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JANUARY 2017

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Photo By: Audrey Rogan

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Welcome

Dear Consett,
We hope you've enjoying the Christmas festivities and the New Year celebrations!We wish you the very best for 2017. We hope you've set your New Year's resolutions with high expectations.

Let us know on Facebook or Twitter what your resolution is in 2017, so far we've heard the regular " I will start going to the Gym" and "I will cut down on my intake of alcohol" -- but the most interest has been "I will become famous"! At first, becoming famous sounds like a huge unattainable goal, but today it's even easier to become an overnight sensation. It might just take one really awesome viral video or you might want to start attending lots of auditions for TV or Films. We say, whatever your New Year's resolution may be, just do it! Go for it!

"Think Big And Don't Listen To People Who Tell You It Can't Be Done. Life's Too Short To Think Small." - Tim Ferriss

Consett Magazine's focus in 2017 is to concentrate on the good news - Consett has plenty of it.

The aim of the magazine in 2017 will be to continue producing a free local magazine which the entire Consett community can be proud of, we'll do this by encouraging local writers, photographers, and members of our community to contribute to the magazine and have their say.

Remember, if you'd like to get involved you can email us on editor@consettmagazine.com, message us on Facebook "search Consett Magazine" or visit consettmagazine.com for further information.

Best wishes,
Barry Kirkham
And The Consett Magazine Team

PS - If you'd like to promote your local business then get in touch 01207 438 292, we have a number of creative methods to help spread the good word about your business. Some of the options include online / in print adverts and advertorials, social media interaction, and email marketing.

The free Consett Magazine is designed, printed and distributed by local media company, Firefly New Media UK ; give them a call to find out how they can help you to build your online and offline business with cost-effective design, print, website design, and marketing services

Find us on: facebook.

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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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CHRISTMAS IN CONSETT – A MIXED BAG

Christmas was always a special time for me. We may not have had much money Christmas in Consettbut our parents always made sure we had something under the tree to open. I remember being so excited waking up to the smell of oranges and tangerines that had been placed neatly in my stocking at the end of my bed, along with a few small toys. That's when you knew "Santa" had been. I have tried to instil the same thing in my kids and hope that in years to come they will look back on their Christmases with the same fondness.

So I decided to look and see what I could find in Consett's past and delve into the old newspapers. Mostly I found Consett to be a very social town, the churches playing a major role. Each church and denomination came together in celebration, decorating trees and having public diners held in relevant halls and schools. There was also many hard time's. In 1866 there had been a major strike at the Iron Works which left many of the people in the area penniless.

Something I am sure many people from our time can relate to, especially during the 1970's and early 1980's. The papers at the time commented that the mood in Consett was "very quiet" for the season and in fact was "very dull occasioned, doubtless due to the ordeal the operatives in the area had had to endure over the previous months". But the people still got up, went out and sang carols in the streets, showing the true mettle of the Consett towns folk.

Christmas for us is always about good food, good company and modicum of good cheer, usually in the form of a few good drinks. However, in 1903 lots of local resident teetotallers of the Lanchester Union decided to no longer pay into the "poor rate" (a tax levied on property in the Parish to provide poor relief). The reasoning behind this was that the Guardians of the Workhouse at that time had given the residents beer with their Christmas meal, a major insult and crime in their eyes.

Our town has also had its share of Christmas tragedies, unsolved murders and much more. What does stand out across the decades is that family is at the heart of our town and you can still find that today.

Here is hoping you all had a truly wonderful Christmas and New Year.



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HOME TURF





The Turf in Front Street Consett has gone from strength to strength after being taken over by Ste and Juliette Hall.

Both lovers of good music and supporters of local bands, they have in their short time in the establishment not only provided fantastic free entertainment for a range of ages and tastes, but developed an engaging atmosphere that attracts a plethora of people who enjoy live music.

Every Saturday night is different, from blues to folk, rockabilly to punk and of course rock, there is something for everyone, and the added opportunity to see established and new up and coming talented bands. For those who like to perform themselves, there is a Buskers open mic night on the first Sunday of every month and Karaoke on Thursdays.
In it's central position the pub which was opened in the 1860's has long been a favourite meeting place.



Every day, in its comfortable inviting lounge delicious home cooked food is on offer at affordable prices, and a weekly Sunday Lunch menu is available with a takeaway option.

Ste and Juliette have had connections with The Turf for over twenty years and have been loyal patrons. Two of their friends took over the pub in 1995 and another two in 2001, so when the opportunity arose they both agreed that they would be prepared to take the leap of faith and keep the dream alive.
They have certainly done that; and with their resourcefulness, commitment and a whole lot of joie de vivre they have transformed a great old pub into a hive of energy.

For more information check out their website and Facebook page or better still, pop in to see what's on offer. You will be pleasantly surprised. Real pub, Real people, Real ale.

25 - 27 Front Street Consett
The Turf @theturfconsett

www.turfconsett.co.uk

Places to Go: Glasgow



For a winter warmer city short break, it's hard to beat Glasgow at this time of year. In January and February, advance rail fares are at their lowest, and there's an incredible choice of interesting places to visit. From the north east, Cross Country Trains runs direct into Glasgow Central, or you can use the regular Virgin Trains services into Edinburgh and Scotrail from there to Glasgow Queen Street. A third alternative is to use the Northern stopping service into Carlisle and Virgin Trains West Coast into Glasgow Central where you could stay at the Grand Central Hotel in the City Centre.

Glasgow has many attractions but my personal favourites are the Glasgow Subway and the buildings of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the famous architect (1868 - 1928). Scotland Street School tells the story of state education through the 19th and 20th centuries in one of Mackintosh's celebrated buildings, right opposite the Shields Road subway station. The subway opened in 1896 as a 6.5 mile circular route. The track gauge is 4 foot so the orange subway cars are quite small, and they run either on the clockwise outer loop or the anticlockwise inner loop. It takes just under half an hour to get round, and, as my wife says, it's the best way to see Glasgow! Not because you are underground all the time, but because you can leave the Subway at any of the 15 stations and find something of interest. Many of the museums are free, such as the Riverside Museum featuring transport and technology which is ten minutes from Partick station (National Rail and Subway). If football is your interest, get off at Ibrox station for the Rangers stadium, and tours are also available at Celtic on the other side of the city at Parkhead.

I used to enjoy staying at the Swallow Hotel on the Paisley Road (between Ibrox and Cessnock subway stations), which became more run down when Vaux group was broken up and finally closed. After an impressive full refurbishment of all 117 rooms, it has been reopened by the Crerar Hotels group as their only urban hotel. Trip Advisor rates it as the 11th best hotel (of 95) in Glasgow, and being out of the centre rates are competitive, especially so on Thursday and Sunday nights. Search for Go Glasgow Urban Hotel. If you do stay there, you will be well placed across the road from the Glasgow Climbing Centre in an old church. You can watch people climbing on ropes to dizzy heights whilst sipping a coffee in the Balcony Café. Also close by is Bellahouston Park where one of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's buildings, which he designed for a "House for an Art Lover" competition in 1901, was built in the park well after his death, opening in 1996.

Hillhead in the West End is another useful stop, Kelvinbridge too, and a day ticket on the Subway costs only £4 as a paper ticket (not on a smart card), and at Hillhead you can see two Subways opposite one another: the sandwich shop on one side and the underground railway station on the other, a short walk from the interesting Botanic Gardens. The main shopping streets are Argyle Street, Sauchiehall Street and Buchanan Street, and to the east is the Merchant City cultural quarter.

Beyond that is the well-regarded St. Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art, set in Scottish baronial style buildings, and named after the patron saint of Glasgow. Like many museums in the City, it is free to enter, a reason so many people visit Glasgow!

By Alex Nelson

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When was the last time you were seen by your Financial Adviser or do you still have one?

Financial Services has seen a huge advice gap over the last few years. This has been created with the exit of direct sales, home service providers and the withdrawal of financial advice from the majority of high street banks and building societies. There has been a high proportion of advisers leaving the industry due to the increased levels of regulation and qualifications required to provide regulated financial advice. This along with changes in Legislation and accessibility of funds including pension freedom has created more reasons to seek advice. We are still to see the impact that the Brexit vote will have.

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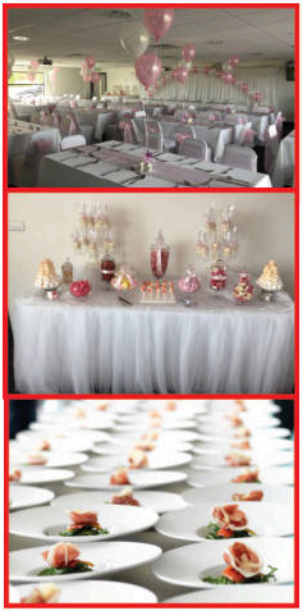
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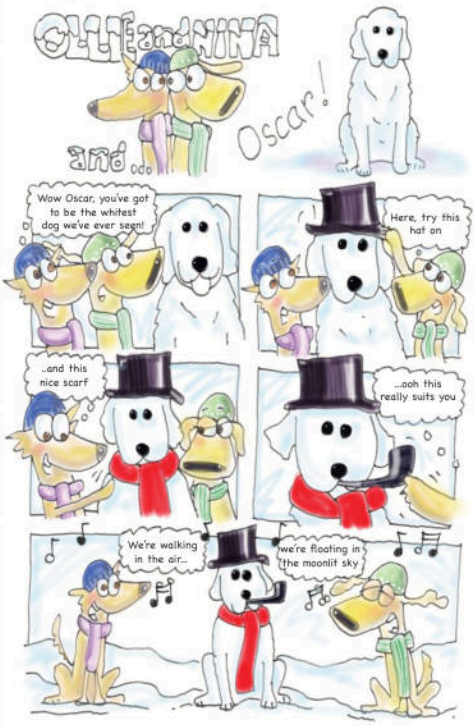
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By Neil Sullivan



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By **Christina Stubbins**
Prince Bishop Veterinary Hospital

Obesity in Pets

Now that the festive period is over, it's a great time to start thinking about your pets' health and wellbeing. Obesity is a HUGE problem in pets and can really impact on an animal's health and quality of life.

Medical problems that are associated with obesity or that can be made worse if your pet is overweight include diabetes, heart disease, osteoarthritis and high blood pressure. It can be really beneficial to ask for help and advice if you're worried your pet might be overweight and your vet or veterinary nurse will be able to help you with this. Once any medical problems have been ruled out, increasing exercise levels, reducing food intake or using special diet foods can all help your pet's weight to return to an acceptable level and improve their quality of life.

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