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SEPTEMBER 2018

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Welcome

Thanks for picking up the September edition of the free Consett Magazine.

As always, we've got some wonderful local stories for you to feast your eyes on this month; both in the magazine you have in your hand now and online at consettmagazine.com (we're proud to tell you, last month the website received 172,282 hits).
So, if you've not visited us online yet, now might be a good time to have a look and see what all the fuss is about!

Last month a very interesting opinion piece sent to us by Dr. David Taylor exploded on social media reaching over 10,000 people. Have your say online in the comment section of this article on consettmagazine.com or search Facebook Group: 'Delves and Templetown residents against the planned developments for more information.'

Brian Harrison, your favourite local historian goes in search of treasure in the area with A Few Local Finds. (See page 4-5).

Lorraine Weightman also goes back in time (although a little more recent than the 19th century) to the summer of 1979 with her piece "It's All Over Now" where she reminisces about her time in Consett and the Rock Legends of the time.
(See pages 10-11.) This and much more in the FREE Consett Magazine.

Once again, thanks for reading this month's edition, please recycle this magazine after you're finished reading it by passing it onto a friend or family member. And do mention Consett Magazine when reaching out to any of our advertisers, they are the lifeblood of the magazine, without them this free publication could simply not exist.

So, thanks to everyone who advertises and contributes to the magazine each month.

If you'd like to get involved with Consett Magazine, share a story, or simply give us some news you'd like to shout about, then please contact us using the contact details on the bottom right of this page.

Warmest regards,
Barry Kirkham, Marco Elsy,
and everyone who makes this magazine a success (you know who you are!)

PS- Book your space online or in print, just call us on 01207 438292 or email sales@consettmagazine.com to request our media kit (covering online, print, and digital marketing options).

Contributors

Brian Harrison
Barry Kirkham
Marco Elsy
Frank Bell
Neil Sullivan
Lorraine Weightman
Christina Stubbins
Alex Nelson
Bazza Davison
David Taylor
Leslie Rutherford

The Front Cover

Thanks to Bazza Davison.
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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A FEW LOCAL FINDS

By Brian Harrison

I have always been an massive fan of programs like Time Team, The Detectorists and The Mud Men. I think it is the collector and historian in me combined. It always fills me with wonder and awe what could be lying just below our feet. So I decided to have a look at a few such finds of the area which feeds this curiosity.

In 1907 whilst a number of workmen were hired to remove a wall at Crookhall a mysterious bottle was found. With interest the men of the small workforce opened it to find a number of papers. It had a letter dated 30 years earlier and had been concealed within the wall. It related to a "Hidden Treasure" which from one of the papers within reported that if the men followed the instructions that a sum of £50 awaited them. Search parties immediately set out to find the treasure, many searching for several weeks, but as far as anyone is aware, nothing was ever found!

In 1892 a number of artefacts were discovered at High Bradley Farm, a little south-west of Medomsley, and only a short distance from the Roman road of Watling Street they included a number of Bronze Age items including a large number of spearheads. Of the hoard only two of the objects were saved a bronze spear head approximately 8 ½ inches long and a Blade just over 5 inches long. The rest of the hoard now believed to be lost or destroyed. The bronze spearhead went to the Museum of Antiquities Newcastle were it remained to the museum closed on 25th April 2008 and it's collections were merged into the extended Hancock – Great North Museum.

Our final find is the oldest and probably the strangest. For the miners of the the All Saints Pit at Delves Lane the last week in April 1886 brought the local legends of the area to the forefront of their lives. Found amongst the "rammel"(the



Old Medomsley Village

discarded waste) at the top of the Busty seem was a stone found in the perfect shape of a human being. The papers reported it at the time as "A Petrified Giant". One portion found was said to resemble "part of the body, and upper parts of the two legs, and measures 7 ft. 1 in. in length." and evidently giving a body that would stand at 9-10 feet tall. The petrified body also measured back to front 14 in. and width 16 in and was found at a depth of 20 fathoms (approx.60feet or 36m). There were also two large pieces of stone containing a petrified fish.

Although I have searched the papers for any further information, nothing can be found.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MUSIC, SINGING OR DRAMA?

Consett Phoenix Youth are a friendly group who meet every Sunday at St John Ambulance Hall, John Street, Consett between 3 and 5.30pm.

We do recording, encourage budding musicians and help boost confidence.

We are also looking to do a musical later this year. Need more information why not pop along before we start or give us a ring for more details.

Contact number 07771890409.

See you there.



Delves Pit formerly All Saints Pit

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In 2019, the company will celebrate their 150th year in business now with 18 branches throughout North England and Scottish Borders.

In October this year Dove will be opening their newest branch here in Consett, over on Hownsgill Industrial Park. To compliment the full range of building and plumbing materials they are offering state of the art kitchen and bathroom showroom displays.

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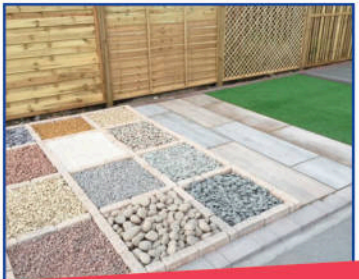


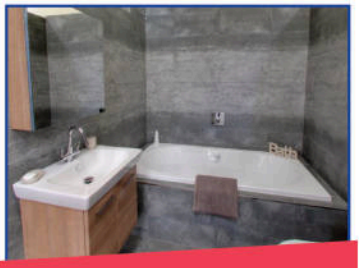
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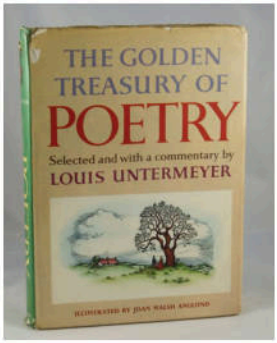


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IT'S ALL OVER NOW

I've always loved poetry and attribute this to my close and extended family who surrounded me with books and the spoken word when I was growing up. Not only did they recite verses by heart but they also animated it to make it more appealing.

With a television the size of a postage stamp and only a couple of channels to tempt us, it was easy to switch it off and be drawn in by the delights of poetry and performance.



There was an over sized illustrated poetry book on the bookcase that had to be stored sideways because it was so big, I loved it and flicked through the pages lovingly even before I could read, touching the pictures and words with my fingers while I waited for a member of my family to respond to my request to read something to me.

I soon cottoned on that if I chose something they knew by heart I was in for a spectacular show, safe in the knowledge if anyone else in the family happened to be passing and heard it, they would join in too. I'm not sure if they knew they were being coerced at the time yet even so they played the game brilliantly and I guess they enjoyed it too much to care.

One of my earliest memories was of listening and laughing loudly as my Auntie and Uncle recited and acted out 'The Owl and the Pussycat' by Edward Lear.

There was more to follow and I lapped up their repertoire and their enthusiasm to perform 'Old Meg' by John Keats and 'You Are Old Father William' by Lewis Carroll.



HALFWAY DOWN

For my birthday I was given a book of poetry 'When We Were Very Young' by A.A.Milne, and I treasured it. It was small and easy to carry around and full of rhymes and beautiful line drawing illustrations.

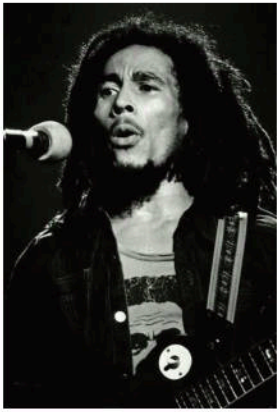
One of my favourite's was 'Halfway Down the Stairs' because it reminded me of my home as there was a bend in our staircase and I was able to hang my legs through the banisters to see what was happening below.

Through my child's eyes the world was exciting and untroubled, as the grown ups I knew whispered their problems out of earshot and did everything, emotionally, financially and protectively to make life fun.

So when things change as we grow older - hopefully heading towards maturity - we are sometimes unprepared for the responsibilities that come with adulthood.
At least some of us are!

The September blues only seem to affect those in education, pupils and teachers alike. After a long summer break it's hard to get back into gear and prepare oneself for the long Autumn term that leads up to Christmas. I had a couple of weeks left before returning to London for a three month teaching practice and with loads of work to do I wanted to make the most of the time with my friends.





The summer of 1976 had been glorious but as September crept in so did the rain and it looked like the party was over.

Yet what a summer, I couldn't afford to see Bob Marley at Hammersmith Odeon or the Rolling Stones at Knebworth but I'd hired a push bike and ridden around Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park, spending the rest of the holiday at home in Consett dancing to among others: Lynyrd Skynyrd's 'Sweet Home Alabama' and 'Get Up Offa That Thing' by James Brown', highlighted only by witnessing a denim shirt being ripped off the back of an unsuspecting nightclub goer.

I thought it couldn't get any better!

The final weekend saw us looking forward to a friend's birthday party in Shotley Bridge. It was at her house and her parents had given up their garden for the day.

Unfortunately the heavens opened so all the outdoor activities were abandoned. With no break in the weather and the look of dread on her parents faces as we trooped into the house, we decided to continue the party in Consett and made our way to the Masons Arms.

As usual it was brilliant as everyone piled into the tiny pub and jostled for the Juke Box. Soon it was nightclub time and we queued three deep in the rain. I noticed some of my friends missing out the cloakroom and going straight upstairs to pay their money to the nice lady on the door who always kept her coat on.



After a couple a drinks I started to get nostalgic, knowing I was going to leave my family and friends in a couple of days, yet looking forward to furthering my education and hopefully getting a good job. Just as the tears started rolling so did my crazy friend , who had smuggled an orange space hopper in under her long ox blood leather coat, and proceeded to bounce her way to the dance floor. The 'real' bouncers were not amused and pursued her along the bar and eventually caught up with her halfway down the stairs.

With the lights on and now crying with laughter I had yet another unforgettable stair memory as we were gently escorted outside into the night.

County Durham Students Continue to Top National Average

Sixth form students across County Durham have been congratulated for another excellent set of results.

Durham County Council has praised the performance of young people at schools and colleges within its boundaries as initial analysis show positive results despite further changes to the qualifications they have worked for.

All post-16 qualifications have gone through major reforms in recent years making performance comparisons more difficult than in previous years.

In 2017, students in England took new, more challenging exams in 13 subjects, with 11 more following this year.

Nevertheless, early indications in County Durham are that students have continued the successes of previous years.

The county's academic and vocational results including A-Level, Applied General and Tech Level, all look to once again be above national averages.

Schools and colleges have also reported an overall increase in both numbers of students achieving A* to B grades and getting into their first choice universities.







Places to Go: Peterborough

There are far more people booking rail tickets to Peterborough than actually ever go there, since for adherents to split ticketing, Peterborough is the place to rebook on a journey from the north east to London. As long as the train that you are on actually stops there, which many (but by no means all) do, you can have two tickets instead of one through ticket from the north east to London, and save money on the full fare. But, if you can, book in advance and get a through ticket on a specific train at generally the cheapest fare. Either way, national-rail.com can find you the best deal.

Peterborough is also the point for changing for places in East Anglia like Norwich and Ipswich avoiding the capital, and Stansted Airport too. We have Lord Exeter to thank for Peterborough's current pre-eminence as a regional hub as he strongly objected to the railway running through Stamford, which was the route of the Great North Road, now the A1. Stamford's loss was Peterborough's gain after the railway opened in 1850 and Peterborough now has a population expected to pass 200,000 this year. Its pedestrianised city centre, cathedral, lido and museum are worth visiting. Although it has had city status since 1541, its major growth started in 1967 when it was designated a New Town and the Peterborough Development Corporation oversaw the building of satellite communities around the outskirts.

The Cathedral Church of Saints Peter, Paul and Andrew was founded as a monastery in 655 and re-built in its present form between 1118 and 1238. It has been the seat of the Bishop of Peterborough since the diocese was created in 1541, when the last abbot was made the first bishop. Peterborough Cathedral is one of the most intact large Norman buildings in England and is renowned for its imposing and unique early English Gothic west front with its three enormous arches.

The general layout of Peterborough is attributed to Martin de Vecti who, as abbot from 1133 to 1155, rebuilt the settlement on dry limestone to the west of the monastery, rather than the often-flooded marshlands to the east. Abbot Martin was responsible for laying out the market place and the wharf beside the river. Peterborough's 17th-century Guildhall, pictured, was built in 1671 by John Lovin. It stands on columns, providing an open ground floor for the butter and poultry markets which used to be held there.

The city's museum has a collection of some 227,000 objects, including local archaeology and social history, from the products of the Roman pottery industry to Britain's oldest known murder victim. Jurassic fossils feature with the manuscripts of John Clare, the "peasant poet". The Nene Valley Railway, a heritage railway, is alongside an interesting but rather faded attraction called Railworld which explains the development of railways past and future. It was a bit down-at-heel last time I visited but their new website suggests things have improved recently.

The Lido opened in 1936, a striking building with elements of art deco design, lies adjacent to the embankment of the River Nene, south of the city centre. Grade II listed in 1992, it is open from late May over the summer, closing during periods of inclement weather. Unfortunately you'll only be able to admire it from the park outside now as the season ends, I am told, on 2 September. But the riverside is attractive and there is a good Chinese restaurant on a riverboat nearby, a good place to unwind having enjoyed the delights of this interesting city.

By Alex Nelson

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PRINCE BISHOP VETERINARY HOSPITAL

By Christina Stubbins
Prince Bishop Veterinary Hospital

GRASS SEEDS

As the days start getting warmer it's really important in the summer months, injuries caused by grass seeds are a common problem seen at veterinary practices, with dogs with hairy ears and feet being most at risk. Grass seeds tend to be shaped like little arrowheads which means they can attach onto a pet's fur and burrow their way into their body, causing all sorts of problems when they do so.

Grass seeds most commonly burrow into the space between a dogs' toes forming cysts and infections. These are usually very painful and require medical, and sometimes surgical, treatment. Grass seeds can also make their way into your dog's ears causing infections and they can even cause damage to the ear drum. They can also make their way through the skin all over the body so it's always best to look out for any new swellings or wounds and see your vet if you're concerned. It is recommended that you check your pet after walks and remove any vegetation from their coats (and it's a great time to check for ticks too!) to reduce the risk of them developing any problems.

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

Council secures national award for Armed Forces support



A council has gained national recognition from the Ministry of Defence for its support of the Armed Forces community. Durham County Council is one of only 50 employers including ten local authorities in the UK to receive a Gold Award through the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme this year. The award recognises employers who demonstrate positive attitudes and policies towards serving and ex-members of the Armed Forces. The council was nominated earlier this year for the quality of the work it has carried out since signing the Armed Forces Covenant in 2012 and achieving the Silver Award in 2015

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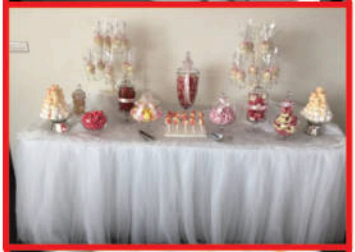
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