League on a Saturday afternoon. This season has seen the football club re-locate to the excellent 4G facilities at Consett Academy. We've welcomed league opponents from across North Tyneside, County Durham, Sunderland and North Yorkshire. A fair cry from 32 clubs within Derwentside, playing by the river and changing in the scout hut on the main road. These facilities have allowed the young team to play some great football. Having made an encouraging start to life at the new home, the club currently sit mid-table in the 18 team league, playing some entertaining and attacking football along the way – strikers Stephen Agnew and Richard Parkin netting half a century of goals between them (taking only 25 games to reach that milestone).

Thanks to everyone who has been involved in this 50 year journey and we welcome all those who'd like to contribute to our next 50 years

Read the full article online at consettmagazine.com

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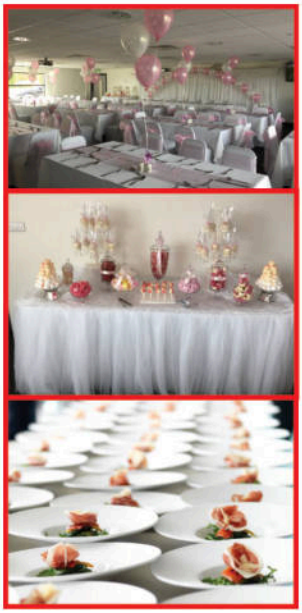
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Radiator Zone is a part of Interiors by Tony P. we have Radiators on display within the Showroom.

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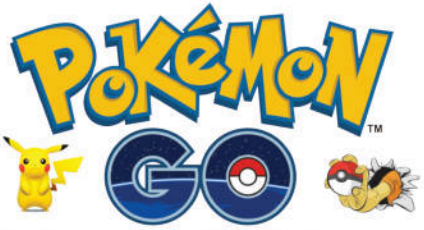
First of all we need to check to see what the construction of the property is , such as cavity or solid wall construction has the cavity been insulated. How high the ceilings are and the over all dimension of the room. A south facing room will benefit from direct sun where as a North facing room will not. Windows and doors within the space as well as double or single glazed.

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Wanna catch 'em all... and be fit?



It has been a month already since I finally downloaded the app I was anxiously waiting for: Pokémon Go!

I did not do so before because I had a Microsoft phone that runs on Android, so I bought a new one. This was the only way to get the game that I was playing non-stop for years on my Game Boy Colour almost two decades ago. Nice memories…
I knew more or less how this app was like by checking a couple of posts that became viral even before it was launched. Yet, only when I started playing its official version, I understood what it was about and advanced quite fast—now I am more than halfway to catch the so-wanted first generation of Pokémon (150 in total).

To get over 80 of them (and hatch some eggs in between) I had to move… a lot! Whether you are walking or running (and even biking, but I think it's risky) you could exceed my number quite fast. You would only need to explore your city extensively and travel if possible because a few are found in specific continents (e.g. Mr Mime in Europe and Tauros in America).

Now I have an additional motivation to go running at least every other day, which helps me keep fit. Of course, I have mastered the technique of running by holding my smartphone on my hand and not stumbling or having any accident (seriously: be aware of your surroundings and watch out at all times!).

Therefore, this game is beneficial for those who struggle to go out and do physical exercise. The GPS system allows you to find some Pokémon at home but that does not always happen (at least not to me; it depends on your location). Another aspect of this game is to conquer virtual gyms and to do that you should definitely kick the streets.

Overall, I am still a 'Jr Pokémon trainer' who has reached the level 22 without playing it every day. If you want to embark on this adventure too that combines playing with sports, go for it: just switch on this app once you leave your place, follow some advice posted on Internet, and watch a few tutorial videos on Youtube. Additionally, ask your fellow Pokémon Go friends to make the most of it.

By Luis Eduardo Plazas Barrios

ASK the VET — PRINCE BISHOP VETERINARY HOSPITAL

By **Christina Stubbins**
Prince Bishop Veterinary Hospital
Firework season is approaching so to keep your pets calm and safe throughout, we recommend you follow these guidelines:

1- Keep dogs on a lead when out on walks to avoid them being spooked by loud noises and running away.
2- Keep cats and dogs indoors if possible and give them somewhere to hide.
3- If you know your pet is scared of fireworks, plan to visit your vet at least 6 weeks before bonfire night to discuss medication options, as this will allow enough time for certain medications to build up to an effective level.
4- Visit the 'Sounds Scary' page on the Dogs Trust website. Start playing the noises at a low level in the background and reward good behaviour, building up the volume of the noises over a period of 4-6 weeks to ensure they are associated with something positive (e.g. treats or toys.)

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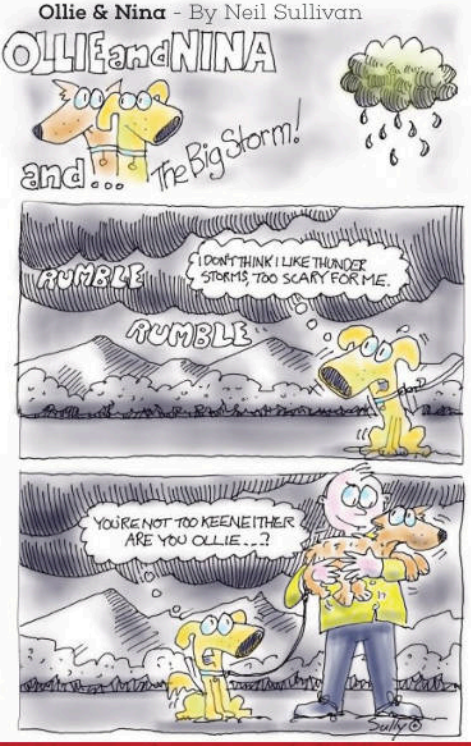
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