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JULY 2018

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Welcome

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

Dear Consett,

The weather has been really nice these last few weeks and we're hoping that its going to continue throughout the summer! Everything always looks better in the sun, be it the flowers in you your back garden, that pint of beer or cider you've just poured or the squeaky clean car in the drive! Sunshine equals fun time.

In this issue we have our regular history favourites from Brian Harrison on pages 4 and 5, As well as Lorraine Weightman's piece on pages 8 and 9.

We'd like to remind our readers that they can visit Consett Magazine's website for even more local news!

As always, we're very interest in everything you do! If you've got a great story, image, or video that you think might be interesting to other Consett Magazine readers then please email us at editor@consettmagazine.com

Don't forget to visit the Consett Magazine website for the latest news and special promotional offers that can promote your business in the North East.

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Kindest regards,
Barry Kirkham, Marco Elsy and everyone whose contributed to this months magazine!

PS- if you'd like to advertise your business to 10,000 + in Consett next month just call us on 01207 438292

Contributors

Brian Harrison
Barry Kirkham
Marco Elsy
Frank Bell
Neil Sullivan
Lorraine Weightman
Christina Stubbins
Alex Nelson
Audrey Rogen
Megan Potts
Leslie Rutherford

The Front Cover

Thanks to Audrey Rogan
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:
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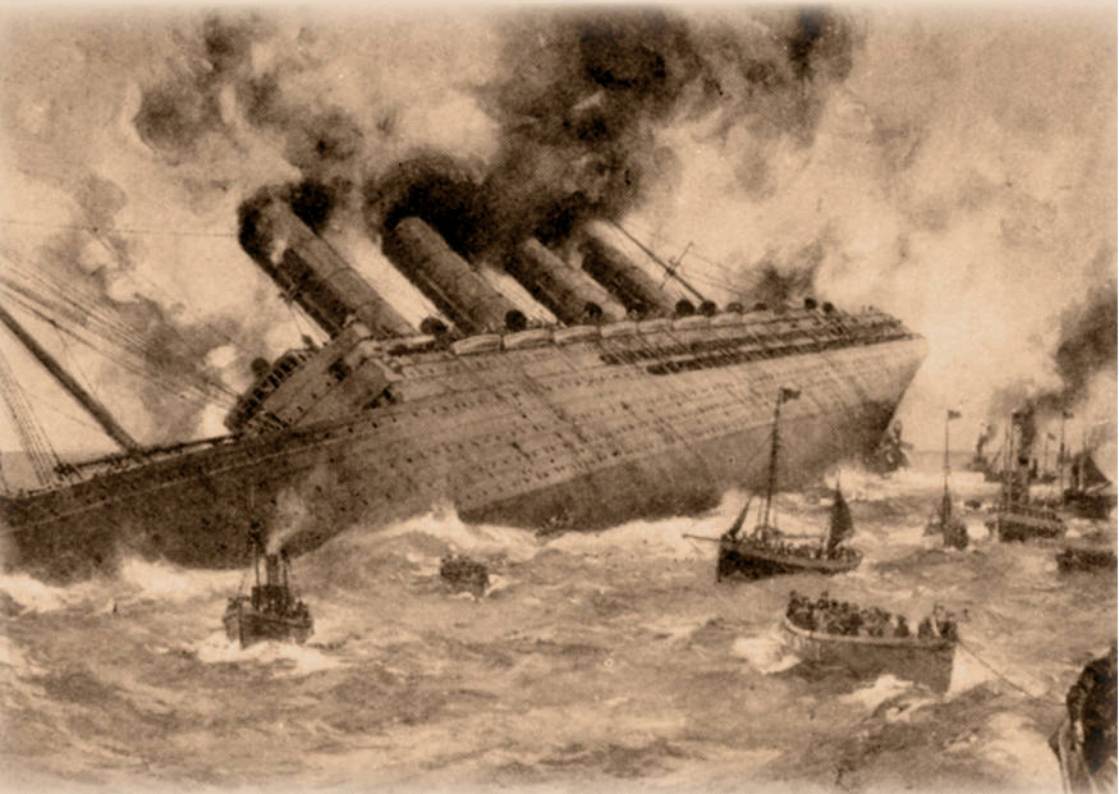
THE SINKING OF A SHIP
AND THE LOCAL GIRL WHO SURVIVED

By Brian Harrison

Elizabeth Tirzah Todd was born 19th December 1866 in Leadgate, Consett, Co Durham daughter of Edward Todd a local Butcher and Grocer and his wife Emma Maria nee Oxley. She married Thomas Peacock a Colliery Surveyor at Sacriston on 2nd May 1890. The couple had their first child Winifred the following year also in Sacriston before moving to Staffordshire. There the couple had 3 more children Walter in 1895 who died in infancy, Thomas Edward Todd in 1898 and finally Joseph in 1899 who also died in infancy. A few years later in 1905 Thomas decided it was time to make a new life for the family and headed for the United States, eventually ending up in Arizona. Elizabeth and the two children joined him 6 years later aboard the Lusitania, departing Liverpool 22nd January 1911 bound for New York. Like many people of that time, they saw the USA as a new beginning with better prospects and a new way of life.

Within a few years the family had settled into their new lives in Jerome, Yavapai, Arizona and all was going well. Thomas was employed in a good job, Winifred had married, Thomas Edward was in school and Elizabeth had fully embraced her new community. However disaster struck, Thomas took ill and died on 26th December 1914. The family were devastated.

Soon Elizabeth's thoughts turned to family and home. So she booked her tickets on the very ship on which she had travelled 4 years previous. So carrying 1,959 people (1,257 passengers and 702 crew), the Lusitania left New York on its 202nd Atlantic crossing on 1st May 1915 with Elizabeth and son Thomas Edward aboard. It was to be a journey that would forever stay in their memories as well as change the course of the "Great War".



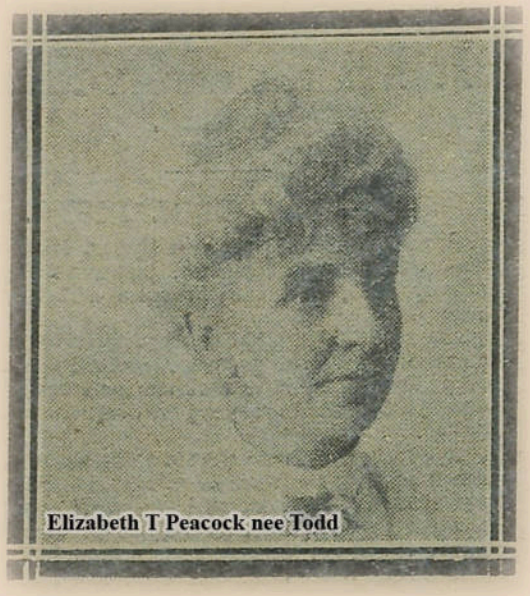
In response to Britain's blockade of Germany the Germans announced a policy of "Unrestricted submarine warfare" and would fire on any ship showing the British or allied flags. In March they had carried out this threat by sinking the HMS Falaba off the coast of Ireland with the loss of over a 100 lives. But many believed this to have been a one of incident.

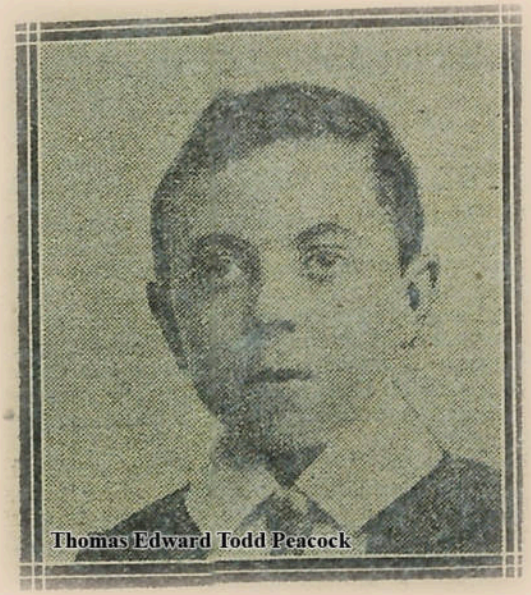
It was Captain Turner who in charge of the Lusitania and was flying a neutral flag. He had also been warned that the German U- Boat's may still be in operation in and around the Irish channel and to keep up his speed and make zig-zag movements in and around those waters. Unfortunately the weather on that ill fated day was heavy fog giving poor visibility, so Turner reduced his speed and took a direct line route believing that there would not be a problem.
At 2.09pm on the 7th May 1915 only a 11 miles off the coast of Ireland, Elizabeth and Thomas Edward found themselves amidst sheer panic. A German U-Boat captained by Captain Schwieger from a range of 700 metres ordered his men to fire a torpedo hitting the Lusitania directly on its starboard side.

Within 18 minutes and amidst sheer chaos the Lusitania sunk with the loss of 1,195 souls, both British and American. In all, only 289 bodies were recovered, 65 of which were never identified The remaining survivors aboard life rafts (many of which had overturned while lowering into the water) and anything else that could float watching in horror, Elizabeth and Thomas Edward amongst them. Many of the survivors claim to have heard a second explosion just prior to the final sinking of the ship, but the U-boat captain disputed that saying that only one shot was fired. It was almost 2 hours before rescue came.

The US government condemned the action as cowardly and although it was two more years before they entered the war state this as one of the main catalysts. Elizabeth and Thomas Edward were rescued and eventually returned to England along with the other survivors to awaiting crowds who had gathered to meet them. It was a time of heavily mixed emotions sad and sombre for the people with lost loved ones and joy for the fewer who had survived.

A day later on the 10th May they eventually arrived at Elizabeth's sisters home in Burnopfield, Mrs Boland, wife of Doctor Boland. The pair had been very lucky and spent the next 2 months catching up with their family in and around Consett and Stanley area's before bravely boarding the ship "New York" on 10th July and heading back to Arizona. Elizabeth the local girl from Leadgate who braved the adventures of the new world and survived the sinking of the Lusitania finally past away in 1952 in Riverside, California, USA at the grand age of 86.


Elizabeth T Peacock nee Todd


Thomas Edward Todd Peacock

DMA LAW JULY 2018





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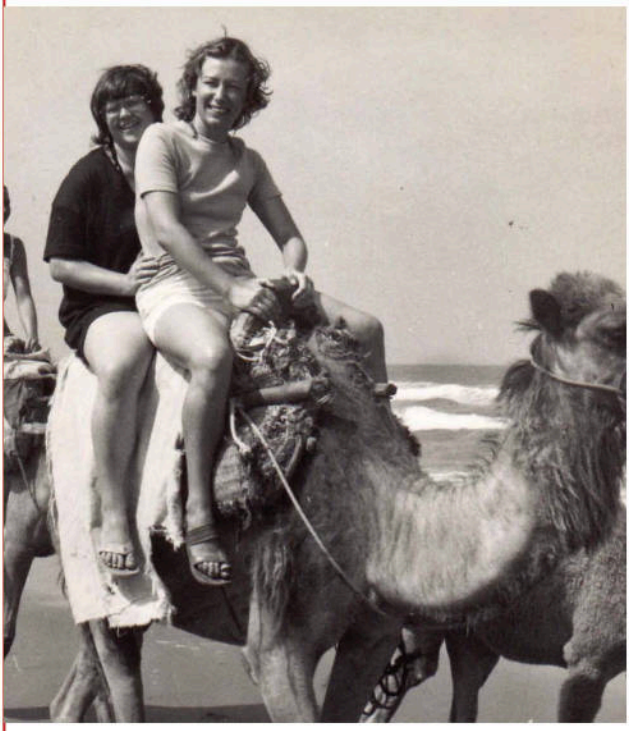
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AS TIME GOES BY



I've always loved the film Casablanca. Watching it when I was young with my mother I perceived it through rose coloured glasses enamoured by the love triangle between Ingrid Bergman, Paul Henreid and Humphrey Bogart, totally unaware of any back story or conflict.

So when it was time to look for a summer holiday, the brochure in the travel agents in Middle Street caught my eye immediately, with a huge advertisement on the front for 'Camp Africa' in Morocco. With enthusiasm on my side I persuaded my friends that living in a mud hut for two weeks would be great fun and it only cost £99 for the whole holiday! Furthermore it was advertising trips to Casablanca!

Equipped with back packs and factor 50 we flew from Manchester to Tangier and were transported by coach to the camp near Asilah. With my romantic head on I marvelled at the basic accommodation close to the beach and the cold outdoor communal showers - that ran out of water at 10am daily. Ignoring the looks on all my friends faces, I promptly signed us up for horse riding along the beach and a camel trek, determined to have an adventure.

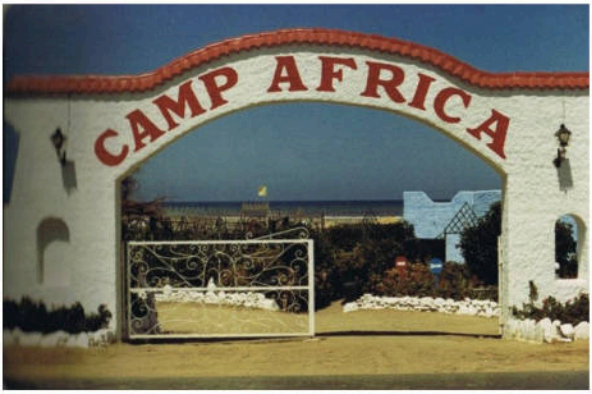
And we did. Sharif with a mouthful of gold teeth was in charge of horse riding. After asking our names he paired us with horses he thought would suit and spent the whole hour laughing that he had given Janice, Tonic!

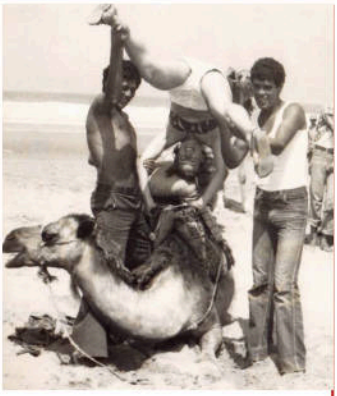
We rode along the beautiful beach with the Sirocco winds blowing in our hair - or at least four of us did. - Tonic was drawn to the sea and nothing could persuade him to move as he stood perfectly still, knee deep in water staring at the horizon.

The July heat was blistering and our fair northern skins couldn't cope. This was when we noticed Fatima, a large local lady who seemed to be smearing mud over people's bodies to help them tan. Of course we joined in.

Standing in only our pants outside the toilet block we paid upfront to be covered form head to foot in what we found out later was henna, yet it did the trick and we didn't burn.

The camel trek was something else. Not the most comfortable way to travel but certainly enjoyable.
We were taken on a picnic and encouraged to play party games and pose upside down for photos. I think the free drinks they doled out on the journey may have encouraged us to play to the camera.
There seemed to be loads to do and we wanted to do everything. For me it was





going on a day trip to Casablanca to sing 'As Time Goes By' in Rick's Bar. Hollywood has a lot to answer for!

At the last minute the trip was cancelled as the rep said they had been advised not to go because of unrest. Extremely disappointed but determined to make the best of things we took the bus to the bazaar. Here, our guide - who must have been on some kind of commission - whizzed us through the winding streets to his mate's carpet and leather shop. Once inside we were harassed to buy, and when we asked prices were encouraged to barter. Getting the the hang of it after a while we managed to get the prices down.

However that didn't stop us leaving with at least three handbags each. I looked like a contestant from Crackerjack as I attempted to juggle a leather pouffe, a fez, four leather bound lighters and a pair of pointy turned up at the toes red leather sandals!
After this eye opening shopping experience, at the end of the first week, weary with cold showers, the scuttling insects, the wafer thin mattresses on earth floors and the basic tummy crunching food; we decided a trip to Gibraltar was on the cards and caught the boat from the port.

On arrival we delighted at the cute restaurants serving tea and Heinz tomato soup. We relished every mouthful and debated staying there for a few days pooling our money. Of course we couldn't afford to do that so we drowned our sorrows by sightseeing and having our photos taken with the monkeys on the rock - known as the Barbary apes. After a fantastic day we were back on the boat to camp. The only thing to do after dinner was to join in the karaoke - the one entertainment in the bar - apart from a dart board and a pool table - and drink the wine and cocktails which the locals mixed in a bucket!

I wasn't sure if it was the shark and chips I'd eaten at dinner blended with the red cocktail concoctions, but my only memory the next morning was of standing on the pool table at midnight leading a chorus of the children's song 'Down in the Jungle where nobody goes
There's a big fat elephant washing his toes!' encouraging everyone to belt out, 'With a rub a dub here, And a rub a dub there…

At breakfast no one could understand why I didn't respond when four tables in the dining room stood up and welcomed me in with,
' Didderley aye aye, a boogie woogie woogie,
That's the way he washes his toes!'





Bichester Roman Fort Reopens To Public



The visitor centre at one of County Durham's most important Roman sites has reopened to the public following an essential refurbishment programme.

The improvements at Binchester Roman Fort, near Bishop Auckland, include a new building to replace the aged structure which covered the remains of the site's Roman bathhouse and was no longer fit for purpose.

The new timber building will provide better protection from the weather for the valuable remains. The interior has also been designed to replicate that of the original baths, with detailed mural designs.

The refurbishment scheme has also included the creation of a new reception building and the installation of an electricity supply in the visitor centre.

Cllr Ossie Johnson, Cabinet member for tourism, culture, leisure and rural issues, said: "Binchester offers a fascinating insight into what life was like for the Romans of County Durham and is an important part of the county's cultural offer.

"These improvements will greatly enhance the experience for visitors, helping us remain connected to our past but also helping to secure the site's future as a visitor attraction."

Dating back to 75AD, Binchester, originally known as Vinovia, was once one of the largest Roman military installations in the north of England.

As well as the impressive bathhouse, which is situated next to what would have been the commanding officer's residence, Binchester features Britain's only hypocaust (under-floor heating system) with its upper floor intact.

Visitors can also view the remains of the regimental bath building where the original Roman masonry still stands to a height of more than two metres above the original floor level.

Binchester is open seven days a week from 11am to 4.30pm during June, from 10am to 4.30pm from July to September, and from 11am to 4.30pm during October.

For more information about the site, visit durham.gov.uk/binchester

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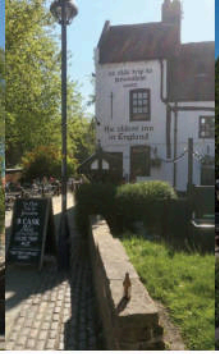
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Places to Go: Nottingham

If you ask a railway booking clerk in the north east for a ticket to Nottingham, he or she is likely to take a moment's thinking time before evaluating the options. Even an electronic ticket machine is likely to stop for an extra second or two. That's because Nottingham is one of the few large cities without a direct service from the north east, and there at least four sensible ways to get there, all with their own fares and schedules. I most recently travelled by East Coast (LNER as we shall learn to call it since the demise of Virgin Trains East coast) outward via Newark North Gate and return via Grantham, but you can go with Cross Country trains from the north east changing at Sheffield, derby or even Chesterfield. On the way, via Newark, the little connecting train trundled out of the station and turned right on to the line to Lincoln, stopped, and reversed back over the unusual flat bed crossing (like a crossroads for trains) across the East Coast Main Line to go semi-fast to Nottingham. There was a big fire, believed to be arson, at Nottingham's imposing station in January, but it is now only affecting a small part of the station at platform 7. Apart from the burned down bit, it is a grand station, rebuilt in 1904 at a cost then of £ 1 million, more like £100m today.

If a public transport professional died and went to heaven, he might wish to end up in a celestial Nottingham. Public transport is amongst the best in the country with two excellent and award-winning bus operators, Nottingham City Transport and Trent Barton, and the NET (Nottingham Express Transit) trams now running through the City with a new extension to the south. I stayed at the Premier Inn on Goldsmith Street and was delighted to find there was a cross-city centre fare between the railway station and the tram stop outside my hotel for only £1.

Despite all these excellent buses and trams, I enjoy exploring the city on foot, interspersed with excellent ales in the City's many pubs. The oldest, pictured, is Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem, in the shadow of the Castle which you can also visit, which has a range of real ales and little nooks and crannies to drink in. That claims to be the oldest inn in England, dating from 1189. But if you cross the city to the Market Place, the Bell Inn claims to be the oldest pub in Nottingham, dating from 1437. They cannot both be right, and to confuse the situation further, the Salutation dates from 1240. The Salutation is named after the meeting of the Archangel Gabriel and the Virgin Mary – which certainly did not happen in Nottingham – and has a fascinating cave underneath the pub which I persuaded the landlord to show me a few years ago. Ye Olde Trip and the Bell are both owned by Greene King, so you would think they could sort the matter out!

Apart from many excellent pubs, try the museums. The Museum of Nottingham Life is currently closed for refurbishment, but the National Justice Museum on High Pavement is in a building on the east side of the City Centre which has been a court since 1375 and a prison since 1449. They even provide educational services to the Royal Courts of Justice in London. Ice Centre, Theatre Royal, and Park Tunnel (built too steep for horse-drawn carriages at 1:12 which defeated the object of its construction) and many more – take your choice.

nationalrail.com

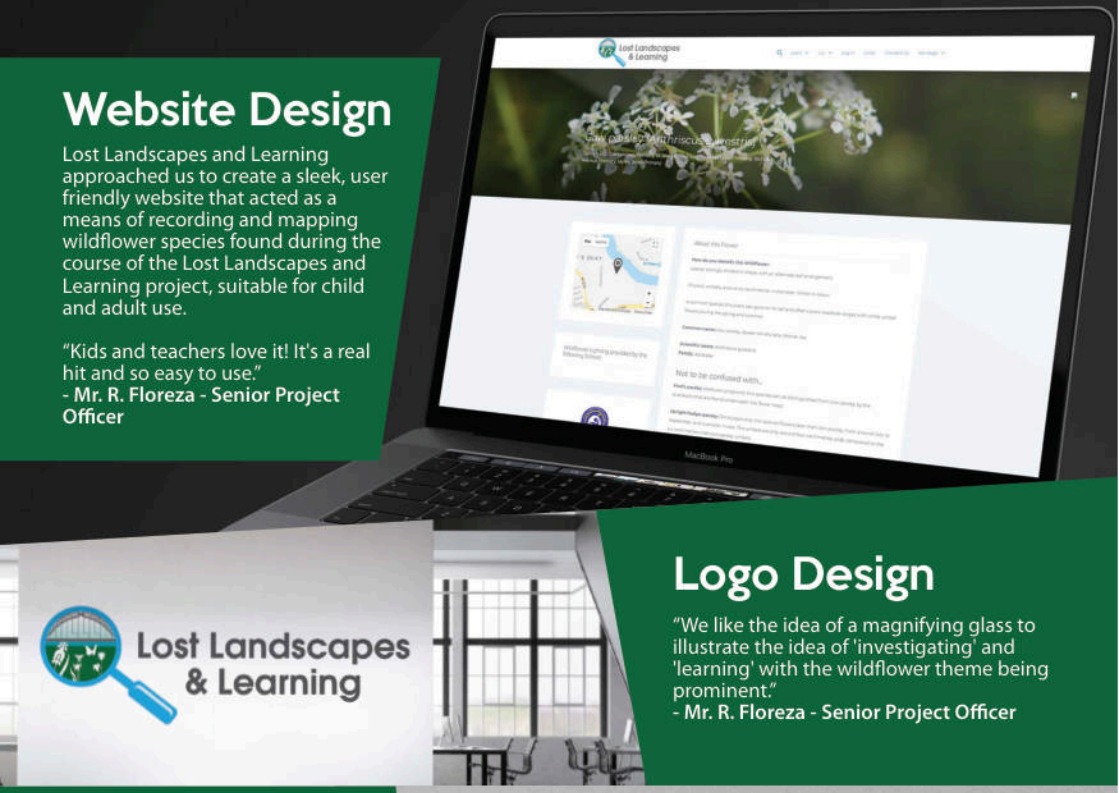
visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk

FireFlyNewMedia **Presents:** Lost Landscapes & Learning

Website Design

Lost Landscapes and Learning approached us to create a sleek, user friendly website that acted as a means of recording and mapping wildflower species found during the course of the Lost Landscapes and Learning project, suitable for child and adult use.

"Kids and teachers love it! It's a real hit and so easy to use."
- Mr. R. Floreza - Senior Project Officer



Logo Design

"We like the idea of a magnifying glass to illustrate the idea of 'investigating' and 'learning' with the wildflower theme being prominent."
- Mr. R. Floreza - Senior Project Officer

Lost Landscapes & Learning

Flyer Design & Print

We were asked to create a flyer to promote the project and to publisise the events. We kept the same style we'd created when making the website and logo.

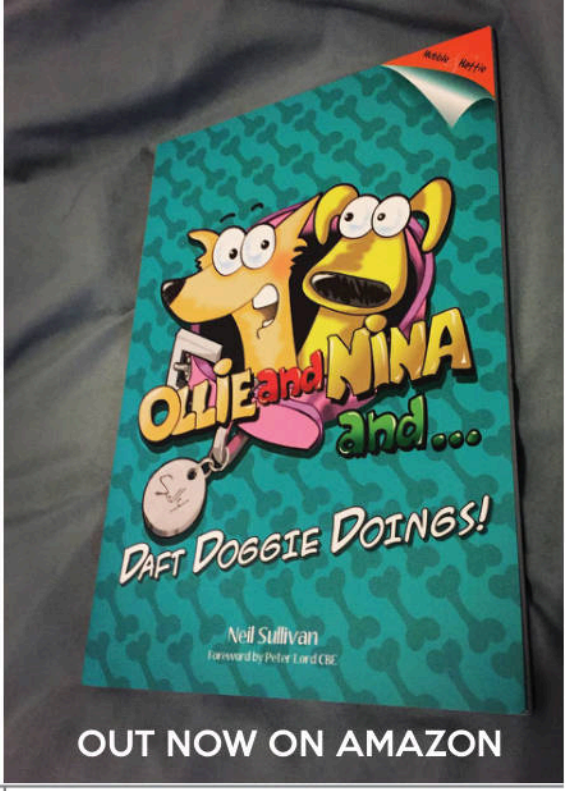
"All great. Yes, we can proceed with that final draft. Great job! We will certainly approach you in future for print."
- Mr. R. Floreza - Senior Project Officer



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By Christina Stubbins
Prince Bishop Veterinary Hospital

HEATSTROKE

As the days start getting warmer it's really important to remember that no animal should EVER be left in a car, conservatory or caravan on a hot day, even five minutes could prove to be fatal. Brachycephalic (flat faced) breeds of dogs are particularly at risk, as well as those wearing muzzles, those with thick coats and nervous or excitable animals.

Signs of heatstroke include excessive panting and drooling, incoordination, vomiting, collapse, loss of consciousness and seizures. If you have any concerns an animal may be suffering from heatstroke, it is vital that you move them to a cool, shaded area immediately, wet them with cool water and call a vet straight away.

You can reduce the risk of heatstroke by avoiding exercising your pet during the hottest hours of the day, avoiding strenuous activity, allowing free access to cool, shaded and indoor areas with plenty of water available and by calling your vet straight away if you have any concerns.

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



Young Musicians Celebrate Excellent Exam Results

Talented young musicians from County Durham are celebrating after receiving exceptional results in recent exams.

All 56 Durham Music Service pupils passed the latest round of exams, with 21 merits and 12 distinctions – two of which were grade eight percussion exams.

A standout performer was 11-year-old Helena Ritson from Shotley Bridge, who scored 147 out of 150 in her grade three violin exam.

Robert Pearson, leadership teacher at the music service, said: "This is a fantastic set of results which demonstrate that hard work really does pay off.

"We are extremely proud of all of our pupils and know they will go on to achieve big things."

Durham Music Service provides musical opportunities for pupils throughout County Durham and Darlington, working with young people of all ages from reception onwards.

Anyone who would like more information should contact the music service on 03000 262 368.

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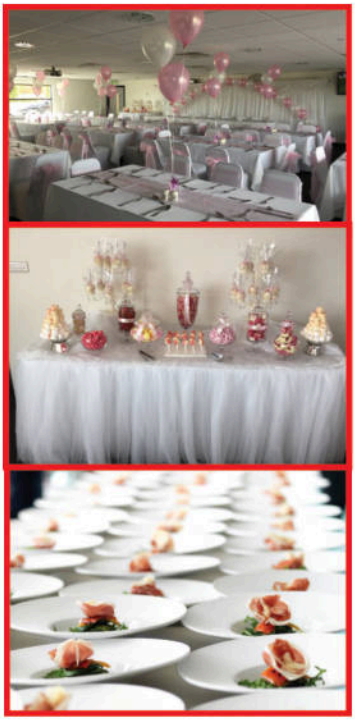
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m:07981 348 225 t:0191 489 3782
www.ecogleamltd.co.uk e.ecogleamltd@gmail.com

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