CONSETT MAGAZINE

MARCH 2016

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Welcome

Hello and welcome to your free March edition of Consett Magazine,

Are you ready for Spring? I know we are.

So when does Spring actually begin? To define the first day of spring it really depends on whether you follow the astronomical or meteorological seasons. This year, spring will begin on March 20 and end on June 21, if you use the astronomical method. But it starts slightly earlier, between March 1 and May 31, if you follow the meteorological calendar.

This month, we've got a number of local interest stories for you to feast your eyes upon including: "Consett Boys Club" by local historian, Brian Harrison (pages 4&5). Lorraine Weightman has written a fabulous piece titled, "March Hair" (page 6). We also find out how much Consett Air Cadets raised by packing bags for customers at Morrisons Supermarket (page 10).

A special thanks goes out to Audrey Rogan for submitting this month's front cover image. If you'd like to see your image on the front cover in April, send your best Springtime photographs (we're thinking lambs, more daffodils, and rabbits; but we'll let your imagination go wild!) to editor@consettmagazine.com

We hope you enjoy Consett Magazine and remember to visit consettmagazine.com for even more local stories, history, news, articles, videos, and photographs.

Have a wonderful day Consett!

Barry Kirkham, Marco Elsy, Firefly New Media UK and everyone who makes Consett Magazine possible.

PS - As many of you may already know, Consett Magazine is published by local media firm Firefly New Media UK; but did you know Firefly are on the lookout for some amazing people to join their team? If you are a UX/UI Web Designer, Media Advisor, or Graphic Designer see page fifteen for more information and how to apply for all the opportunities at Firefly.

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The Front Cover

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CONSETT BOYS CLUB - A CLUB FOR THE GENERATIONS

By Brian Harrison

The Consett Boys Club was founded and created initially by the Consett branch of Toc H (Talbot House), a Christian society which itself was founded in December 1915 at Poperinghe, Belgium amidst the carnage of WW1. From its humble beginnings back in 1928, the Club rented a hall in Middle Street, Consett. Its aim was to keep boys fit, healthy and grounded as well as educating them in affairs of the day through talks and educational films to help create and mould good citizens.

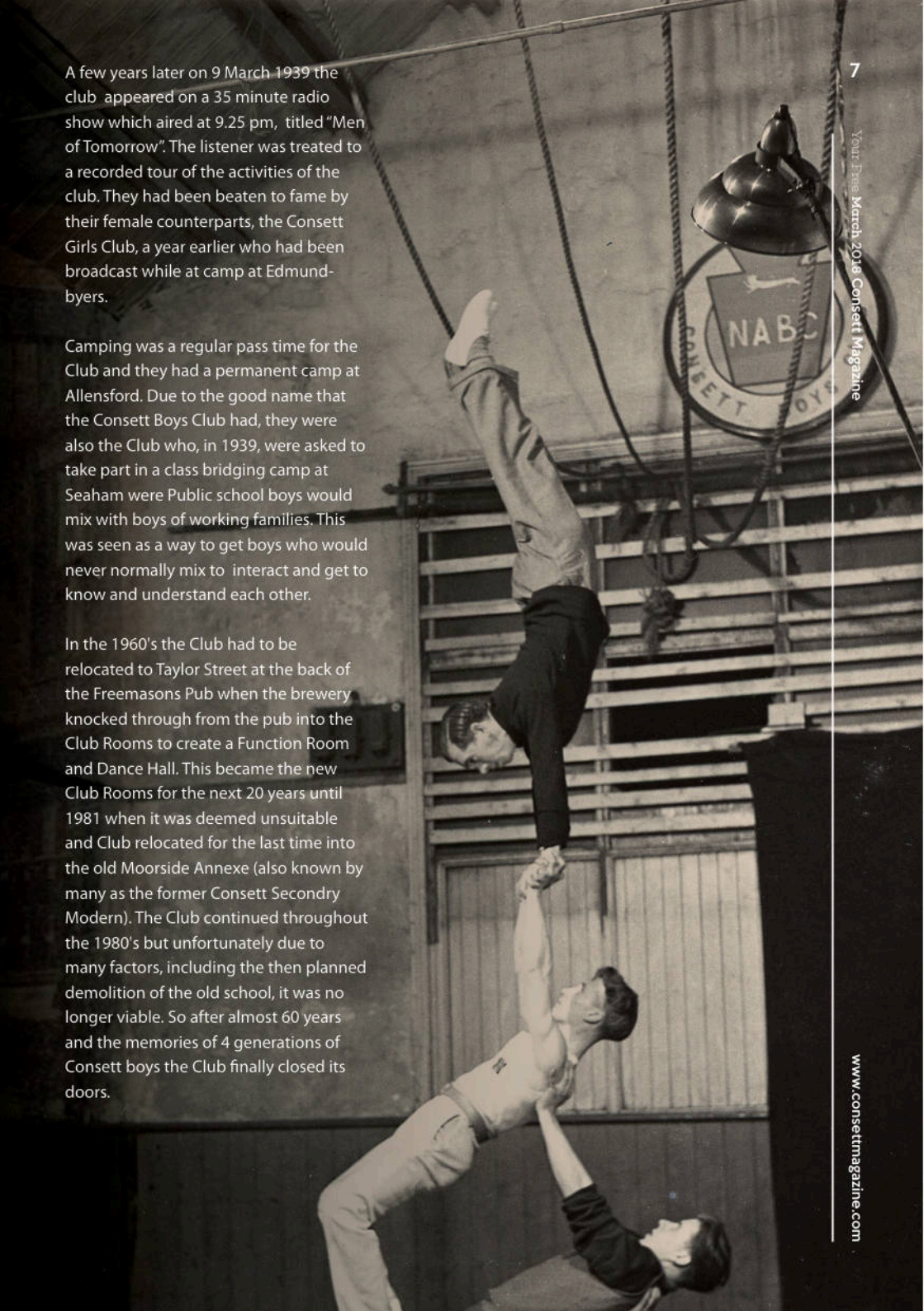
The club became so popular that within only a few years they had to move in to new premises in Wesley Street before finally moving into what would became known as the Club Rooms, Front Steet, Consett in 1931. These rooms were located in the Old Globe Theatre premises across from the Empire, now the Ballroom section of the Freemasons Pub. It was at this time that the club also became a member of the National Association of Boys Clubs. This opened up the doors to regional and national competition to which the club excelled. Over the next 3 decades they won awards for everything from boxing, football, tennis, gymnastics and even theatrical production's.
Unfortunately there was also sad times for the club. In 1937 during a football match at Delves Lane a 16 year old Consett boy, while trying to get the ball under control, is assumed to have taken a blow to the stomach.

He left the match complaining of pains and later that day was admitted to the Infirmary where he later died of a ruptured appendix. In the coroners report it was stated that this had never been heard of previously and was a million to one chance.

A few years later on 9 March 1939 the club appeared on a 35 minute radio show which aired at 9.25 pm, titled "Men of Tomorrow". The listener was treated to a recorded tour of the activities of the club. They had been beaten to fame by their female counterparts, the Consett Girls Club, a year earlier who had been broadcast while at camp at Edmund-byers.

Camping was a regular pass time for the Club and they had a permanent camp at Allensford. Due to the good name that the Consett Boys Club had, they were also the Club who, in 1939, were asked to take part in a class bridging camp at Seaham were Public school boys would mix with boys of working families. This was seen as a way to get boys who would never normally mix to interact and get to know and understand each other.

In the 1960's the Club had to be relocated to Taylor Street at the back of the Freemasons Pub when the brewery knocked through from the pub into the Club Rooms to create a Function Room and Dance Hall. This became the new Club Rooms for the next 20 years until 1981 when it was deemed unsuitable and Club relocated for the last time into the old Moorside Annexe (also known by many as the former Consett Secondry Modern). The Club continued throughout the 1980's but unfortunately due to many factors, including the then planned demolition of the old school, it was no longer viable. So after almost 60 years and the memories of 4 generations of Consett boys the Club finally closed its doors.



March Hair - By Lorraine Weightman

MARCH HAIR

Spring heralds change as the days begin to lengthen and temperatures start to climb.

And as Winter fades, a certain giddiness takes over, as our minds and bodies look forward to new beginnings. Scientists put this down to the increased serotonin in our brain, creating a feel good factor.



Bearing this in mind I remember wanting to change my hairstyle one March after seeing pictures of Jane Fonda in 'Klute' with her new shaggy look. My shoulder length hair had served me well at St Mary's Youth Club in Blackhill, where I danced twice a week to 'Spirit In The Sky', 'Sweet Caroline' and 'Honky Tonk Woman'.

But with Spring Fever upon me I lifted the scissors from the kitchen drawer and proceeded with my restyle in front of my Mam's walnut dressing table - the ones with two side mirrors so you can see yourself from all angles.

Unfortunately everything didn't go to plan!

Blame it on the blunt scissors or my total inexperience and inadequacy at creative hairdressing, but when my mother arrived home from work I looked more like Dennis the Menace than Jane Fonda!

After her initial shock, a cup of sweet tea and a digestive biscuit she marched me up to John Boyle's hairdressing salon and pleaded with him to do,



'Something with it!'

I could hear sniggering in the background from other customers as he said there was nothing much he could do, except cut it really short. I showed him a picture of Audrey Hepburn's pixie hair I'd found in a magazine but he mentioned that mine was considerably shorter than hers on the top so it might not look the same.

Resigned to my fate I watched as he sliced away the long untouched locks from the sides and back trying to match them with the hedgehog top.

I'd been so looking forward to the annual Céilí to celebrate St Patrick's Day in the church hall, and now, to the sound of snipping scissors all I could imagine was me, sitting in a corner, on a hard chair, sipping dilute orange from a plastic beaker, wearing my brother's balaclava while all my friends and family laughed and jigged the night away to the fiddle led band.

Engrossed in my nightmarish daydream, I invented ways of avoiding contact with anyone until my hair grew back, and even prayed to Saint Anthony to find me a wig that looked exactly like the hair I'd just decimated!

Returning to reality, I saw the final result in the mirror held behind my head, and with a sigh of relief nodded my approval. He'd saved the day and the smile on my Mother's face was reassuring.
I thanked him profusely, grateful for his hairdressing skills and as a treat my Mam and I popped round the corner to Rossi's for a cup of milky coffee.

And so when Céilí Day arrived, I was up there, bringing down 'The Walls Of Limerick', participating in the 'The Siege Of Ennis' and doing concentric 'Circassian Circles'.

My family laughed as I spun with joy, so pleased I'd left the balaclava at home.And to be honest, I really enjoyed feeling as mad as my March hair!

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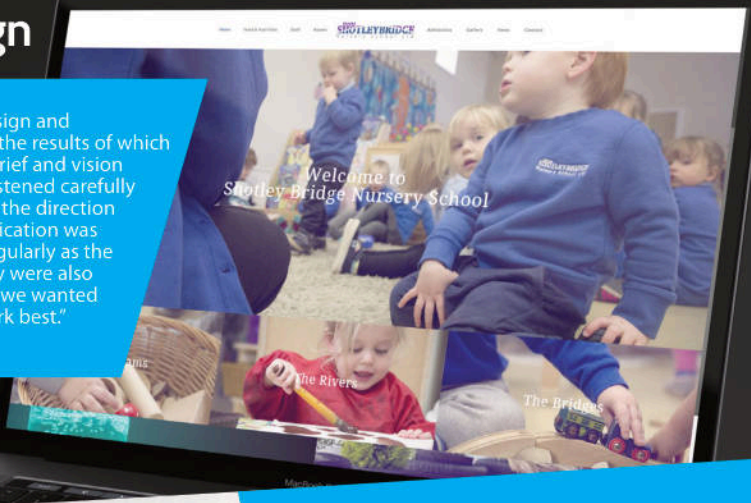
"We worked with Firefly on the design and development of our new website, the results of which are fantastic and perfectly fit the brief and vision that we wanted to achieve. They listened carefully to our needs and fully understood the direction that we wanted to go in. Communication was excellent and we were updated regularly as the website began to take shape. They were also quick to make any alterations that we wanted and advised us on what would work best."
- Mrs. L. Bowery - Co-Director





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- Mrs. L. Bowery - Co-Director

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Consett Air Cadets Raise Astonishing Amount

Cadets and staff from 1409 (Consett) Squadron Royal Air Force Air Cadets were packing bags in Morrisons Consett on Saturday and Sunday [27th & 28th]. This was part of a wider scale regional bag pack where all squadrons in the North of England were packing bags at their local stores simultaneously.

The cadets helped shoppers pack their bags as items flew through the checkouts during their two six-hour stints, and thanks to the generous shoppers of the store, they managed to raise an amazing £2176.55.

Squadron Adjutant, 1409 (Consett) Squadron, CI Luke Bateson said "I think it's fair to say this has been a hugely successful bag pack – in every respect. The squadron's cadets & staff who took part did an excellent job and worked well with Morrisons staff who were extremely supportive."

"We have also received many positive comments regarding the behaviour, smartness and helpfulness of the cadets from customers who were in the store"

"On behalf of the squadron, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took part and a massive thank you to the Morrisons customers for their outstanding generosity."
The money will be split between the squadron, Air Cadets North and Clic Sargent – a cancer charity supporting children, young people and their families.



LGBT+ drop in for young people.

Thanks to a grant from Awards for All we are able to offer a drop in for all LGBT+ young people in the area from 6 – 7.30pm on a Wednesday evening.

We identified the need for this through our detached work around in the villages around Consett since the closure of the Steel Works in 1981. Speaking to the young people and our own research has highlighted there is nothing similar in the immediate area, although much needed.

We are offering a safe place for them to come, be themselves, and socialize with others without fear or prejudice. They will have the opportunity to plan activities and outings as well ask join in workshops on issues affecting them, giving them information regarding services available to them and the confidence to access them.

Although support and counselling will be available if required it is aimed at providing a fun and sociable evening where all young people can join in.

We are always open to new ideas to improve our service. The venue is confidential, if you are interested or know anyone who may be please message us on our Facebook page, email or telephone.

Activities for young people in Moorside/Castleside
Our detached youth workers are regularly in the area engaging with young people, however we have now been offered access to the newly refurbished St. Johns Village Hall. We will be opening on a Tuesday evening 4.30 – 6.30 p.m where young people are invited to come along, join in activities and initiate new ones. We offer arts/crafts; boxercise; as well as outdoor activities, ie. Theme parks, activity centres. Drop in for a drink and snack, keep out of the cold and give us your ideas.

Umbrella Community Centre
We are excited to be invited to work alongside the Polish community at their Umbrella Community Centre to provide activities for all young people on a Thursday evening. If you like having fun, taking part in new challenges, learning different languages, habits and cultures, taste different foods, bored and want something to do please come along between 4.30 – 7.30 p.m. It's a great venue with lots going on.

Contact us:
Facebook: Consett Detached Youth Project
Tel: 01207 501863
Email: consettchurches@btconnect.com
Youth workers will be detached in local areas between 3.30 – 5.30 on a Wednesday evening.

DH VAPES

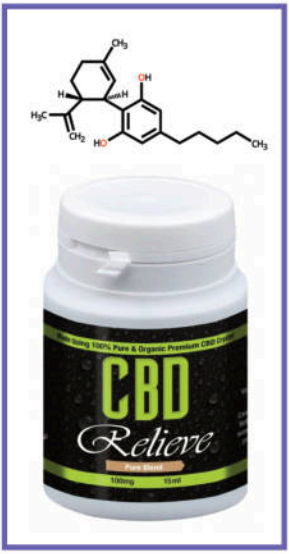
Demand for CBD Oil
Skyrockets in County Durham

According to the Cannabis Trades Association UK, the number of cannabidiol (CBD) users has doubled over the past year skyrocketing from 125,000 to 250,000.

And, demand for the supplement has been met after local business **DH Vapes** started stocking **CBD Relieve** products.

CBD is a natural product used by many to ease symptoms of various ailments from joint pain and multiple sclerosis to anxiety and depression, CBD oil does not give its users a high as it contains less than 0.2 per cent of the psychoactive tetrahydrocannabinol – as such, it is legal to buy and consume in the UK.

Since hitting **DH Vape's** shelves sales of it's CBD relieve are exploding as people have flocked to buy the 15ml bottles from just **£25.00.**



"We have been overwhelmed at the success and popularity of CBD oil since its launch,"

said Daniel Robley, one of **DH Vape's** founders.

"We are constantly on the lookout to bring new and innovative products to market that help our customers."

Micheal Campbell, the other founding member of **DH Vape's** said:

"It is great to see in this instance that we have been able to supply the North East market to keep up with demand."

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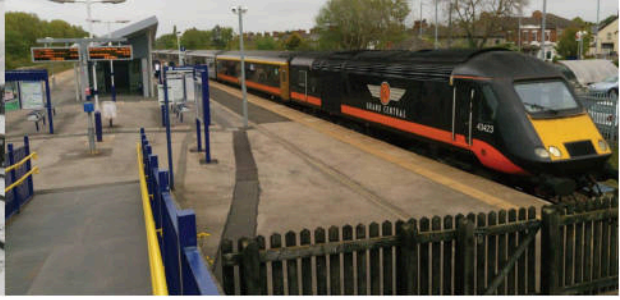

Places to Go: A Journey coming to an End

This series has been running in some publications since 2002, encouraging people to take to the rails from their local station, and visit places of interest throughout the United Kingdom, sometimes even to Eire and continental Europe. Some articles have led to groups travelling by train as a result, perhaps away just for the day, or for nights away to enjoy an area in more depth. The series started with Saltburn by the Sea, always a favourite, and led to a large group taking the train, changing at Darlington where my daughter, then quite small, wanted to go to the toilet. The connecting train left on time minus said daughter who arrived at Saltburn half an hour later with Pauline, now my wife.

I have always researched places personally and have only once had to admit defeat in finding interesting things to do. This was at Northallerton where the town has plenty of coffee shops and retailers, but that alone does not make a day out. Thirsk was much more interesting. Years later two of my apprentices (Henry and Ali from Eaglescliffe station) had a great day out on the Wensleydale Railway from Northallerton West, with a walk over the fields to visit Castle Bolton.

Tickets to most of my recommended destinations can be purchased from Chester-le-Track, which runs two stations at Chester-le-Street (since 1999) and Eaglescliffe (since 2011). We currently have five staff at CLS and three at EAG, five men and three women, six of whom were recruited as apprentices, some direct from school, who have learned how to plan journeys and issue tickets throughout the UK. We book to 2,563 stations in Great Britain, more in Northern Ireland, more PlusBus destinations, airport coaches, Metro stations and other light rail services, and pioneered the sale of Oyster cards outside London in 2006. At first, though, Transport for London were not keen on us reselling Oysters and summoned me to their 55, Broadway HQ for a dressing down. We won in the longer term: anybody in the travel trade can now place an order at 13% commission. Time has moved on. Contactless cards valid on buses, trains and tubes are now a better deal than Oyster pay-as-you-go. They are even now accepted on buses and Metro in the north east, as well as at CLS and EAG.

A combination of higher internet sales with special internet-only offers, forthcoming introduction of on-platform electronic ticket machines, stalling demand for rail travel, falling or insufficient revenues, new smart cards appearing soon (a north-east version of Oyster), withdrawal of support for our current office ticket machines, and minimum wage leapfrogging our rates of pay prompted the decision to close. The is little prospect of improvement in any of the above situations.

We have always accepted that passengers arriving from elsewhere and returning again will never purchase tickets from us. But it is galling that now only 20-30% of originating traffic at our stations purchase their tickets at the station. So when we close at Chester-le-Street, who will open and close and keep an eye on the waiting room? The websites cannot monitor the toilets, and the coffee machine. How long would an unattended waiting room last in good order? At Eaglescliffe who will advise you how to travel when the Grand Central is cancelled or delayed?

So we'll be closing on Easter Saturday 31st March and hope you will pop by in to see Helen 1 and Helen 2 at Chester-le-Street along with Paul, Tony and Jack and buy your tickets from staff with 2,000 hours of experience every year in finding you the best fare. At Eaglescliffe, another Paul, Ali and Henry have developed the business with irregular visits from me. Together they are a great team, and I wish them all the very best for the future.

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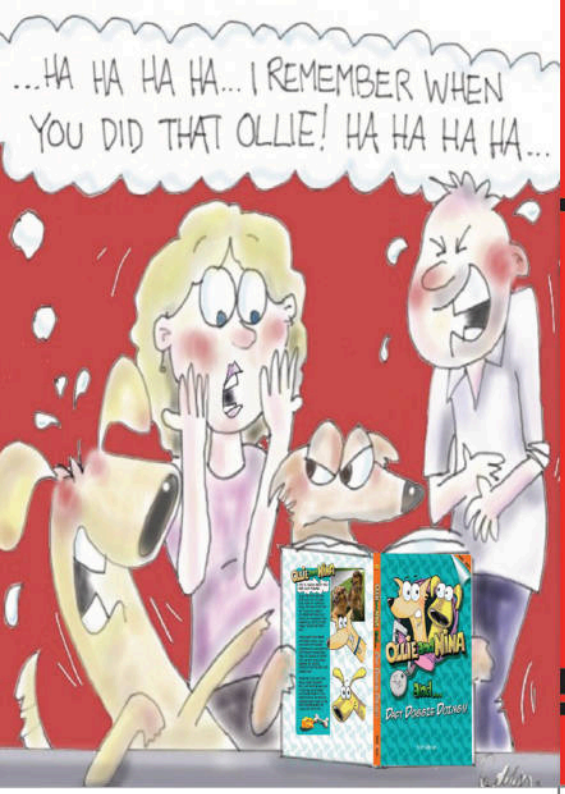

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By Christina Stubbins
Prince Bishop Veterinary Hospital

TICKS

As spring approaches, pet owners should start thinking about how they can protect their dogs and cats against tick-borne diseases.

Ticks are small parasites that attached on to animals and humans to feed off their blood. The bites themselves are not painful, but dangerous diseases (such as Lyme disease) can be transmitted while the tick is feeding so it's important our pets are protected.

There are several proven anti-tick products available and they come in a monthly spot-on preparation, as a three-monthly tablet, or as a collar which provides seven continuous months of protection. Your vet will be able to speak to you about the most appropriate product for your pet as this does depend on their lifestyle, what other parasite products they may be on, and any drug sensitivities that they may have.

If you do find a tick on your pet, it is best to remove it as soon as possible. This can be done at home with a special tick remover, closely following the recommended instructions, or alternatively the team at your local veterinary practice will be able to do it for you.

http://princebishopvets.co.uk/client-advice/



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I am the newest & freshest up-and-coming electronic music producer, composer, songwriter, DJ & record label founder hailing from Consett, County Durham, under the artist name 'BuZZila'. Show your support & like my official Facebook page! Massive thanks for all your loyal following so far."

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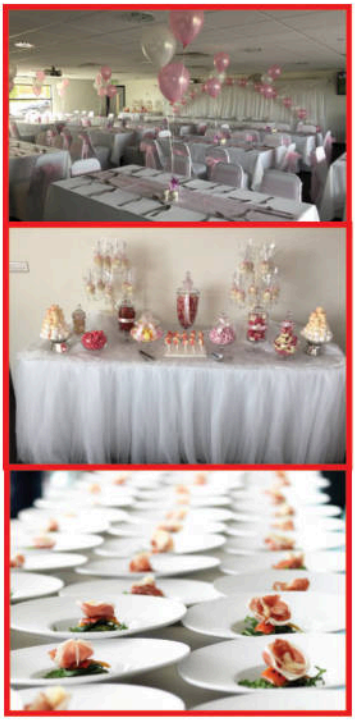


THE EMPIRE
THEATRE & CINEMA

WHAT'S ON

Spring/Summer 2018



THE BAY CITY ROLLERS

Starring
LES McKEOWN

Sat 3rd March

£22.50



BEYOND THE BARRICADE

Musical theatre concert

Sat 10th March

£22.00



PSYCHIC SALLY

Kisses To Heaven Tour

Wed 28th March

£24.00



THE MAGIC OF THE BEATLES

Fri 20th April

£20 / £19 concs.



SERIOUSLY DEAD

A musical comedy play

Sat 21st April

£20 / £19 concs.



JOE McELDERRY IN CONCERT

Fri 27th April

£22.00



YOU WIN AGAIN

The music of the
BEE GEES

Sat 12th May

£23 / £22 concs.

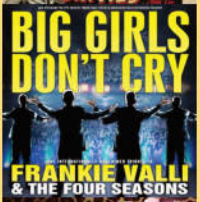


BRINGING ON BACK THE 60s

NEW AMEN CORNER
and special guests

Sat 19th May

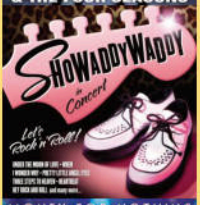
£19.50



BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY

Fri 1st June

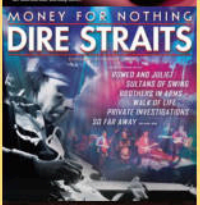
£22.00



SHOWADDYWADDY

Sat 23rd June

£21.00

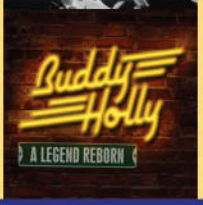


MONEY FOR NOTHING

Tribute to DIRE STRAITS

Fri 6th July

£20 / £19 concs.



BUDDY HOLLY

A legend reborn

Sat 14th July

£20 / £19 concs.

The Empire also has a great line-up of Event Cinema...

RSC
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
LIVE FROM STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

RSC LIVE:
MACBETH
Wed 11th April
£14 / £12 concs.

RSC LIVE:
ROMEO & JULIET
Wed 18th July
£14 / £12 concs.

AN AMERICAN IN PARIS
Wed 16th May
£16.00



Box Office: 01207 218 171 **Online: www.leisureworks.net**

The Empire Theatre, Front Street, Consett DH8 5AB

Business Durham

Tanfield Lea Business Centre

Contemporary office space for businesses wanting to grow and thrive.







- Excellent location less than 10 minutes to the A1 and easy to reach from Newcastle, Gateshead and Durham
- Flexible, easy in, easy out, lease terms and competitive rates to support the growth of your business
- Everything you'd expect: ample car parking, conferencing facilities, managed reception, and office services
- And more: Business Durham isn't just a landlord, our dedicated staff will work with you to maximise your business potential

Contemporary office space - Conferencing - Virtual office

Tanfield Lea Business Centre: the perfect place to locate your business. Find out more:

+44 (0) 207 291291

www.businessdurham.co.uk/tanfield

enquiries@businessdurham.co.uk

@_BusinessDurham

Business Durham is supported by: Durham County Council

We have dry cleaned carpets & upholstery in over 100,000 homes

Can you imagine this
Dry Carpet Cleaning

Just say "NO" to wet carpets in your home



Get Main Room Cleaned save 50% on all further rooms + Free Stain Protection

Spills & spots - gone
Smells & odours - removed
Deep cleans & lifts carpet pile - like new

Picture this... in your home

Nice Fresh Clean Upholstery on
Leather • Suede • Fabric



Fantastic service, my carpets came up like new, I would highly recommend them.
Mrs Cherry

Find us on: facebook



Locally based
You can call us for FREE on
0800 180 46 48
zerodrytime.com

zero dry time™
Dry Carpet, Upholstery & Hard Floor Cleaners

We also clean hard floors, tiles inc Grout, Karndean, Amtico and Wooden floors - Ask for a quote

No Hassle Carpet Cleaning



zero dry time™

Dry Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners

Zerodrytime dry Carpet, upholstery and hard floor specialists have 4 great solutions for your home, dry carpet cleaning, upholstery cleaning, hard floor cleaning and wooden floor restoration.

Its carpet cleaning – but not as you know it…
The 'on your hands and knees, scrubbing and carrying dirty water' process is now a thing of the past. With the advancement of new technology and products, Zerodrytime have developed a fully robust cleaning system that will enable us to give… you, the home owner what you want when having your carpets cleaned.

"Dry carpets and upholstery ready for immediate use with no fuss" – what's not to like!

Imagine if you were having your carpets cleaned, would you like to be told: "that they're fresh, dry, clean and ready to use for immediate use."

OR "they are wet, please keep your children, pets and furniture out of the room with the heating on and windows open until they are dry."

At zerodrytime we have developed our own unique range of environmentally friendly products that have been tested to industry standards.

- Environmentally friendly
- Safe for babies, young children and animals
- Sanitises and deodorises
- Removes tough stains
- Leaves environments fresh and clean.

Do you have a problem with slippy hard floors in your home?

Our " invisible Antislip System" can be applied to quarry, ceramic & porcelain tiles, bath tubs and shower trays.

Making your home or workplace a safer environment. Help prevent slips on all wet floors including, showers, kitchens, toilets, bathrooms, conservatories, hot tubs, Jacuzzi's, office and shop-fronted areas.

For a free no obligation quote on all flooring and upholstery cleaning requirements call Harry, locally based in Consett on 0800 180 46 48

Creative Business Park

Self Storage, Offices and Units for Rent

Call: 0191 373 1113 **Visit:** www.creative-park.co.uk

Creative Business Park Ltd, Creative Park, Riverside Ind Est, Langley Park, Durham, DH7 9TT



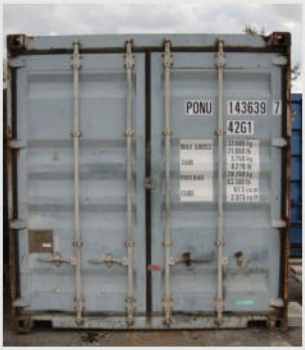
Office Space for Rent

First floor office space - divided into 3 offices.
Carpeted, full lighting and ready to move in.
A comfortable working space, toilets close by,
Kitchen area downstairs
Fully serviced facilities, red care alarm.



New light industrial Units for Rent

From 700 sqft to 1,200 sqft.
Suitable for manufacturing and warehousing
Metal Clad Building with side door for personel,
Large Sliding doors for general use. Tap in unit.
Good Quality Concrete floor.



Self-contained storage 24ft

Containers available access 24/7

Large Yard for Rent

Industrial open space
Very good hard standing.
Toilets and Canteen available
on Creative Business Park If
required Office space available.

Call: 0191 373 1113 **Visit:** www.creative-park.co.uk