CONSETT MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2019

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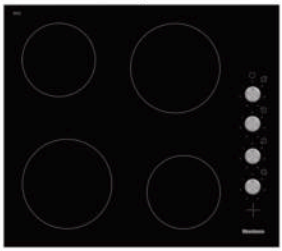
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Welcome

Dear Consett Magazine readers,

Thanks for picking in the February edition of your free local magazine.

We hope our editorial in the January edition inspired you enough to set big goals for 2019 and that you are still making those resolutions work all the way into February. If not, then don't worry - you can start all over again this month, January was just a trial month anyway!

Starting this month, we'll be asking readers to submit their guesses for the location of the front cover photograph. Last month's front cover image was located near Once Brewed (also known as Twice Brewed) in Northumberland, England. It lies on the Military Road (Northumberland) B6318. Now we know this photograph wasn't taken in Consett, but we're open to any photographs from across the region to be featured on the front of Consett Magazine - afterall we do live in one of the most beautiful parts of the country.

As you may or may not know, we're producing even more exclusive content online for consettmagazine.com - so if you've not read any articles on the website, we encourage you to do so. There's now over 1410 published articles on consettmagazine.com (correct as of 23rd Jan 2019) - so there is plenty to read on the online archives!

We're screaming out for people to get their story published, so if you've got a great story you'd like to share with the people of Consett please get in contact. Also, please go ahead and send in your photographs for a chance to be featured on the from cover.

Warmest regards,

Barry Kirkham, Marco Elsy and everyone who makes the Consett Magazine a success!

Contributors

Brian Harrison
Barry Kirkham
Marco Elsy
Frank Bell
Neil Sullivan
Lorraine Weightman
Christina Groves
Alex Nelson
Catherine Meades
Laura Crinnion
Keith Newman

The Front Cover

Guess where the front cover was taken! 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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FROM CONSETT PEOPLE TO THE BRIGADE

By Brian Harrison

The St John Ambulance Association has always had a big presence in our area. Consett Iron Company had its own members of the St John Ambulance Association primarily founded and trained by Dr George Renton who had founded the CIC Infirmary in 1878. First mention of the members of the Association can be found as early as the mid 1880's. However, the Consett & District Division St John Ambulance Brigade was officially registered 6th June 1909. The Brigade dedicated itself to the well-being and training of first aid to the people of the area. With the area being so heavily geared toward industry there was a definite need, especially within the coal mines.

Many of the mine owners encouraged their workers to train for their St John Ambulance certificates and in 1910 the Miners Accidents Act was introduced. This meant that there had to be at least 5 men at every mine who were trained in first aid and the use of breathing apparatus. Consett Iron Company were extremely fast to keep this as a norm and dedicate money and resources to the cause.

Meanwhile Consett St John began to grow. There was an almost immediate need for motorised Ambulances and a fund was organised. An initial ambulance was gifted in 1919 from the Iron working communities but the need was considerable and the Ambulance Fund continued. Eventually two more ambulances were purchased by public subscription and local fund raising by both the St John members and the people of Consett. Lloyd Clarence, owner of the Globe Theatre, gave half of the funds raised from his benefit performance in 1922 toward the Consett St John Ambulance Fund, the other half being given to the Consett Nursing Association. The problem now was where to park the Ambulances. Initially they were parked in John Square, under were the Trades was built in 1960, and on Medomsley Road, but it wasn't ideal. A building was needed.



Once again the Consett St John had to raise more funds. The public rallied as did the local industry, specifically Consett Iron Company, along with the St John members and soon the fund was raised to procure a building. The initial building was to be built on Medomsley Road were a plot of land was found, money paid out and architect hired. But Consett Urban District Council dropped a bombshell, the land was due for slum clearance making building impossible. It had been a waste of money and time, although St John did manage to get most of the money back from the council. So another plot was now found on John Street. Owned by the Consett Iron Company they gifted it to St John. Demolition of a number of cottages and the old John Square buildings had to be completed before building could proceed. The Consett & District St John Ambulance Hall was built between 1932 & 1934, a true testament to the Consett St John and the people of the area who had raised the funds to build it. All the steel which helped form the building was gifted by Consett Iron Company helping to offset the cost. The Hall was owned a group of Local Trustees, but was there for the use of St John members when required.



The Hall became a major part of the local area. Housing the Ambulances in the back with meeting rooms at the front and upstairs a hall with small stage for public events. Thousands of local people have trained as cadets in first aid at the Hall since its opening as well activities of many other community organisation's. With the formation of the Ambulance Service linked to the NHS the need for the ambulances at the Hall was no longer required. However the Hall itself was still in great use. When not being used for Consett St John other community groups used it, Consett WI, theatre groups, dance groups, youth groups and so on.

Unfortunately the Consett St John Ambulance Brigade has dwindled over the years, not for the want of the members who are very much still dedicated to actively train new cadets whenever possible. A few years ago it was noted that the Trustees were no longer numerous enough to keep going, lots of the pressure and stress of running the building lying on the shoulders a couple of people. So with a heavy heart the building was handed over to St John Ambulance (National) to the understanding that they would then run the Hall. The Hall is still used by a number of local groups as well as Consett St John, including Consett Phoenix Youth who have made their home there over the past 10+ years, a group which I have a very personal attachment. We hope to see the Hall remain a community building and in the coming years grow from strength to strength.





AT THE EMPIRE THEATRE, CONSETT



Back to Bacharach

Join us for an evening of Magic Moments on **Saturday 9 February** as Back to Bacharach present The Very Best of Burt Bacharach at the Empire Theatre, Consett.

This masterclass in melody is a showcase for Bacharach's songs that have become the soundtrack to many lives, combining breathtaking performances from West End vocalists and the amazing musicianship of The Magic Moments Orchestra.

A legend of popular music, Burt Bacharach won six Grammy awards, three Academy awards and had over 50 top 40 hits in the UK with artists including Tom Jones, Dionne Warwick, Aretha Franklin, Elvis Presley, Dusty Springfield and The Carpenters to name a few.

Prepare to be dazzled by a non-stop parade of classic hits including What the World Needs Now, Walk on By, I Say a Little Prayer for You, What's New Pussycat?, Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head and more. We're delighted to offer you an exclusive offer of £17 tickets (saving up to £5) for Back to Bacharach. To take advantage of this offer, quote 'BACHARACH5' when booking your tickets online at empireconsett.co.uk or when calling our Box Office on 03000 262 400.



Oh! What a Feeling

We'll be Dancing on the Ceiling on **Friday 1 February** as the winner of 'Best Newcomer' at the National Tribute Awards 2018, Oh! What a Feeling: Celebrating the music of Lionel Richie and The Commodores, says Hello to the Empire Theatre, Consett.

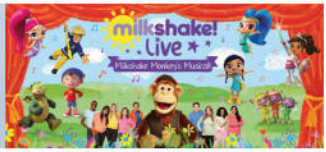
This brand-new production features a stellar line-up of world class musicians including Talon's own John Miller and the awesome Malcolm Pitt as the voice of Lionel.

This high octane show will include all of Lionel's greatest hits including Say You, Say Me, Stuck On You, Three Times A Lady and more.

Following recent TV appearances on the BBC's Graham Norton Show and ITV's Sunday Night At The Palladium with the man himself, you can expect a powerhouse and breathtaking performance in this must-see theatre production.

'Brother Malcolm, keep it up.' Lionel Richie

Book your tickets now from £19 either online at empireconsett.co.uk or by calling our Box Office on 03000 262 400…it's that Easy.



Milkshake LIVE!

Swinging into the Empire Theatre, Consett on **Saturday 2 March** (12noon and 3.30pm), Milkshake Monkey will be joined by lots of Channel 5 cartoon favourites in Milkshake! Live: Milkshake Monkey's Musical.

Milkshake Monkey can't wait to put on a spectacular new musical for audiences, but he'll need help from you and his Milkshake friends when his stage fright hits to create the most dazzling show you have ever seen!

Be part of this fantastic production as you learn the amazing songs and dances with your favourite Milkshake friends, and watch as the music, the lights, the costumes and stage come together.

Starring Fireman Sam, Noddy, Shimmer & Shine, Digby Dragon, Wissper, Nella the Princess Knight and Floogals, alongside two Milkshake! presenters, this brand-new show has plenty of laughter, audience interaction and great fun to get everyone up on their feet!

Book your tickets now priced £15.50 (£13.50 under 16s) either online at empireconsett.co.uk or by calling our Box Office on 03000 262 400. A family ticket is also available priced £54 for two adults and two children.

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HOW TO TELL YOUR BUSINESS STORY

Storytelling is one of the most powerful ways to communicate your business story or message with your customers.

For thousands of years, humans have been listening to and telling stories as a way to communicate their stories and messages over generations. It seems years of evolution have molded our brains to look out for a good story.

Your business story is really all that you have. Your products/services are awesome yes, but you you still have to convince customers to come to you.

First of all you should explain the problem your business solves and why it matters to your customers.

Stories that end with resolution and closure, the way a Disney film does, are pleasing to your audience. It's a perfect recipe for a book and film. They all lived happily ever after, the end. But that same resolution isn't always great for a business story. You don't want to leave your audience with closure. You want them to know there are still problems to be solved, challenges that will force your company to continue to grow, expand, and become even better in the future!

To make business personal. It is important to leave the story hanging without an ending, and this will function like a call to action for your customers to visit your business, call you, email you, or take action by hitting the "buy now" button on your website (or whatever the action you want people to take - this is your "call-to-action").

A story of your team

What's a story if it doesn't speak of the people involved?
By telling the story of your team, you are connecting with the very lifeblood of your business and the people who deal directly with your customers. They are the people who interact and communicate your company message the most, and by including them in your business story you'll bring the message to real life and provide an extra level of humanity for your audience.

A story of your product (or service)

So, what makes your product (or service) interesting? Why is it useful for your customers? And what makes it better than all the other products or services on the market?

Telling your unique product story is important because it makes the product interesting, bringing it to life and it will become more memorable when it's time for your customers to buy.

A story of momentum

Just like we discussed before, you need to leave your story open-ended you don't just want the story to end (happily ever-after or not) - you want the story to be ongoing, a mission, something which is powerful and alive.

Often a business needs to adapt, evolve, and find new products/services to offer their customers to not only grow, but to simply survive.

For example, if you'd told Nokia (the mobile phone manufacturer which ruled the early 00s mobile phone market) that they'd need to adapt their business model to survive, because there was something new coming called a "smart phone" or more specifically the "iPhone" - they'd have laughed in your face. Simply put, they got too comfortable being the mobile phone behemoth who it seemed could not be knocked from their throne, their story had ended, they didn't leave it open ended ready for new challenges to their dominance. And so, the mobile phone market moved on very quickly in a new direction in which Nokia couldn't not compete with.

Let's Get Started!

Step 1: Determine Your Business Goals

First, we will help you to decide what you want to accomplish for your publicity campaign. Here are some typical goals for the businesses we already work with:

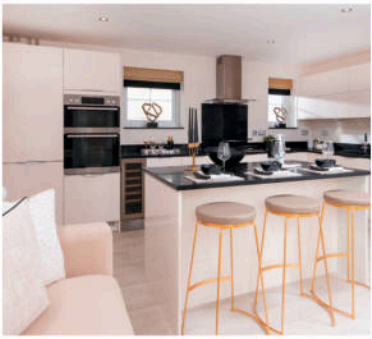
Increase Sales / Increase awareness of the business, brand, product, or service / Become known as an expert / Enter a new market or industry / Change perceptions / Develop goodwill / Attract great employees / Attract investors and/or buyers

Knowing what goals you're trying to achieve will help you determine what type of story you're going to want to be created.

Call Barry from Firefly New Media UK on 01207 438 292 to get a free consultation on how to reach your business goals this year.



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RED LETTER DAYS

February 3rd is the feast day of Saint Blaise who is attributed to protecting throats yet I can't ever remember getting mine blessed. Perhaps that's why - as a child - I was always troubled with sore throats and took several trips to the doctors on Medomsley Road. I was eventually referred to a consultant at The Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle and booked in for a tonsillectomy. Having no concept of hospitals or of spending any time away from my home and family; being left on a children's ward was a shock to my seven year old system.



As I was ushered in, my first observation was that the metal beds had caged sides and hard white sheets and covers. There were a couple of pictures on the walls and little tables and chairs with paper and crayons, close to a small box of books and toys.

My Mam had made me a powder blue dressing gown on her treadle sewing machine with a lace collar to match my nightie and slippers. Obviously she was trying to make me feel better about the experience, but I definitely wasn't happy.

In those days there was no provision for parents to stay with their children in hospital and the visiting times and ward rules were strict and unforgiving. Although the strong smell of dettol had faint reminders of home, everything else was alien to my everyday routine.

With teary eyes, yet trying to be brave I waved my Mam and Dad off as they hurried to catch the bus back home to Consett.

Turning round I noticed a frail little girl in the corner about my age who proceeded to tell me she was having her adenoids out. Having no idea what they were - I'd only just located my tonsils because of necessity - I listened to her description of the operation, of how they dig them out from behind your nose and keep them in a jar for ever! My already fuelled imagination ran riot as I listened to all the gory details, and wondered what instruments of torture would be used on my tonsils!

We were told to get ready for bed at 6.30 and the lights were out by 7. Sandwiched in between the starched sheets and looking through the bars at the side of the bed, I fell asleep resigned to my fate the next morning.

With no breakfast or lunch I was wheeled on a trolley through gigantic double doors and told to count to ten. The next thing I knew I was waking up, tightly packed back in my hospital bed with a kind nurse asking if I wanted some ice cream. Dazed and confused I nodded as I acknowledged the soreness of my throat realising it was all over and I hadn't felt a thing. The coldness of the vanilla ice cream was welcoming and I propped myself up in bed.

The nice ice cream nurse appeared again the next morning, this time with a large brown padded envelope addressed to me. I was overwhelmed yet curious! Sitting up I tentatively opened the package to reveal 33 smaller envelopes with my name on.

There was a lovely letter from my class teacher saying she hoped I was feeling better and looked forward to seeing me soon. One by one I read the letters which were almost identical, all mourning the demise of Hammy the class hamster while I'd been away. Unfortunately within a day the two goldfish had met a watery grave and all of my classmates had illustrated their letters with crayoned pictures of the dead classroom pets. Relieved I had survived the operation and although feeling sad for Hammy and the two fishes I was grateful that I was still here to tell the tale. Adenoid girl was opposite and came across to look at my letters. Determined to out do me she gave a detailed description of how her budgie had died of smoke inhalation when the chip pan caught fire!

Watching the door and the clock I prayed for visiting time and squeaked with joy as my Mam and Dad popped their heads round the corner. After hugs and kisses I showed them my letters and they were surprised I was so upbeat after being told the same sad news 33 times.

I'm not sure they appreciated that despite the content I was delighted that my lovely teacher and class at St Patrick's in Consett had taken the trouble to think about me, put pen to paper, and make it a Red Letter Day!



TELLING TALES

Lorraine Weightman who regularly writes a monthly memoir telling of her days growing up in Consett has just published 2 books in conjunction with Firefly New Media Uk, which share 24 stories that were originally seen in Consett Magazine over the past few years.

The stories recall her experiences as a child, teenager and adult and share the memories that she feels have shaped her.

The books are available now and can be purchased online on her Facebook Telling Tales page **paypal.me/lorraineweightman**

Copies are £3.99 each + £1.00 p&p. Please remember to include your name and address. If you would like your copies signed please leave details.

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Catherine Meades BSc DipGen QG
Cameo Family History

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Part 2 – Vital Records

The process of registering births, marriages and deaths, as we know it today, started in July 1837 in England and Wales. Registration generates birth, marriage and death certificates, vital records for family history research.

Key information on each type of certificate is as follows:

- Birth certificate: Date and place of birth; father's name and occupation; mother's name and maiden name.
- Marriage certificate: Date and place of marriage; marital status, ages, places of residence, and occupations of couple, names of occupations of fathers of bride and groom.
- Death certificate: Date and place of death, age, occupation (which can include details of spouse), cause of death and name of the informant, who can be a family member.

To find the information to obtain a certificate you need to search the indexes on websites such as:

- www.freebmd.org.uk - Free
- www.gro.gov.uk - Free to search. You have to pay to order a certificate
- Subscription websites such as Ancestry, FindMyPast andTheGenealogist. ££

In some cases, you have no choice but to buy a certificate, but often there is sufficient information in the indexes to tell you what you need to know. For information on how to search these indexes and use certificates, see the Cameo Family History website.

Next month: Census Records

Tel: 07855 556 384
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Places to Go: Perth

In the Brockley Whins area of South Tyneside are two adjoining housing estates. To the west is the Scotch estate where all the roads are named after cities and towns in Scotland, which is Jarrow NE32. To the east is the Australian estate in South Shields NE34, roads named after cities and towns in Australia. Linking the two is Perth Avenue, proving that someone in the planning department had a sense of humour. Qantas now provide a 17.5 hour direct flight from Perth, Australia, to London Heathrow, but Perth, Scotland, is easier to reach by train in around three hours, including on LNER's direct Highland Chieftain from Darlington and Newcastle once a day. Otherwise change from LNER to Scotrail at Edinburgh Waverley. Perth station appeared in the film "The King's Speech".

I usually get to Perth once a year, usually on a Friday at the end of August, when bus and rail firm Stagecoach, headquartered in the City, has its AGM. I usually try to visit somewhere else at the time, and last year it was Branklyn Garden, a small but fascinating National Trust for Scotland garden on the east side of the River Tay. To get there I walked across a railway bridge accessed from Tay Street, alongside the river, and walked up to the Garden with a pleasant cup of coffee and cake on the terrace outside the café. This attractive garden was developed by John and Dorothy Renton in the early 1920s after they built their Arts & Crafts-inspired house. It's set on the side of Kinnoull Hill, overlooking Perth. The couple were keen to have a garden that featured rare and unusual plants and flowers from all over the world. Thanks to the seeds collected by renowned plant hunters and due to Dorothy's remarkable gardening skills, the couple's wish was granted. There's a Branklyn Gardens also in Ingleby Barwick on Teesside. Don't get confused! Today, gardeners and botanists come from across the globe between April and October to admire Branklyn's outstanding collection, particularly the the rhododendrons, alpines and peat-garden plants. But the riverside park which I walked through to the city centre has plenty of interest of its own. Scone Palace, crowning place of Scottish Kings, is on winter hours through February and March, offering FREE admission to the huge grounds and shops until full opening in April. If you are in need of a haircut, try Sweeney Todd's on South Street, unless the photo puts you off! The Perth Concert Hall and Museum and Art Gallery in the north east quadrant of the city are worth a visit, and a twenty minute walk out of town will take you to the Black Watch Regimental Museum, open through the winter, which is acclaimed as one of the best regimental museums in the UK and there's a bus back into the city centre and the station from outside the museum.

Whilst Perth can easily be visited in a day, you might want to stay a night or two and I have two recommendations. Right opposite the station is the Station Hotel, not as grand as it used to be but comfortable enough and a great place to drop your luggage before going out to explore. A trip advisor reviewer described it as having "masses of potential" which can be a euphemism for "in need of refurbishment". But it's a great building to have a poke around and at £35-£50 a room this time of year is a bargain. More upmarket in the city centre's South Street is the Salutation Hotel, also walkable from the station.

By Alex Nelson

nationalrail.com

FireFlyNewMedia **Presents:** Lost Landscapes & Learning

Don't take it from us:

"Firefly New Media have been a real pleasure to work with. From our first contact I have been impressed with just how attentive they are to the client, how responsive and helpful they are to any queries and how they have maintained a thoroughly professional approach throughout the different stages of our website build and launch. They display a real can-do attitude and I have particularly appreciated their patience in simplifying the various nuances of website technology for me and helping me to keep momentum with tight deadlines. Marco and Barry are very personable and easy to work with and have a real ease and gift in providing what I would describe as a tailored, individual and thoroughly efficient service."

- 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

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.

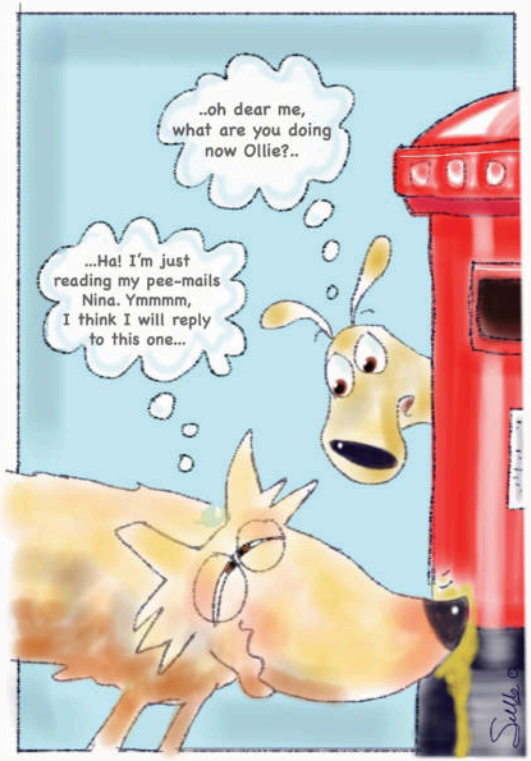
"All great. Yes, we can proceed with that final draft. Great job! We will certainly approach you in future for print."

- Mr. R. Floreza - Senior Project Officer



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Our Dog Boarding Service offers a kinder alternative to kennels – your dog stays with us or one of our experienced host families and is cared for walked fed and given all the love and attention they need whilst you are away.

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ASK The VET

PRINCE BISHOP VETERINARY HOSPITAL

By Christina Groves
Prince Bishop Veterinary Hospital

DENTAL DISEASE

Up to 80% of dogs over the age of three have clinically significant dental disease so it is a really important issue in veterinary medicine. Dental disease in dogs and cats is different to that seen in people (who most often get tooth decay) because the biggest problem we most often see is inflammation and infection in the tissues surrounding the teeth (also known as periodontal disease).

Periodontal disease occurs due to accumulation of plaque and tartar on the teeth which causes gum recession and pocketing where the tooth meets the gum. This infection and inflammation can spread deeper into the tooth socket causing teeth to become painful and loose and even resulting in tooth root abscesses.

Most dental disease is preventable with daily brushing using a special pet toothpaste but if your pet already has a build-up of tartar, your vet may recommend a scale and polish under general anaesthesia first. It is also recommended that dental X-rays are performed and the same time to identify any disease located beneath the gum line which may be causing problems. Many vet practices will offer free of charge dental checks for your pets, so if you've noticed your pet has smelly breath, discoloured teeth or pain when they are eating, book them an appointment to get checked out as soon as possible.

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

Consett Panto Smashes All Records





Consett's Christmas pantomime Beauty and the Beast may have finished its run, but for those involved in the production it could be said to have come to a happy ending.

The 2018 pantomime – staged at the Consett Empire – is the most successful panto to have ever been put on in the town, with the show attracting record audience numbers.

The production was seen by an incredible 13,000 people.

Beauty and the Beast was written and directed by north-east actress Leah Bell. Leah – who also starred in the panto as the loveable Mrs Penelope Potts – is already working on ideas for this year's show, Snow White.

Tickets for Snow White at the Consett Empire are already on sale and theatregoers are urged to book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Leah Bell has now been producing Consett's pantos for over a decade. Leah said, "Sometimes everything just clicks into place and this December in Consett was one of those times."

"The audience reaction was great. There is always a warm and friendly atmosphere in the theatre during pantomime season, but this year it seemed extra special."

"I can't wait to get started on Snow White, which will have some magical surprises in it."

Beauty and the Beast also starred Finbar Healy – the son of the late north-east entertainer Brendan Healy – as well as Harriet Povey and James de Lauch Hay.

CONSETT AFC FUNCTION ROOM

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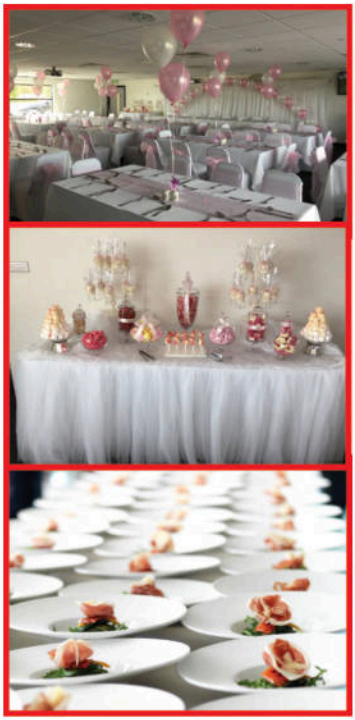
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For Enquiries And Reservations Contact: 01207588886 Or 07710 133694 or 07983464062

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