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FREE

OCTOBER 2017

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Welcome

Hello Consett!

This month Brian Harrison recounts a near tragic accident that took place many years ago on page 4. Lorraine Weightman go's Greek with her tale of her trip to the Aegean Sea on page 7. Success for local teens in the Rotary Youth Leadership Award Scheme on page 6. Be sure the read the heartbreaking poem to David from Mark written by Christopher Short on page 8.

The historic town of Wakefield is this months "Place to go." on page 10. Chunkcast 54.8 is back and chunkier than ever on page 15.

Got something to shout about this October? Get in touch, email editor@consettmagazine.com to speak to us about your idea for an article in print or online. And remember, we always aim to work with charities to help promote their good causes. So if you are a charity or community group, send your press releases to us and we'll help you to promote it in the Consett and DH8 area.

If you'd like to have your business included in Consett Magazine next month, you can call Barry or Marco on 01207 438 292 or email sales@consettmagazine.com.

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All the best,
Barry Kirkham
Marco Elsy,
and the everyone who contributes to Consett Magazine.

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Welcome to the October edition of Consett Magazine!

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Brian Harrison
Garry Hughes
Barry Kirkham
Marco Elsy
Frank Bell
Neil Sullivan
Lorraine Weightman
Christina Stubbins
Wayne Laidler
Alex Nelson
Christopher Short

The Front Cover

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UNFORTUNATE BUS EVENT

It was a beautiful sunny Wednesday back in August 14, 1929 when a group of mostly women and children headed off for a day trip to Whitley Bay. It was a welcome break for the working folk of the Consett area, most of them coming from the new estate The Grove, Consett. The Motor-bus picked them all up in the early morning, with all the excitement that these trips entailed. With sandwiches packed and buckets and spades to hand the party took off for the beach.

The day went off without a hitch. They arrived to a bustling beach filled with other like minded day trippers from around the area. The children revelled in the sand, the sea and the shuggy boats as well as everything else there was on offer. The day drew to a close and as the lights began to dim it was time to board the waiting Motor-bus.

With candy rock and cotton candy packed up to take home and great memories, the happy day trippers began to relax and enjoy the journey home. However, when they reach Lobley Hill near Whickham the bus, without warning, burst into flames. The 49 passengers, including eight babies in arms were thrown into a state of panic. Luckily Constable Taylor of Lobley Hill was near by and witnessed the event. He rushed to the burning vehicle and released the emergency door. As he helped people out several of the women were in a state of collapse.

Hannah Shotton of Thornfield Road, Consett broke a window to also enable people to exit quickly. She cut her wrist in the process and was one of only two who had any type of real injury, mostly due to the fast reactions of the officer and Hannah. The other injury was to a Mrs Mary Johnson (65) of Pemberton Avenue, Consett who damaged her leg during the scramble to safety.

The passengers were lead to the grass verge where they all sat in disbelief watching the bus burning. Within only a few minutes after everyone had safely alighted the bus, local residents and fire services extinguished the flames before to much damage was done to the vehicle. A Northern bus was dispatched from Consett to pick up the party and deliver them safely home from the incident, which I am sure would have stayed with many for a long time.

By Brian Harrison



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SUCCESS FOR ROTARY



Maureen Bennett, Ian Forster and the Rotary Club of Consett, John Young and the Rotary Club of Stanley

Every year in August we send young people from Consett to participate in the Rotary Youth Leadership Award Scheme (RYLA). The young people are fully funded by their sponsoring Rotary Club. The RYLA challenge takes place in Middleton in Teesdale at the Kingsway Outdoor Activity Centre and is ably led by the team from the Centre.

The young people take part in a range of challenging activities including gorge walking, abseiling, canoeing, waterfall jumping, high ropes and climbing. There are also a number of team building and leadership activities and this year they have included activities close to Rotary e.g. surviving with a Shelter Box and filtering water to illustrate the need for our WaterAid sponsorship. The course lasts five days from Monday to Friday and the young people are usually very tired by the end but many describe it 'as the best thing they have ever done!'

Young people are drawn from Clubs from the whole of the region from Berwick to Teesside. Each Club is allowed to sponsor two young people. This year we had four candidates, 2 RAF Cadets, Morgan Parker and Lloyd Benson. We also had two others Peter Cox and Molly Worsfold. All four were from Consett Academy. Stanley Rotary kindly sponsored two so all four were able to attend.

They had a wonderful time but as usual found it an exhausting week.

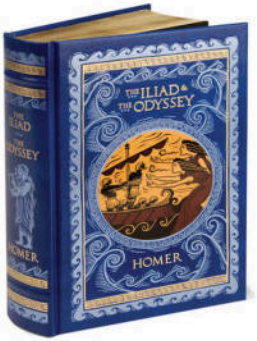
On 7th September the whole group attended an Awards Presentation at the Federation Brewery in Dunstan where they gave presentations in groups about their experiences to the delight of parents, friends and sponsoring Clubs. Then Awards were presented and we are delighted to report that Morgan Parker was presented with a trophy for the Most Inspirational Leader 2017. A great honour for Morgan, her parents, the RAF Cadets and Consett.

Our thanks to four exceptional young people from our area. It is gratifying to be able to offer them this outstanding opportunity. We look forward next year and more exceptional young people!

GREEK DIP

Always with a sense of adventure but without much common sense we decided that travelling to the Greek islands was a great idea, especially if we didn't book any accommodation, then we were free to stay where we wanted.

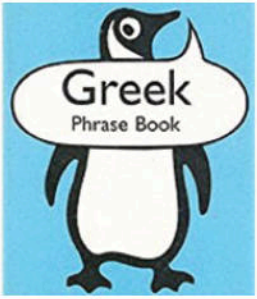
I'd been to the Army and Navy Stores to buy a lightweight red rucksack and matching sleeping bag. My friend however who had connections with Blackhill Cubs and Scouts was kitted out free of charge.



Oblivious to our limited knowledge of Greece - I had a children's book of Homer's The Iliad and Odyssey, a couple of LP's by Demis Roussos and Nana Mouskouri, and we'd seen Jason and the Argonauts three times - we felt well equipped for our trip!

Meeting in the travel agents in Middle Street we booked our flight to Athens deciding we'd make a plan when we arrived. Consett Bus Station was damp and dark at 6am as we waited for the first bus to Newcastle shivering in our holiday clothes. As a last minute decision I'd pushed my alpaca jumper in, just in case!

A blanket of scorching dry air greeted us as we walked across the tarmac. Bamboozled by the strange signs we followed the crowd consulting our Greek phrase book and map. Miraculously we reached the port of Piraeus and in the blistering heat bought tickets for the nearest island of Poros.



I'd noticed a policeman in a glass fronted kiosk and attempted to ask him, 'Where is the boat?' - ' ópou eínai to skáfos?', but my sweaty fingers slid down the page. It only made sense later why he was pointing to the bench on the pavement opposite, I'd been reading, 'Eímai ptóma stin koúrasi ' - 'I'm absolutely knackered'.

I know he wasn't amused, when overcome by heat and frustration I deposited my breakfast up the side of his kiosk.No matter the vibrant blue Aegean welcomed us and under a cloudless sky we drank in the atmosphere and the ouzo on our first boat trip. Poros was a small beautiful island and we were excited to land. However we didn't anticipate our first night's accommodation would be on a flat roof in our sleeping bags with only the white billowing washing blowing on the clothes line for cover. Deciding the island didn't offer the nightlife we were expecting, and now a dab hand with the phrase book we set off for Mykonos as we'd heard it was more lively.

The distinctive white windmills welcomed us and luckily we found accommodation with a mother and daughter who gave up their bedroom and slept in the walk in cupboard in the kitchen.

The island was vibrant and busy so we showered and changed for our night out. My friend had designed and made her own summer dress but mine was from Top Shop. In a lovely restaurant while eating peppered steak and drinking wine the owner noticed my friend's back was very red and proceeded to lather it with the yoghurt he'd brought from the kitchen telling her she must look after her fair skin.

Creased with laughter we moved on to a bar next to the beach where we met with a couple of people who were planning a midnight swim. Of course thinking this was a brilliant idea we agreed as we didn't know what skinny dipping was! Returning to the bar we sampled the local wine and spirits enjoying the lively music and Zorba the Greek entertainment, then went onto a club to dance the night away.

It was only when we sneaked into our bedroom in the early hours; looking in the mirror, we realised, we both had our dresses on inside out!

From Best Friend Mark

I'll start with last year's wedding so fantastic, very fine,
You and your darling formed a bond eternal and divine.
Being asked to be best man, an honour unto me,
Your dear wife Julie found such pride and that was down to thee.
A fourteen-year relationship, a dream forevermore,
With every anniversary hailed like the one before.
And gratitude from three dear souls for faultless parenthood,
Supportive and so perfect, way beyond the grade of good.
Jordan, now at twenty, grasping glory and ambition,
His father's way has taught him to make destiny his mission.
Amy is your daughter, ever beautiful and sweet,
At ten-years-old and counting with the whole world at her feet.
Her younger brother Declan, seeking progress unsurpassed,
Nine-years-old with faith profound and growing really fast.
Always looking up to dad who always looks his best,
Renowned for fashion David, elegant and smartly dressed.
Your love for cars has also set a very precious scene,
- A shining B.M.W. - immaculate and green.
The passion shared for motorbikes is how we both first met,
Fulfillment from our hobby is a gift I won't forget.
Our twenty-five year relationship has evoked my soul each day,
Sunshine smiles and loyalty you've kindly brought my way.
Our vow, "always together" shall eternally ring true,
For memories are golden every time I think of you.
From younger days that graced us as we gathered in Blackhill,
The kicks we sought and times we shared, each moment was a thrill.
Days gone by still bless my mind and make me feel so proud,
Drinking in The Scotch Arms with both laughs and banter loud.
Even folk you met at school when youthful in your grace,
Recall the mischief coupled with your very happy face.
In our hearts, the love we've known is magic we shall keep,
A husband, dad and super friend, our love for you so deep.
Conquering the darkness with the smiles you have inspired,
Stands you, dear David whom we've always cherished and admired.
I also need to mention all the glory you have made,
Determined and committed with such courage you've displayed.
The moral of the story is the aura you are casting,
From best friend Mark to David, the respect is everlasting.

Inspired By David Alderson,
With Love and Best Wishes,

Christopher Short.

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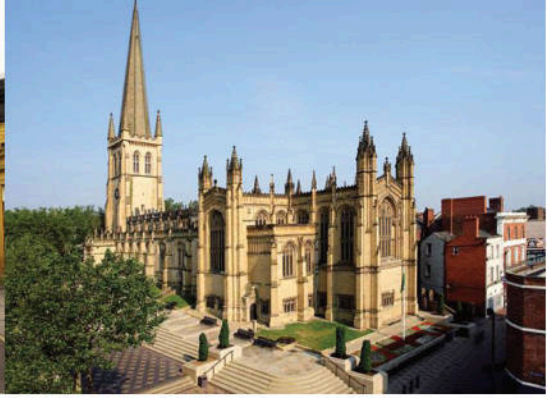

Places to Go: Wakefield

I usually try to visit the place featured in this series before writing about it. Strictly I have, because I arrived by bus one Saturday lunchtime in 2016 at Wakefield Bus Station and walked across the City to Wakefield Westgate station where I caught the train to Leeds, and then home. Half of the hour that I was in the city was spent in the Virgin Trains First Class Lounge! I also have previously visited the excellent National Coal Mining Museum for England at Overton, some seven miles by bus out of Wakefield, and thus ruled out for this article.

A day in Wakefield by train via Leeds can revolve around the Cathedral and the Hepworth Art Gallery. Wakefield is a city of 77,000 people on the river Calder, on the eastern edge of the Pennines. The railway arrived in 1840 when Kirkgate Station was built, later joined by the Westgate station. Kirkgate has recently been regenerated, but was previously one of the most neglected stations on the national network.

The most prominent landmark in Wakefield is the Cathedral, which at 247 feet (75 m) has the tallest spire in Yorkshire. Other landmarks in the Civic Quarter on Wood Street include the Grade II* Neoclassical Crown Court of 1810, Wakefield Town Hall designed by T.W. Collcutt and opened in 1880, and the Queen Anne style County Hall of 1898 which are Grade I listed. St John's Church and Square, St John's North and South Parade are part of residential development dating from the Georgian period. The Cathedral is a 14th century parish church (formerly All Saints) built on the site of earlier Saxon and Norman churches, restored by Sir George Gilbert Scott in the 19th century, and raised to cathedral status in 1888. There is also a well-preserved chantry chapel of St. Mary the Virgin on Wakefield Bridge.

In May 2011 The Hepworth gallery opened on the south bank of the River Calder near Wakefield Bridge, displaying work by local artists Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore, and other British and international artists. It is thought to be the largest purpose-built gallery to open in recent times, designed by British architect David Chipperfield and cost £35 million to build. Five weeks after opening it had received 100,000 visitors.

The Hepworth Wakefield is a structure composed of ten trapezoidal blocks; its upper-level galleries are lit by natural light from large windows in the pitched roofs. Its windows have views of the river, historic waterfront and the city skyline. The building's façade is clad with self-compacting pigmented concrete made on site, the first of its kind in the United Kingdom. The architects selected the material to emphasise the gallery's sculptural appearance. The gallery has ground-floor visitor facilities, including a café bar overlooking the river, a learning studio, a 100-seat auditorium and shop. I understand the building's brutalist design is not universally popular with local people. But the interior contains works of many well-known artists - well worth a visit.

Wakefield is known as the capital of the Rhubarb Triangle, (Wakefield / Morley / Rothwell), an area notable for growing early forced rhubarb. In July 2005 a sculpture was erected to celebrate this facet of Wakefield, and there is an annual 'Wakefield Festival of Food, Drink and Rhubarb" which takes place over the last weekend in February. Which might be an ideal time for my trip back.

Enjoy your visit to Wakefield and email me if you get there before I do. Suggestions are also welcomed for other places to be visited in this series.

By Alex Nelson

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Between September 29th and October 6th St. Patrick's Church in Consett is hosting an interactive exhibition, The Holy Shroud, curated by Pam Moon.

This exhibition is open to people of all Faiths and none. One of the purposes of the exhibition to tell the story of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The Exhibition includes a full-size copy of the Shroud of Turin; original Roman nails; a replica scourge and Roman spear. There are also several information boards about the Shroud as depicted in History and in Art and details on the latest scientific research.
There will be DVDs shown about the Shroud; a Quiz for children; refreshments and a small stall. Admission is free, donations welcome to cover costs. Opening times: 9am-4pm daily, plus two evening openings until 7pm.

For more information contact Maggie Quinn on (01207) 506425.

Pam Moon's Interactive Exhibition of

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By Neil Sullivan





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Chunkcast 54.8 - October 2017

Hi Everyone, Chunk here.

So along with the help of Billy Robson and Paul Hillary, the new studio will be born this week and our financial issues to fund our projects are not too far away from being completely resolved. The new studio will be in the heart of Consett, giving Chunkcast 54.8 a HQ in town and a special place for podcasts, Live Lounge Acoustic sets and new projects, allowing us a facility to do podcast and radio show workshops for budding new junior presenters and producers, the live streaming of interesting podcasts focussing on many subjects including Consett Heritage interests, a Live vinyl show bringing collectors and DJ enthusiasts together and playing new and old records, events coverage such as Live Music and performing arts and also I'm looking at giving Consett AFC and Consett Rugby Club a lot of coverage eventually giving people the means to follow the teams and get to know the players that represent our areas on the pitches. Eventually I'd like to create a Live Stream commentary facility for matches and have the means to listen to the matches LIVE, eventually on a FM/AM frequency.

#newmusichere2stay

My New Shows on NorthUK radio now promote and showcase signed and unsigned local and national bands/producers and musicians and gives them the airtime they deserve for all their talent and hard work.



Artists like Ben Potts and Caff from Jarrow and Just B from Ashington are doing an amazing job representing us in the UK Hip Hop Scene and our interactions have developed strongly so that Ben and Caff will be doing an Exclusive recording just for us, and will feature on the show.



I'm also working closely exchanging **#newmusic** with shows based in Manchester and Reading, giving the **#newmusic** Show a totally national feel, and in all genres and levels of Artist and bands like Toxic, Fallen Mafia and Counterfeit Youth are doing a sterling job creating new music that isd definitely 'Here2stay'.

Listen on a Tuesday and Wednesday night 9pm until Midnight on The Late Show with me Paul Owen Hunter on www.northukradio.com and if you are an unsigned local recording artist or are in a band please please get in touch and we can support you by including you in #newmusic projects based in Consett and I'll happily play you on the show. www.northukradio.com is the link to out station, it'd be great to play a track for you or dedicate one to one of your loved ones…. get in touch.



So that's it from me this month guys, look out for **#newmusichere2stay** on Facebook and Twitter and get in touch to support creative talent in our hometown. More News on the new studio in the next edition of The Consett Magazine.
Cheers
Chunk Out!!



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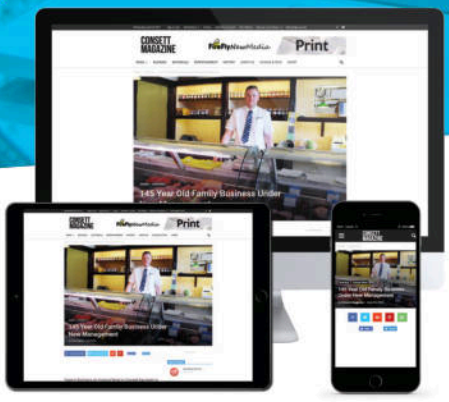

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