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MAGAZINE
MAY 2019
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Photo By: Dale Hazel

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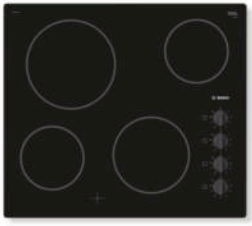
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Welcome

Dear Consett Magazine readers,

We hope this May will be filled with positivity and good fortunes for you and all the good people of DH8. Thanks again for picking up your free edition of Consett Magazine (remember we aim to spread positive, local news - so if you've got a great local story to share, get in touch).

In this edition, you'll find "The Journey to Consett - A Genealogical Tale" by local historian Brian Harrison on page 4, on page 7 read "How to Start Your Own Business in Consett" - it's a featured we'll be including regularly to provide and encourage anyone interested in starting their own business and going self-employed (we want to help Consett businesses to succeed and thrive in our awesome community), on page 8 see some new products from "Kev's Furniture Recycling & Upcycling", on page 9 we look at how local business, Shotley Bridge Nursery School became "Millie's Mark" certified and what it means for the children who attend (plus information about their grand unveiling event), and on Page 10 is "Free Spirit" another intriguing and retrospective piece from everyone's favourite local writer, Lorraine Weightman.



As you'll see this on the front cover this month we received a fantastic photo submission sent in by Dale Hazel. Thanks, Dale! If you'd like to have your awesome photography skills featured in the next edition, please email across a nice big high-resolution image to editor@consettmagazine.com

Have a wonderful day, and remember to pass this magazine to friend or family member when you're finished with it.

Warmest regards,
Barry Kirkham,
Marco Elsy, and all of the writers,
people, and business sponsors who make Consett Magazine possible.

Contributors

Brian Harrison
Barry Kirkham
Marco Elsy
Neil Sullivan
Lorraine Weightman
Christina Groves
Alex Nelson
Catherine Meades
Dale Hazel
Laura Bowery

The Front Cover

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THE JOURNEY TO CONSETT - A GENEALOGICAL TALE

By Brian Harrison

A vast majority of our time at the Consett & District Heritage Initiative is spent helping people research their family genealogy. It is something my wife and I truly love as it encompasses research, problem solving and many other skills. It definitely keeps your brain active. We started our family research over 20 years ago before everything was so widely available online. We found ourselves in dark dingy records offices, old churches and even walking the grave yards. The smell off old books still bring back memories of those earliest outings. Things have certainly moved on rapidly with the ever expanding data being uploaded onto the net.

I think for me, although my initial idea to start my tree was just to find out a little bit about the family, it was finding my 4 x Great Grandfather, John Atkinson Harrison, that actually got me truly hooked. John A was my first true stumbling block and also one of my greatest finds. I had traced my family back steadily one at a time but had come to an impasse. There was suddenly 2 possible John Atkinson Harrison's both that could be found in and around Gateshead and both of who moved to the Morpeth area. The chances of that seemed at the time just unbelievable to me, but since then I have found these type of coincidence are all to common when tracing families. Anyway, after a few weeks of researching in both Newcastle and Durham archives I managed to separate the two and track mine back to his birth place. The following is what I know about the man who got me addicted to my family research.

John Atkinson Harrison was born in around 1788 in Bishop Auckland, the son of George Harrison a Labourer and his wife Ann (nee Atkinson). Ann had the ability to write, although George couldn't at the time of their marriage. John A must have been quite proficient at both reading and writing, probably being taught by his mother. He was the youngest son of a quite large family and most of his brothers entered into good trades, Blacksmiths, Stone Mason's and Joiners. The latter was the trade which John A took up. His family weren't rich so he would have been placed in an apprenticeship which in those days would have lasted around 7 years, up to 15 years in some cases. John A was the last to leave Bishop Auckland and the family home, only moving to Swalwell once his mother died in 1814. He was now working full time as a Wood Turner finding work around the area. It was here that he met and married his first wife Mary Ann.

Mary Ann had been widowed 2 years prior to her marriage to John A, but had had no children. The pair were married in 1815 in Whickham but lived in Blaydon. The couple went on to have 3 children, Henry Marshall, Ann and Elizabeth. It was the baptism of Henry Marshall that ultimately gave me the proof of his fathers birth place which enabled me to discount the other John Atkinson Harrison. Unfortunately, tragedy struck when Mary Ann died due to complications of childbirth in the December of 1825. Things were very different to how they are now and with 3 children under the age 7, one only a few months old, John A had to find a new wife. In 1826 he did just that marrying Sarah Lawson, a farmers daughter from Ryton, and very likely a distant relative of Mary Ann's.

John A and Sarah were married in Ryton Holy Cross, Sarah's church, but still resided in Blaydon were they had their first son George a year later. John A was then offered a job up in Horton, Northumberland as the main Joiner during the restoration of Horton St Mary Parish Church which he accepted. During their time there the couple actually lived in the Church itself , John A also becoming clerk of the church as well. The couple had 6 children while there and were counted on the 1841 Census in occupation of Horton Chapel.

The couple then moved to the Bedlington Iron Works were they took over the Rose & Crown Inn. It was a big change for the couple but it also gave their children a massive boost in their future careers. Bedlington Iron Works was at the time the most advanced of its kind. It was the first to produce malleable Iron Rails which triggered the Railway

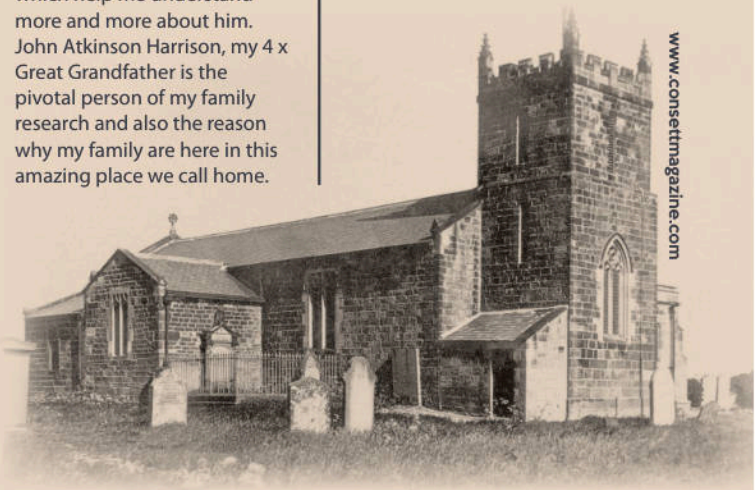
Age. Also the Bebside Engine Works, where much of the Stephenson brothers engine designs were produced, stood only a few hundred yards away on the other side of the river. John A and Sarah had a further 5 children while at the Rose and Crown, 2 died in infancy and a third died tragically after falling into the river Blyth outside the Inn at the tender age of only 5 years.

John A and Sarah's sons all went into the iron industry, as Furnaceman, Steel Rollers and one as book keeper and clerk of the works. They were all highly skilled and their services were sort after and the family soon branched out around the country. At least 2 of the brothers had already moved to the Consett area by 1841 another 2 would also move there by 1860. What happened between 1851 and 1861 I have no idea other than snippets of history. I know that by 1852 that John A and Sarah had moved out of the Rose and Crown, quite possibly into the The Grapes Inn, but their son Thomas was placed in to the local jail for herding his fathers cattle and damaging the paths in the centre of Bedlington. The poor boy was only 10 but spent 2 days locked up before the trial and was only released once his mother had paid the fine and costs.

By 1861 John A and Sarah were also living in Consett, cementing our family roots firmly in the area. They were living only a few doors from their 3rd oldest son William. By now John A was aged 73 years, although the census gave his age as 71, and was working as the watchman at the Iron Works. His youngest child Hannah was still only 11 and John A and Sarah still had 4 children at home. On all of the census returns that John A appeared on his age given always gave a date of birth of 1790, however at the time of his death in 1868 his true age was given. He died in 246 Consett on 27 February 1868 a Turner aged 79 years and was buried in Blackhill Old Cemetery.

I visit his grave from time to time and feel a true affinity toward him, almost as though I had known him my whole life, even though we were separated in time by over 110 years. I still research him and continue to find snippets which help me understand more and more about him. John Atkinson Harrison, my 4 x Great Grandfather is the pivotal person of my family research and also the reason why my family are here in this amazing place we call home.

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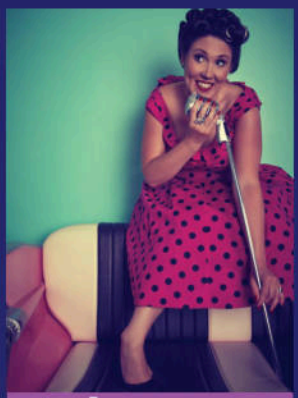
2019 SEASON PROGRAMME

May

Cilla & the Shades of the 60s

Tuesday 7 May, 7.30pm

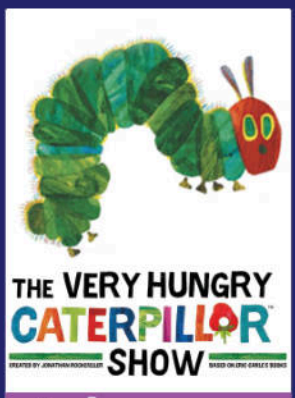




Jul

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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Durham County Council

How to Start Your Own Business in Consett

When I got started in business eight years ago there was very little assistance available to assist me with the of 100s of questions I had about; banking, invoicing, accounting, registering as self-employed, renting an office, insurance, employment, sales & marketing, data management, etc - the list goes on…

The truth is, I had to research and educate myself about all of these business topics myself.

Now I'm hoping to share what I've learnt over the years with others by publishing short business guides here in the Consett Magazine to assist and encourage other people to get their business up and running.

If you're planning to join the community of Consett entrepreneurs and launch your own business in 2019, this guide will hopefully help you to get your new business off the ground.

Six Tips for Starting Your Business

1. Write a business plan

Consett entrepreneurs need a business plan. This will help you determine whether your business ideas are likely to succeed and be sustainable. You'll need to research the market and also prepare budget forecasts. You can download a business plan and cash flow forecast template from the UK government website: **https://www.gov-.uk/write-business-plan**

2. Decide on your business legal structure

Do you want to become a sole trader, partnership, limited company or just a freelancer? These different legal structures have pros and cons, read about each type and decide which one is best for your needs.

3. Choose a business name and address

If you're a sole trader, you can just use your own name if you want. You'll need an address for when it comes to registering your UK business for tax purposes and joining the company register in the UK. Only limited companies need to register their name, although others can register as a trademark to stop anyone else from trading under the name.

4. Setting up as a Limited Company

If you decide to set up a limited company you will need to appoint directors and a company secretary, work out your shares and shareholders, write your memorandum and articles of association, open a separate bank account and register for corporation tax.

5. Register with HM Revenue and Customs

You will need to register your UK business with HMRC for tax purposes. Limited Companies need to register with Companies House at the cost of £12 (online) or £40 (post).

6. Check if there are any additional rules for your type of start-up business

Depending on the nature of your new business, there may be additional requirements, such as:

- Licenses or permits (e.g. to sell food or alcohol, play music or trade in the street)
- Insurance
- Rules to follow if you buy or sell goods abroad or store/use personal information

Being self-employed in the UK is fairly common with around 15% of the workforce registered as self-employed.

I hope this short guide has been of value to you, especially if you are thinking about starting your own business. In the coming months, I'll be publishing more business guides to help your business succeed on my company's blog fireflynewmedia.com/blog/ and on the Consett Magazine website, see: Business



Kindest regards,
Barrington Kirkham
Founder of
Firefly New Media UK

FireFlyNewMedia

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fireflynewmedia.com

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. **Door-to-door Service**



Unveiling of the Millie's Mark Plaque at Shotley Bridge Nursery School

Local nursery Shotley Bridge Nursery School is proud to have been awarded the Millie's Mark for excellence in Paediatric First Aid.

Millie's Mark®
Inspiring Excellence in **Paediatric First Aid**



SHOTLEYBRIDGE
Nursery School Ltd

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) guidelines, which childcare settings in England are required to follow, state that just one person with a current paediatric first aid certificate must be on the nursery premises and be available when children are present or on trips.

Millie's Mark is awarded as a special endorsement to childcare providers and nurseries who go above and beyond the legal requirements by having 100% of staff trained in Paediatric First Aid.

Recognition with Millie's Mark means not only that all Shotley Bridge Nursery School staff are trained in Pediatric First Aid, but also that they are committed to continuous learning so that they are confident, ready and capable to administer first aid at all times.

Shotley Bridge Nursery School got involved with the Millie's Mark program in 2018.

After a successful panel review in October 2018, they were officially recognised with the certification on 18th November 2018.

NDNA
National Day Nurseries Association
*Brighter thinking for early years

We'd like to formally invite the local community to the unveiling of the Millie's Mark plaque at Shotley Bridge Nursery School in Consett, County Durham on Saturday 15th June 2019

FREE SPIRIT

As I recall there was a choice of three youth clubs in the Consett area when I'd just turned fourteen: The YMCA, Saint Patrick's and St Mary's Blackhill.

I remember rating Blackhill as my favourite at the time as the DJ always seemed to play my best - loved songs to dance to. The room in the church hall was dark and those who didn't want to dance hung around the edges, leaning up against the walls, huddling in friendship groups observing what was going on.

The more adventurous ventured into the kitchen where you could buy bottles of pop and crisps and some sat on the counter swinging their legs in time to the music. None of the lads danced first off, spending most of their time playing football in the main hall.

In fact most of them hardly ever ventured in to the 'disc' as we called it until later in the evening. But for three weeks England's World Cup song 'Back Home' had been at number 1 in the charts so they couldn't resist running in and shouting out the chorus when it came on.

'Spirit in the Sky' by Norman Greenbaum was one of my firm favourites and the dance floor was always packed when it was played; everyone jostling for position so they had plenty of room to sing, wave their arms and clap along.

It was about this time I had my first crush, I admired his ruffled fair hair, and double denim ensemble but I didn't tell anyone. With this new interest in mind I managed to persuade my Mam that the pudding basin haircut I was sporting was not the most flattering and attempted to grow my hair into long curtains with the obligatory middle parting.

I also asked her to make me a scooter mini skirt - with the pattern we had just bought - in soft purple material with a matching top. Once the outfit was finished I discarded my knee length white socks and replaced them with paleface tights from The Wool Centre at the bottom of the market. To complete the look I added my new chunky brown leather platform shoes which made my legs look even skinnier than usual and set off down the bank for my Friday night out in Blackhill.

My clumpy shoes didn't enhance my journey and by the time I got to The Rose and Crown my feet were killing me. Still I just had to make it past The Scotch and I was there. I said I'd meet my

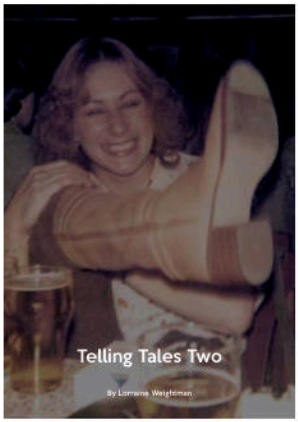


friends outside the church hall on the steps. We went straight to the toilets to check our hair and outfits and then had a quick look through the hall doors to see who was playing football before we headed for the dance floor.

'In The Summer Time' by Mungo Jerry was playing, followed by Daughter of Darkness by Tom Jones, then Wanderin' Star, which nobody danced to, but we all tried to do Lee Marvin impressions. The DJ was open to playing requests so without hesitation I asked for my newest favourite song, which had just been released. I knew he would wait until later on to play it as he wanted a full dance floor.

The football had finished and as it was nearly the end of the night, we waited with baited breath for our requests. Forming a circle under the purple fluorescent strip lighting we listened for the opening chords, and played along on our air guitars. Then from out of the darkness the footballers appeared - he was one of them - and they were heading towards us. It didn't seem to matter that the tiny specks of fluff on my outfit were magnified white under the purple light and my legs looked like a pair of glow sticks.

For, on that one occasion - with him next to me - we all danced together to that iconic song, and, it was all right now!



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.



Cameo
Family History

Discovering your family's story

The guide to researching your family history.

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 5 – Parish Registers: Online

The census records and birth, marriage and death indexes/certificates typically allow you to trace your family tree back to the beginning of the 19th Century. To go back further you will need to use parish registers of baptisms, marriages and burials. These differ from civil registration records in a number of ways:

- Parish registers in England and Wales can start as early as 1538, during the reign of Henry VIII. Unfortunately, many registers from that time do not survive.
- The information in the parish registers is not standardised. Generally, it gets more limited the further back you go – sometimes there is just a name!
- Readability of early (and not so early) records can be poor.
- Not all ancestors were part of the Church of England.
- There is no single online database which covers all Anglican parish registers. FamilySearch is generally the most comprehensive but often contains only basic information.

Websites for accessing parish register information include:

- FamilySearch.org — Free
- FreeReg.org.uk — Free
- Ancestry.co.uk — ££. Free at Consett Library.

Coverage for each county and parish will vary so you need to check coverage of the place of interest for each website. If you only have an index available online, not an image of the actual register, then you should check the original registers at the archive, if possible.

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: In the Archives

Tel: 07855 556 384
Email: info@cameofamilyhistory.com
Facebook: @cameofh





Places to Go: Birmingham

On my most recent visit to the National Exhibition Centre I stayed deliberately at a previously dreadful hotel which is definitely on its way up. The Rowton Hotel in the Digbeth area of Birmingham is described as "a charming Victorian-style building". It is rated on TripAdvisor as the 107th of 117 hotels in Birmingham. Austere, Gothic or Institutional might be better than Charming. Opened in 1903 it is definitely Edwardian. With 250 rooms at around £30, frankly I like it, and there was nothing to complain about with my redecorated room. In the past, I rebelled against the black and fluorescent green colour scheme. Bus 50 runs frequently into the city centre, or it is a 15 minute walk. I took the 50 the other way to ethnic Moseley Road to dine at Gymmy's Healthy Grill (631 of 1866 restaurants) where (despite a restricted menu) I had a good meal, even though a white americano coffee seemed beyond their capabilities.

The Rowton was formerly known as the Paragon, but I do remember once having a phone which was out of charge when needing to make a call. The helpful receptionist produced a cardboard box of chargers left behind by former occupants and lending me the right charger overnight. Many 5* hotels would not do that for you. Breakfast was always good, and it has a fascinating history of being a hostel for 800 men, mostly Irish labourers. If bland chain hotels are not for you, try the Rowton, but maybe not for a romantic break away!

Cross Country Trains run from the north east to Birmingham New Street twice an hour. Many also serve Birmingham International, for the NEC and Birmingham Airport (by monorail link 21 hours a day). The NEC has both trade and public shows and entertainment of all kinds at the Arena on site. Originally opened in 1976, there are now 20 Halls. It's the largest exhibition space in the UK and the 7th in Europe. Moving walkways and escalators help you move about efficiently, and it's always interesting to visit co-located shows that take place at the same time. When I went to the British Tourism and Travel Show, the only other exhibition was the "UK Concrete Show" – not many people had interests spanning both of those! Meanwhile the Classic Car show was in build for the opening over the weekend.

The NEC is truly an impressive space, so it's sad to report that "Resorts World" failed me totally when I wanted to use the spa pool and facilities between the show closing at 1600 and my train home about 1830. They do a two hour spa special. I had with me my normal Gate8 luggage cabin bag, the sort you can put in an aircraft overhead locker without checking it in. So, not very big! However, the spa people did not have a locker big enough, nor could they look after it in reception. I asked at the adjacent Genting hotel but I could only leave luggage if I was resident.

Clearly wedded to the 29,000 spaces for car parking customers, and giving no thought to people arriving by train! "Resorts World" gets a big fat zero, even though I was willing to pay £40 for use of the spa - less than the saving from not getting an earlier train. I had to wander around the airport for two hours instead before my first class split advance ticket for £53 took me home to the north east.

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

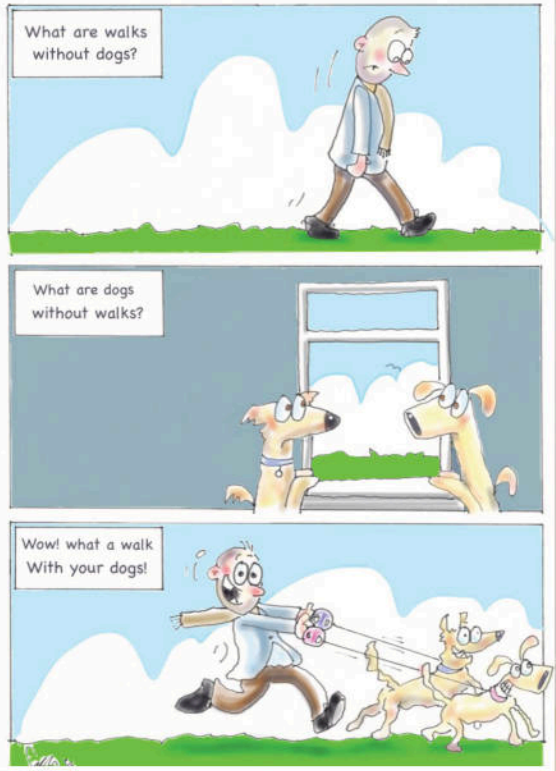
We were asked to create a flyer to promote the project and to publisise the events. We kept the same style we'd created when making the website and logo.

"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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By Christina Groves
Prince Bishop Veterinary Hospital

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

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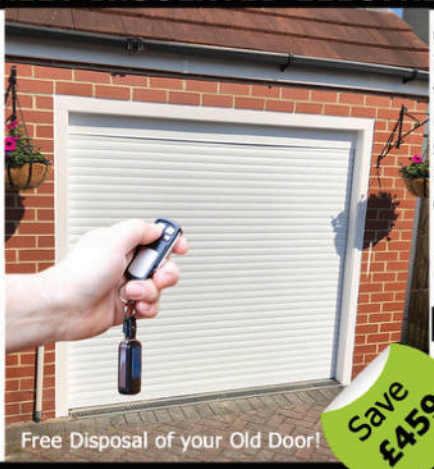
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