CONSETT MAGAZINE

APRIL 2019

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Illustration By: Father John

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Welcome

Dear Consett Magazine readers,

Thanks for picking up this month's edition.

We've had some great feedback from people who really loved the illustrated front cover last month by Father John, so once again we're delighted to have another one of his creations on the front cover again this month.

In the history section this month, Brian Harrison writes about the history of the Leadgate Miner's Hall, and how it's hoped the building will be given a new lease of life after local residents have stepped in and saved the building for the community.

Last month we introduced Kev's Upcycling. This month on page eight, Kev looks at upcycling vs recycling - it's a local business we're very fond of and I'm sure you will be too when you read all about what Kev does.

Lorraine Weightman brings us sunshine (as she always does) on page ten as she reminisces about the school choir at the English Martyrs School in Leadgate. You can also find out how to get a copy of Lorraine's new book "Telling Tales" on page eleven.

Please also take a moment to look at page nine to read all about Millie's Mark and how Shotley Bridge Nursery School have managed to become Millie's Mark certified. It's a very powerful story and we're proud to help share the story with our readers about how this top class local nursery have became one of the only nurseries in the Region to be certified with this important award.

If you'd like to share your business or story with us, please give us a call on the number below or drop an email to us. We're looking forward to hearing from you and can't wait to share your story with the Consett community.

Have a wonderful April,

Barry Kirkham, Marco Elsy,
local businesses who support the magazine through advertising and all the wonderful people who make the Consett Magazine possible.

Contributors

Brian Harrison
Barry Kirkham
Marco Elsy
Frank Bell
Neil Sullivan
Lorraine Weightman
Christina Groves
Alex Nelson
Catherine Meades
Farther John
Laura Bowery

The Front Cover

Contact us! 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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MINERS HALL LEADGATE – A COLOURFUL HISTORY

By Brian Harrison

After hearing a few things lately about the Miners Hall in Leadgate I became extremely curious and decided to have a look into the history. The initial hall was inaugurated on Saturday 28 November 1884 and opened by William Jenkins J.P, the General Manager of Consett Iron Company. Initially the building had been built by the United Free Methodist Society, Consett and Leadgate circuit as a place of worship and socialising. Unfortunately they had been unable to keep the building going due to drastic falling numbers and a lack of finances. The building had been vacant for 12 months when the executive of the Durham Miners Association(DMA) purchased it in full.

The building was a handsome substantial building standing at the top of Watling Street and having room for up to 300 people. The DMA intended the building to be utilised as a hall for public entertainments, meetings and concerts as well as a place were meetings of the local miners lodges could take place. A committee of trustees was set up to oversee the running of the hall, 3 members from each of the local mines; Iveston, Medomsley and the Eden; as well as a further 3 from the near by East Castle. Consett Iron Company also promised 2 sets each of dominoes, chess sets and draughts along with tables and all accessories needed to allow the games to be played. William Jenkins J.P. also promised a further 2 guineas from his own pocket annually to help to fund the project and the East Castle Colliery owners giving further 5 guineas to boost the initial fund.

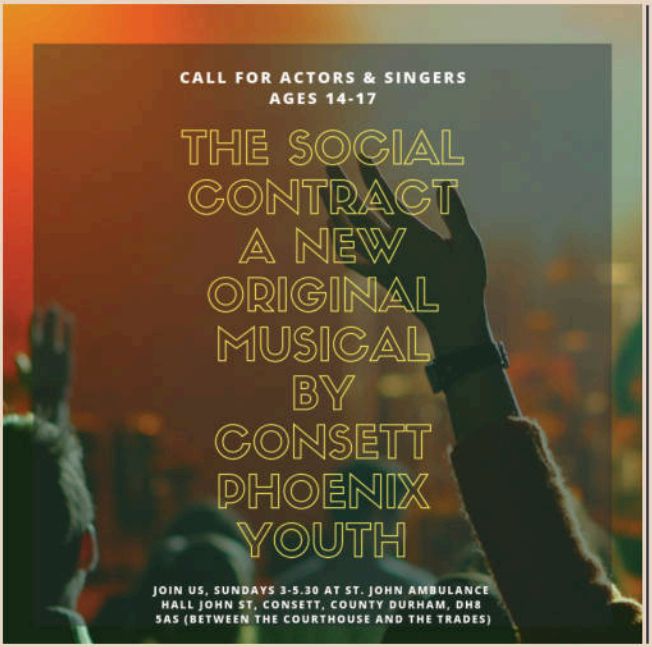
However, it seems that all didn't go to plan. In 1895 an auction was held in the Golden Lion, presided over by the auctioneer Thomas Shadforth, for the sale of the Hall by the DMA. The auction was held on 11th September at 4pm. The bids came thick and fast eventually reaching £300 but the hall was unsold. Private talks were then held with potential buyers but the hall was removed from sale. I can't say whether the hall was indeed sold at this point, but it definitely went in to private

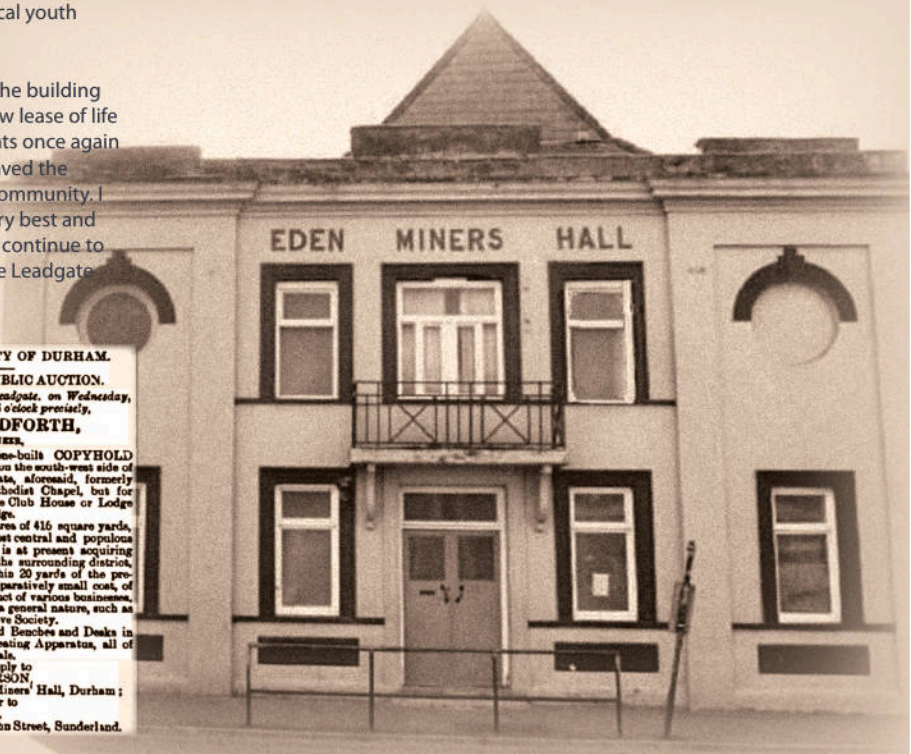


hands. We know it was certainly used as a fruit shop and later Stokoe's Joiner Shop, Stokoe's Building's still being the name of the buildings attached to back of the Hall, before becoming the Eden Miners Hall.

The Eden Miners Hall became almost the centre of activity in the area, housing billiard tables, reading rooms, committee room. It was the used for weddings, parties, church functions and also as a dance hall. The building had changed almost completely but still stood on the same spot in the centre of the village, at that time directly across from the Roxy Cinema. Again due to decline and the closure of the coal mines the building became little more than a shell of its former self. It did pick up again in later years to become the local youth club.

It now looks like the building will be given a new lease of life after local residents once again stepped in and saved the building for the community. I wish them the very best and hope the hall will continue to be a centre for the Leadgate community.





LEADGATE, COUNTY OF DURHAM.

TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION.

At the Golden Lion Inn, Leadgate, on Wednesday, Sept. 11th, 1895, at 4 o'clock precisely,

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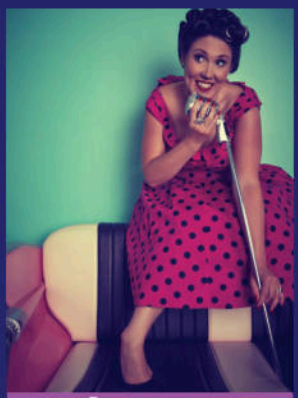
2019 SEASON PROGRAMME

May

Cilla & the Shades of the 60s

Tuesday 7 May, 7.30pm

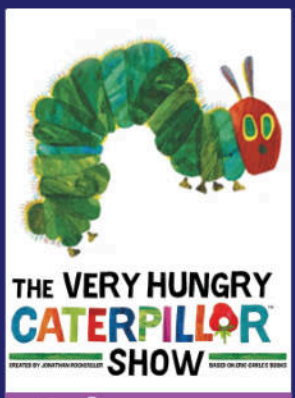




Jul

Lipstick On Your Collar

Saturday 13 July, 7.30pm



Jul

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show

Saturday 20 July, 1.30pm



Oct

Dave Spikey: Juggling on a Motorbike

Thursday 3 October, 7.30pm

Jun

Catherine Cookson's The Cinder Path

Thurs 6 June - Fri 7 June
7.30pm (Thu), 2.30pm (Fri)



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UPCYCLING VS RECYCLING: Find us on facebook /consett46
KEV'S FURNITURE RECYCLING & UPCYCLING

When we talk about recycling, we refer to an industrial process through which a residue is transformed into a new material and is used for the production of new objects. Upcycling is a term coined recently, also known as creative recycling. In upcycling objects are used, by means of creativity, to create products that have a higher value than the original object. Or, likewise: to transform waste into valuable objects using one´s imagination.

Yes, it´s true that for upcycling we start from a material or object that if we would not have done so, in many occasions would have ended up in the recycling bin, but it doesn't have to be this way. Upcycling, more than in recycling, consists in re-imagining uses of existing products and materials and converting them into something new.

Upcycling is a creative resource to be sustainable and also to provide more value to objects and furniture in our home. A new piece of furniture will be able to tell a story after a few years, but a piece of furniture or object that arises from upcycling already tells a story in itself. Not only by the transformation of the object, but rather by the idea and the techniques used for the object to become what it is today.

Upcycling is reworking, reinventing, trying to see new forms within the already existing ones without losing the original touch that identifies them. This is another



big difference between upcycling and recycling: whereas, when something is recycled, the material or object loses its original form, the beauty of upcycling is that the original object can still be clearly identified after assuming its new function. It is a kind of tribute, a praise and splendour of what the object once used to be.

One of the bigger challenges of upcycling is about providing a great value to forgotten or with an about to end lifespan objects, but does not necessarily mean that these are not valuable: you can do upcycling with exclusive materials and very expensive products. Upcycling means a new wrinkle, is thinking about other use, about taking advantage of the available resources we have to create new objects which we give a fresh touch through designer's creativity.

So next time you're looking to get rid of old furniture, or looking to get some new, give me a call on **07949094605** or contact me on Facebook and we'll see what we can do to help.



Find us on Yell.com

The Millie's Mark Story

What is Millie's Mark?

Millie's Mark is a certification awarded to nurseries who ensure all of their staff are fully trained in Paediatric First Aid.

Millie's Mark is delivered by Millie's Trust in partnership with the National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA). Millie's Trust was set up by Joanne and Dan Thompson in 2012 after their nine month old daughter Millie died after choking on food at her nursery. The trust campaigns vigorously to increase first aid requirements for childcare providers nationwide.

Why Millie's Mark?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) guidelines require just one first aid trained person be in attendance at a nursery at any time. This is where Millie's Mark goes above and beyond with their own requirements: All of the staff at each nursery need to be trained and confident in Pediatric First Aid in order to become Millie's Mark certified. This means parents have peace of mind that their children are in safe hands at all times.

Shotley Bridge Nursery School places child safety and wellbeing above all else, and have successfully committed themselves to rigorously training all staff to in Pediatric First Aid. In recognition of this, they have now been awarded Millie's Mark, attesting to their commitment to the highest possible standards of childcare.



"Children are the most important people in the world and because of this we strive to achieve the highest standards possible in all that we do. We always try to be at the forefront of best practice in childcare and education and so we felt it was vital to have ALL of our staff properly trained in first aid. We continually evaluate our first aid procedures as well as staff confidence, and this is always on the agenda at our meetings in order to keep our knowledge and training fresh and up to date."

Mrs A.Young & Mrs. L. Bowery, Directors of Shotley Bridge Nursery School

Becoming Millie's Mark Certified

Shotley Bridge Nursery School got involved with the Millie's Mark program in January 2018. After a successful panel review in October 2018, they were officially awarded Millie's Mark in November 2018 The hard work of the staff at Shotley Bridge Nursery School to become Paediatric First Aid trained means parents can rest assured that help is always on hand in case of accident or emergency.

What this means for Shotley Bridge Nursery School

As always, child safety is paramount at Shotley Bridge Nursery School and now they are Millie's Mark certified, parents can be confident that their children are in a safe environment surrounded by a competently first aid trained workforce.

SHOTLEYBRIDGE Nursery School Ltd

NDNA National Day Nurseries Association

*Brighter thinking for early years

Millie's Mark®
Inspiring Excellence in Paediatric First Aid

BRING ME SUNSHINE

The school choir had been practising for weeks at lunch time to stage a 'Songs from Italy' extravaganza organised by the music teacher at English Martyrs School in Leadgate.

Our teacher loved music and singing. She played brilliantly and could easily pop up off her seat, peering over the top of the piano - to see if any of us weren't concentrating - without missing a note.
She spoon fed us culture on a regular basis but this performance was her most adventurous and challenging project to date. Choosing mostly Neapolitan songs performed by famous artists, not only did she attempt to teach us the words by heart so there was no paper shuffling through the practices, but she decided that including the Italian version of each piece would enhance the production.

Bearing in mind the majority of us hadn't fully mastered the English language, she definitely needed to be commended for her bravery. The first song we learnt was Funiculì Funiculà . We listened to Mario Lanza's LP version on the school's light brown wooden record player, rolling our eyes as she repeated the words and asked us to copy.

To make it easier to understand she tried to explain what a funicular was, but the thought of anyone wanting to write a song about a cable car going up and down a cliff was beyond us. Still we soldiered on, and with her determination and perseverance we were getting the hang of it.

Her sister, who taught history at school helped at the rehearsals, a stickler for perfection, she made sure our pronunciation was acceptable. Next on the list was 'Santa Lucia', which funnily enough we were all familiar with so that took no learning. 'Come Back to Sorrento' however was a bit more difficult as there were lots of high notes and they had to be held longer than usual. Our music teacher told us this was called 'fermata' but we were none the wiser.

It was inevitable she would abandon 'O Sole Mio' early on in the practice sessions, as the back row insisted on singing 'It's Now Or Never' in the majestic tones of Elvis Presley throughout the chorus. The culprits were never found!
The last song I remember learning was 'Arrivederci Roma' - Goodbye to Rome' - which also felt familiar. It was only when I started singing

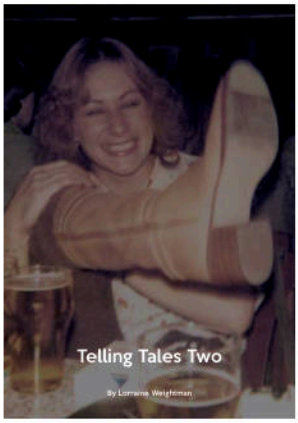


the songs at home and looked through my Mam's Dean Martin LP collection that I realised I'd heard them all before.

The lunch time practices continued. Forty of us for forty minutes a day crammed three to a seat into the Music Room - which was just a classroom with a piano in - was bound to encourage boisterous behaviour.

Two or three could play the piano so when our teacher was called away and told us to keep singing - leaving the dinner nannies loitering outside to keep an eye - two of my musical friends hatched a plot and included me in it. Without hesitation one jumped on the piano stool, fingers wiggling, ready to play, while the other picked up the white chalk and wrote the words and notes on the blackboard, handing me the conductors baton with her other hand.

For the next five minutes the choir sang their hearts out and the whole school could hear the rousing rendition echoing down the corridors. When our music teacher returned, sweeping into the room like a latter day Miss Trunchbull and a face like thunder, we realised - after all her hard work trying to nurture, refine and educate our palette towards sophistication - she was far from amused by our spontaneous performance of Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay!



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

A series to lead you through the process of discovering your family's story in simple steps, with some tips and tricks to help you through, round or over brick walls.

Part 4 – The 1939 Register for England and Wales

The 1939 Register is an invaluable tool in bridging the gap between the 1911 census – the latest currently available – and the present day.

The Register was taken on the 29 September 1939, just before the start of World War II, and the information was used as the basis for things like identity cards, rationing and conscription. Information included in a 1939 register entry: name, address, gender, date of birth, marital status, and occupation.

Information not included in a 1939 register entry: relationships between household members.

People not included in the Register:

- People born less than 100 years ago and not known to have passed away. These entries are redacted – their details do not appear in the indexes or transcriptions and in the images they are covered with a thick black line.
- People already in the military.

One useful feature of the 1939 Register is that the entries could be updated, usually with a different coloured ink. For example, a women's married surname could be added.

Websites for accessing the 1939 Register:

- www.Ancestry.co.uk - ££. Images and transcriptions
- www.FindMyPast.co.uk - ££. Images and transcriptions.
- www.MyHeritage.com - ££. Transcriptions only

For previous articles in this series and additional information on how to search the 1939 Register see the Cameo Family History Website: www.cameofamilyhistory.com

Next month: Parish Registers

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Places to Go: Stoke

In January I had a meeting in Stoke-on-Trent, in north Staffordshire. I was coming from London, and stayed overnight in the North Stafford hotel, run by Britannia.. This chain of hotels has a pretty bad reputation on social media and in the travel trade, but one of their hallmarks in inconsistency, so it was a pleasant surprise to find the Jacobean style hotel directly opposite the railway station was clean and tidy and good value for money. I would even recommend it. The hotel is in the same red brick style as the railway station. The first class lounge in the station, formerly operated by Virgin Trains West Coast is now closed, but replaced with a Titanic bar serving excellent real ales from the local Titanic brewery.

Stoke is one of the six towns which joined together in 1910, the others being Hanley (the main commercial centre), Burslem, Tunstall, Longton and Fenton. The total population today of the City, so designated by King George V in 1925, is 260,000. I only explored Stoke itself, but had I the time I would have taken the bus up to Hanley to see the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, admission free. This not only has many displays of ceramics, but also a full size Spitfire, as Stoke was the birthplace of Reginald Mitchell (1895-1937), designer of the iconic Spitfire fighter aircraft. There is, unsurprisingly, a Wetherspoons pub in Hanley named after him. The Museum is on Bethesda Street, and also has a rotating display of items from the Staffordshire Hoard, the largest hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold ever found.

The Stoke motto is Vis Unita Fortior - United Strength is Stronger, and it has a diverse population. I had a walk around the far side of the station, a big car park, trying to find somewhere to eat, as the hotel restaurant was closed. I espied a red, black and white logo which from a distance looked like a KFC. Heading towards it, the sign was one for Staffordshire University, and I ended up in Lahori Kebabish restaurant for an excellent Chicken Biryani.

I started my exploration with Portmeirion Pottery which was founded by Susan Williams-Ellis and her husband Euan Cooper-Willis in 1960. Susan had already been designing work for sale in the gift shop at Portmeirion, the Italianate village in North Wales, which had been created by her father the architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis. In 1960 they acquired a small pottery in Stoke called A. E. Gray Ltd. Adding a second established pottery, Kirkham's Ltd. the following year. This enabled Susan to design shapes as well as surface decoration.

The simplicity of her designs made them immediately popular, including the best selling Botanic Garden pattern. In the year 2000 the parent company's name was changed to Portmeirion Group PLC to reflect the company's leadership in the design and manufacture of objects of beauty for the home, not only in ceramics, but also in a wide range of other materials. The Group now comprises Portmeirion, Spode, Royal Worcester and Pimpernel.

Later I ended up at the Spode Heritage Centre, which had closed, but the lady in the café took pity on me on a cold afternoon with a warming mug of coffee as she was closing up, and I had an interesting hour in the public library learning about the local history of Stoke before heading to the station for my late train home.

I returned via Manchester Piccadilly, enjoying a Japanese meal at YO! Sushi on the mezzanine above Piccadilly station, then joined a Hull-bound TransPennine train to Huddersfield, dropping back a few minutes later on a direct train to the north-east.

nationalrail.com

Alex Nelson



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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PRINCE BISHOP VETERINARY HOSPITAL

By Christina Groves
Prince Bishop Veterinary Hospital

ADDER BITES

The adder is the UK's only naturally occurring venomous snake and is most commonly found in sand dunes, rocky hillsides and woodland edges between April and July. They are a protected species meaning it is a criminal offence to kill, harm, injure, sell or trade adders in the United Kingdom. Although typically non-aggressive, they may bite if provoked, stepped on or disturbed by an inquisitive dog, although this is a relatively rare occurrence.

The vast majority of bites occur in the late afternoon when adders are at their most active and due to their inquisitive nature, puppies and young dogs are usually most at risk. Severe pain and localised swelling are the most common clinical signs but, if left untreated, symptoms can include muscle tremors, seizures, collapse and, very occasionally, death. If you do suspect your dog has been bitten by an adder, you should keep calm, minimise their movement by carrying them (if possible), keep them warm and quiet, and get to the nearest vets as quickly as possible.

If treated promptly, over 95% of patients will make a full recovery within five days.

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

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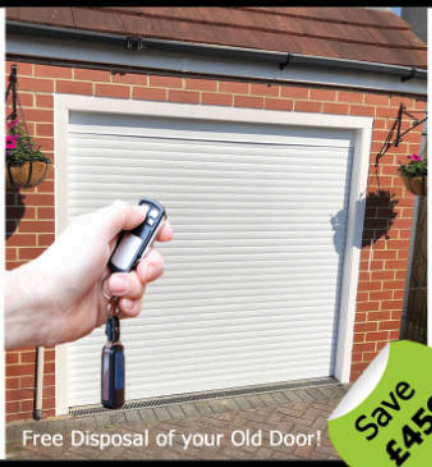
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Magic Eye Safety System

18 Colours Available



Garolla saves you space inside your garage as the Garage Doors roll vertically into a box. This design requires just 8 inches of headroom and allows you to park closer to the door. Remotely control the Door from the comfort of your car. Includes a magic eye safety system, providing you with a safer Garage Door for you and your home.

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