CONSETT MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2018

Painting By: Neal Crossan



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Welcome

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

There are many Christmas traditions, but a common theme is time spent with friends and family, the sights and sounds remind us of Christmases past, and a general feeling of warmth and goodwill to one another.

This time of year is a welcome break from work, school, and everyday life for us all. It's a huge reminder, too, that the power of Christmas has in delivering the very best in the human spirit. It helps us to appreciate the richness of life. The new year and its challenges will come soon enough.

If anything, Christmas comes at a perfect occasion for self-reflection, as the United Kingdom of Great Britain faces a new chapter in its history and as the world looks on as we prepare to leave the European Union (who knows if it'll happen? If it'll be everything we expect it to be.

Still, we move forward regardless into the New Year with hope in our hearts). This Christmas is a moment to take a break, to enjoy the company at home and to rekindle the feeling of those earlier years with loved ones.

There is a comfort and a rhythm to the festive season that defines this time of year. The very best in each of us is brought out in the spirit of giving, in the hope we see and enjoy the goodwill in our fellow man. This is an enduring holiday because the joy and optimism it brings is something to hold, share and help pass down to the next generation. Merry Christmas from Barry, Marco, the entire Consett Magazine team 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).

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The Front Cover

Thanks to Neal Crossan
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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SIR DAVID DALE

INDUSTRIALIST & PHILANTHROPIST 1829-1906

By Brian Harrison

Sir David Dale was born on 11th December 1829 in the Bengal state of Murshidabad, India, the son of David Dale, an employee of the East India Company and his wife Ann Elizabeth nee Douglas. He was brought up as a Quaker after his mother joined in 1841. His father had died a year after his birth on board the ship on which the family travelled back to the UK in 1830. Educated in Edinburgh, Durham and eventually Stockton, Dale's career started with the Stockton and Durham Railway in the 1850's quickly finding his feet. He married Annie Backhouse Whitwell (nee Robson) in 1853. She was a widow with two children, but the couple also went on to have another son and daughter born to them.

Dale's drive and business ethic soon saw him increase his standing and in 1858 he became a lessee of the Shildon Works, still keeping his tie's to the railways. It was a little after that point when he first took an interest in the Consett Iron Company being appointed inspector in the same year. By 1869 he became managing director of the company and by 1884 the chairman.

His links to Consett grew over the years, although he still continued to pursue other business ventures. One of those ventures was as managing partner of Pease and Partners Ltd. He also became chairman of the companies mining iron ore near Bilboa in Spain, later owned by the Consett Iron Company. Dale was also an active member of the Durham Coal Owners Institute as well as being made Treasurer of the Iron & Steel Institute in 1894.

As well as his business ethic Dale also believed in the principle of education and culture. He helped set up the very first theatre in Consett, the Theatre Royal. He also continuously pushed the educational facilities in the area, helping them find funding, stating that healthy educated people made the best work force. He was made

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a baronet in 1895 for his dedication and services to industry, amongst which his his principle of arbitration to industrial disputes had given him a great distinction, him being the main pioneer. It was Dale's dedication to education which gave us Consett Technical College.

On Saturday December 3rd 1898 the laying of the foundation stone of Consett Technical College took place being laid by Dale himself. The building was initially to be built for the purpose of technical studies and partial to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Victoria and partly to perpetuate the memory of Mr William Jenkins who had for so many years been the general manager of the Consett Iron Company.

The estimated cost of the building and furnishings was £5000, of which £2,260 had already been raised by the public, Durham County Council had offered a grant of up to £2,000 to match what ever the public raised, Consett Iron Company had promised £1000 as well as supplying the land on Park Road and Dale himself having raised another £700 and his architect (C E Oliver) and solicitor (Mr R W Cooper of Newcastle) had given their services completely free. It took almost two and a half years to build and was opened on Saturday 23rd March 1901 by Lady Dale.

Dale died on 28th April 1906 still the chairman of the mining firm Pease and Partners and a director of the North Eastern Railway Company. He was also still the Chairman of the Consett Iron Company. He was buried in what he classed as his home town of Darlington.





EVENTS THIS DECEMBER

Dec 6

Christmas Tasting & Late Night Opening

Thurs 16:00 · Sweethart, Bistro, Bakery & Coffee Shop

Sweetharts will hosting a tasting night where any orders placed on that night for Christmas will get 10% their order. 01207 501100 to book.

Dec 8

Breakfast With Santa

Sat 08:30 · Jolly Drovers in Leadgate

Join us at The Jolly Drovers on 8th, 15th and 22nd December for the return of our popular Breakfast with Santa! 01207 500999 to book.

Dec 8

Family Xmas Party

Sat 13:00 · Grove & Moorside Community & Social Club - 01207 504236

2 Performances. Great Tribute Show to "The Best Girl Band Ever". "Little Mix" from BBC'sBetter than the real thing" tickets on sale now only £6.

Dec 10

Drones and Local History a talk by Graham Robson - £2 per person

Mon 19:00 · Consett Fire Station · Consett

Local drone fltyer Graham Robson will talk about the use of drones to add to our understanding of local landscapes and history.

Dec 14

Archery War'z - Enter The Battle Dome

Fri 19:30 · Shotley Bridge Tennis Club · Consett

Enter a team in the battle dome - pit your skills as a team against other archers - battles to be won are team elimination, team defenders, infected and all out War'z

Dec 14

Collection of The Reverse Calendar

14 Dec–15 Dec · Consett Community Trust · Consett

Anthony & Andrea will be collecting food donations from people who have done the reverse advent calendar.

Dec 15

Xmas 70's Spectacular

Sat 19:00 · Grove & Moorside Community & Social Club - 01207 504236

Shake your booty and brush down those flares. "Vince Karizma " (70's City) & " Angel Eyes" (Abba Duo) bring you the classic hits of yesteryear tickets only £8 !

Dec 18

Adult Cupcake Decorating

Tues 19:00 · Cafe at Inn on the Park Allensford Caravan Park · Consett

It's time for a little escape from the Christmas rush and make a little time for you. Decorate 6 festive cupcakes with fondant and buttercream, glitters and sprinkles. £24 per person.

Dec 22

Christmas Bingo at Number One

Sat 20:15 UTC · No.1 Club · Consett

Ho ho ho! The Christmas bingo at the club will be 8.30pm on the 22nd December. Books on sale from 08.15pm. All welcome.

Dec 24

Blakey's Community Christmas Eve Lunch

Mon 12:00 UTC · Blakey's · Consett

No one should be alone at Christmas, On Christmas Eve Blakey's will be offering a three course Community Christmas Lunch with all the timings and Christmas pudding) for £7.95

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PEOPLE PULL TOGETHER TO 'SPRUCE UP' CONSETT

Consett was given a thorough 'Spruce Up' thanks to an award-winning campaign.

Durham County Council's Operation Spruce Up gives towns and villages the opportunity for a coordinated community clean-up, with Consett being the latest area to benefit from the campaign.

Green activities included litter picking, tree maintenance, drainage clearance and repairs to benches and fences.

The operation was a real team effort, with tasks carried out by neighbourhood wardens, Durham County Council clean and green staff, local residents, and local police community support officers.

Teachers and pupils from St Patricks RC Primary School put their gardening gloves on to help plant 10,000 mixed crocus bulbs to provide colourful spring displays in coming years. This was part of an ongoing engagement between the Durham County Council's civic pride team and the school.

Tidy Ted, the council's anti-litter mascot, was there to lend a paw and encourage groups as they carried out tasks. Also present was the council's Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, Cllr Brian Stephens, and local county councillors Cllr Owen Temple and Cllr Alex Watson.

Cllr Brian Stephens said: "It is great to see everyone pull together to give their areas the attention needed and see people taking pride in where they live. The Consett Spruce Up adds to a series of successful cleaning days across the county, with 14 communities taking part in the campaign so far."

Oliver Sherratt, the council's head of direct services, said: "It has also been a real team effort from many of our departments, with involvement from the clean and green team, regeneration, highways and the civic pride team."

The campaign received national recognition, winning Campaign of the Year at the Keep Britain Tidy Awards 2018

LOVE ACTUALLY

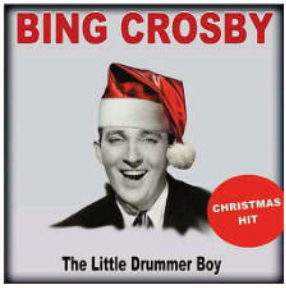
It's that time of year again when families and friends try to organise get togethers before the big day. You hear, 'It won't be long now!' on every street corner as folk bustle about, wrestling with 3 for 2 rolls of wrapping paper that defiantly stick out of their small plastic carrier bags.

There's an air of expectation which lifts the spirits on cold winter mornings, giving us something to look forward to when the nights close in too soon, and the air is chilled and sharp.

dvent, according to the Cambridge English Dictionary is 'the period of four weeks before Christmas', yet to those who live in anticipation, it is so much more.

I admire folk who's focus is optimistic no matter what the commercial world and advertising industry throw at them, remaining well equipped to brush aside any negativity, always homing in on the positive.

Some of us as we get older - having lost our childish enthusiasm - have an air of 'The Grinch' about our being, complaining that it all starts too early, as songs, carols and hymns are piped into shops and supermarket aisles from early November. I must admit I wasn't persuaded to join in



with the 'Pa rum pa pom pom's' as Bing Crosby crooned 'The Little Drummer Boy the other day in Monsoon. Yet to balance out the obvious marketing campaigns to spend - probably much more than we can afford - some of the big companies display television adverts that try to relay the true spirit of the season in their spectacular productions. One of the latest popular ones featuring Elton John is based on how a thoughtful gift can change a life. And thoughtful gifts and actions do make a difference; sometimes the memories will stay with us forever.

I remember as an eleven year old wanting a new outfit for the school Christmas party. I'd seen a pattern for a mini dress with a tie at the front similar to the one modelled by Twiggy in Vogue. My mother took me to Consett market to pick some material. Sure that lime green with a navy blue tie and trim were more my colours than yellow, I excitedly skipped home beside my Mam knowing she would make it for me on her Singer sewing machine.

She worked quickly and soon the dress was finished. Delighted I tried it on but realised I had no party shoes to wear with it. I read my Mam's face when I asked about shoes and didn't reply when she said, 'I'll see'. She only used those words when she wasn't able to keep a promise so I guessed she couldn't afford to splash out on fancy footwear for one occasion.

My dress hung on the wardrobe door and I admired it before I went to sleep each night, counting down the days to the party. Nothing was said about shoes so I was resigned to wearing my school lace ups knowing they wouldn't enhance the statement I was



hoping to make. Still I knew my dress was a winner, which made me content.

Soon the day arrived and we had to wear our school uniform in the morning, told to bring our clothes in a bag with our name on and leave them on the stage, ready to change into after lunch. While the rest of the school went back to lessons we eagerly awaited our afternoon party.

The school hall still smelt of cabbage and ginger sponge and custard when we collected our bags and headed for the changing rooms.



All talking at once, we began to slip into our party wear prompted by the teachers to carefully fold up our uniforms as instructed.

Among all the noise I fell silent, even though I was bursting with joy inside; for there in the bottom of my bag, were a pair of white shoes, just like Twiggy's - but in my size!





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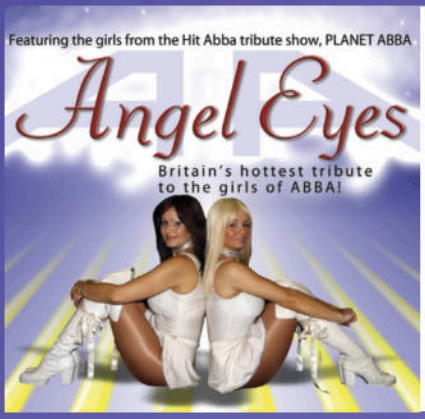
LITTLE FIX
(Sat December 8th)

2 Performances 1 Great tribute show to **Little Mix**

3pm-5pm & 5pm-7pm (Tickets £6)

For those who have been lucky enough to have seen Little Fix perform, there has been little doubt left that girl power is alive and well. Drawing on almost identical choreography and vocal finesse, the group has repeatedly paid a fitting tribute to the immensely popular all-female supergroup.

The band's colourful career in entertainment has also seen them appear in the BBC's Even Better Than The Real Thing, an exciting television programme which saw a number of the country's best tribute acts compete against each other.



ANGEL EYES
(Sat December 15th)

UK no 1 Tribute to the Girls from ABBA With Vince Karizma (Tickets £8)

Since their formation in 2002, Angel Eyes have succeeded in establishing themselves as the UKs leading Abba tribute duo. Their professionally choreographed stage show, with many costume changes, faithfully encapsulates the sights and sounds of Abba and their endless stream of unforgettable hits.

Angel Eyes have worked alongside several named artistes, including The Four Tops, Slade, Mudd, Jimmy James and The Vagabonds, 911, Showaddywaddy, Alvin Stardust, The Real Thing and The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.



NEW YEARS DAY
(Tue January 1st)
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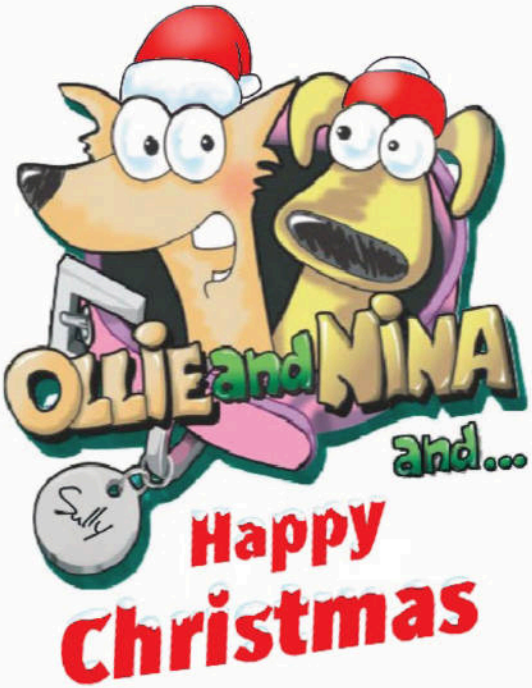

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CHRISTMAS HAZARDS

As the festive season approaches, there are some things to bear in mind if you have a pet, to ensure they're kept safe and well:

Some animals may be very interested in the cords of Christmas lights but chewing them can result in electrocution. Cover up the wires and turn them off at the plug when they're not in use.

Fallen Christmas tree needles can get lodged in paws and cause abscesses so make sure they are hoovered up every day, or even better choose a fake tree

Dried fruit (like in your Christmas cake), chocolate (especially dark chocolate), mistletoe, poinsettia and alcohol can all be toxic and should not be left within reach of your pets

Ribbons, wrapping and tinsel might look like attractive treats for your dog but can cause upset stomachs and intestinal blockages that may require surgery.

Your vet will have to provide you with a service over the festive period, whether that's at the practice itself, or with an out of hour's provider. Make sure you speak to your practice now to get the relevant contact details in case you do have an emergency outside of their normal working hours.

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

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