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JUNE 2019

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Welcome

Hello, the good people of Consett!

Welcome to the 78th issue of the Consett Magazine. Can you believe that? We've printed and distributed over 780,000 copies of the Consett Magazine! That's over 12 million pages! Our website consettmagazine.com got over 1 million hits last year and we're still growing!

We're delighted to part of such a vibrant and growing community and we hope to continue to play our part by offering great stories and promoting great local businesses.

Thanks to Father John for his incredible illustration on the front cover! If you have a picture you'd like to be featured then send them into editor@consettmagazine.com

This month we've packed our pages with regular favourites from Brian Harrison (Page 4 & 5), Lorraine Weightman (Page 10), Alex Nelson (Page 12), Catherine Meades (Page 11) and local artist Neil Sullivan (Page 14). We've also been sent in a series of stories from a new local writer, Angela Tindle (Page 7)

We also are very excited to reveal that local nursery Shotley Bridge Nursery School will be getting a very special guest to unveil their outstanding achievement of Millie's Mark, find out more on page 9.

As always, if you contact any of the businesses in this issue, be sure to mention where you saw them, without the continued support from our advertisers and contributors, Consett Magazine wouldn't exist. We'd like to thanks all the people that make this magazine possible. We hope you enjoy this issue and for more stories be sure to visit consettmagazine.com

Have a wonderful June, 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
Angela Tindle
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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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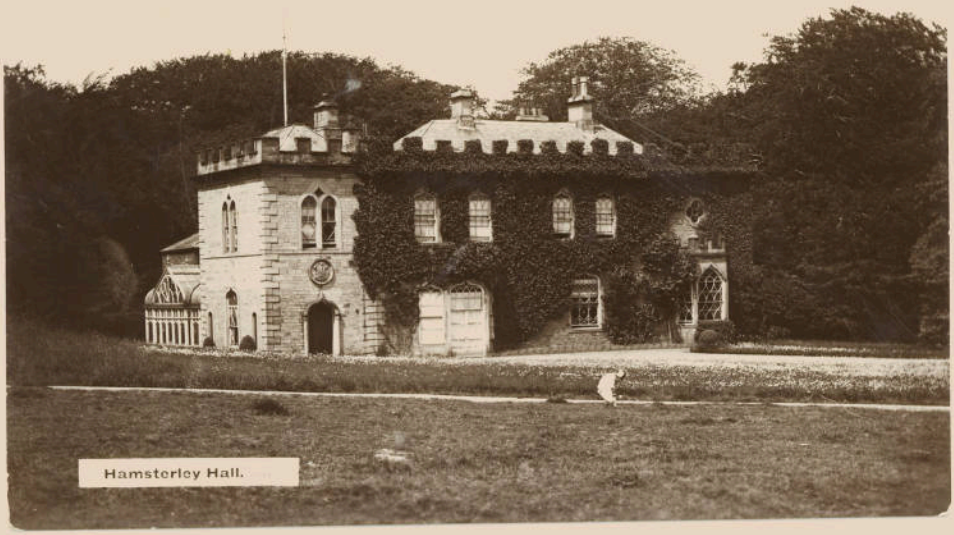
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HAMSTERLEY HALL AND THE SHERIFF'S
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HALL AND ITS OWNERS

By Brian Harrison



Hamsterley Hall, Hamsterley, Co Durham is located between Consett and Rowlands Gill, in a beautiful rural Hamsterley Hall estate . The Hall is believed to be originally 17th Century which was continuously updated throughout. Owned originally by the Swinburne family it stayed in their families till the early 1800's. The Hamsterley Hall estate was gifted to the Swinburne family by Charles I for their loyalty during the Civil War. In 1767 Sir John Swinburne past away leaving the hall and estate to his younger brother Henry Swinburne, a famous travel writer of the day. It was Henry who was to create the Hall we know today. Henry had studied art and literature in the Royal Academy in Turin and it was this which gave him passion for the new movements in art and design. He actually met his wife, Martha Baker while in Paris as part of the Grand Tour and they were married there in March 1767. When they returned to England they took up residence in Hamsterley Hall.

In 1769 Henry and Martha decided to upgrade the hall, choosing to opt for a Gothic Revival-styled mansion. The mansion was transformed into a large two story hall with four bays and castellated roof decoration. Henry had been a very lucky man and had achieved a good amount of fame and favour, however he was dogged with bad luck in his last 10 years, loosing a son, falling out of favour with the British government as well as loosing vast sums of money in Jamaica. He passed away in Trinidad after catching a sever case of sun stroke in 1803. The hall stood empty for 3 years until it passed into the hands of Anthony Surtees in 1806, a member of a very old established family of County Durham. In 1838 it passed to Anthony's son Robert Smith Surtees.



Robert Smith Surtees was a well known sports writer, novelist and editor, best known for his loved character Jorrocks, a bumbling aristocratic. Most of Robert's books were written whilst at Hamsterley, where it

is believed much of his inspiration for the halls and places within the novels of Jorrocks were taken. Robert was made Lord High Sheriff of Durham in 1856 and sat as a Justice of the Peace (JP) across the area. It was in this capacity as Lord High Sheriff and JP that he would be forever linked to the infamous Battle of the Blue Heaps which took place in 1858. Excerpts of his diary talk of what he found and witnessed during his investigation's of the incident. Robert died in Brighton in 1864 and his body brought back to be interred in the cemetery of Ebchester Church.

The Hamsterley Hall estate then passed to his daughter Eleanor who married John Vereker - 5th Viscount Gort in 1885. The hall continued to be upgraded and it was at some point around this time that an orangery was erect to the side of the hall. The hall was a living and evolving entity being added to and growing with each new owner. John Vereker died in 1902 and Eleanor died in 1933 leaving the hall to their son John Standish Surtees Prendergast Vereker - 6th



Viscount Gort. John had been a major player in WWI. He was award numerous medals including the highest honour of all the Victoria Cross for his bravery and actions during the Battle of Canal du Nord in 1918 where he was the Field Marshall in charge. He died on 31 March 1959 in Southwark, London aged 59 years, leaving Hamsterley Hall estate to his brother Standish the 7th Viscount Gort and also another war veteran who had received the MC. Standish had actual served under his brother John during WWI. Like Surtees before him Standish was also appointed Lord High Sheriff of Durham in 1934 as well as being a Knight of the Most

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Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem, an order first constituted in 1888 by royal charter from Queen Victoria. Standish lived out his life on the Hamsterley Hall estate passing away in 1975.

After his death the hall fell into disrepair, many of the great rooms falling in on themselves. In 2010 a concerted effort was made by the new owner to rebuild the hall which is a Grade II listed building of great importance being one of the best Gothic Revival-Style building throughout Durham and the North East. As far as we are aware renovation's of this fascinating building are still ongoing and will hopefully see the hall returned to its former glory.



Inside the Orangery of Hamsterley Hall c1913

5 Quick Small Business Marketing Tips for 2019

As a budget constrained small business, marketing your products and services effectively can be a real challenge.

From email marketing and social media campaigns to pricing, branding, and strategy, it's quite demanding for many small business owners to excel at marketing while also focusing on growing their business.

1. Focus on the most natural marketing channels to suit your audience

There are so many organic and paid online channels (Social Media, Email Marketing, Content Marketing, Search Engine Optimisation) to market your business. But using every channel at your disposal could be a major waste of time. Focus on what works and continue doing it, experimenting with other channels along the way.

For example, as a B2B service provider, the use of LinkedIn for outreach to connect with potential clients is a must-have tool for networking. Funnel this fresh LinkedIn audience back to your site for lead capture. Of course, you can also turn on the charm and do some manual networking.

Your marketing goal is to maximize your outcomes and minimize the effort. Once you know what you're targeting, it's not hard to hit the bull's eye.

2. Build customer relationships through email marketing

Email marketing is one of the most effective strategies to stay in touch with expected customers.

As it turns out, email marketing is much more popular than you thought. Email campaigns can help you to improve brand recall and trigger purchase decisions. To save time and effort, it is a good idea to automate your email campaigns.

3. Promote your best content

Don't let stretched budgets deter you from social media promotion, or running paid campaigns. Produce quality content consistently on a few channels. Now unearth the power of paid campaigns to promote some of your top performing content. Using small budgets smartly, make sure that you can make more use of the content that you create and strike a balance.

4. Tell a unique brand story

When producing content, your goal is to build an audience for it.

"Our job is not to create content. Our job is to change the world of the people who consume it." – Andrea Fryrear

The objective is to create a unique brand content voice. Think about emotional words that represent your brand.

A unique style that lends a voice to your brand will help your business to stand out. It will lead you to the door of content marketing success.

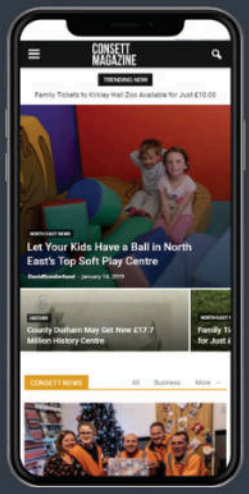
5. Create video updates and explainer videos

With fast changing social media algorithms, you need to create content that sticks with your audience. Visual and especially video content is a powerful way to get more reach and engagement on your content.

Video content is born out of emotions and that's what the audience wants to consume. You need to jump in, take the first-mover advantage and get ahead of your game.

Not got the time to do your own marketing?

Outsource your next marketing campaign to Firefly New Media UK - call 01207 438 292.



Memories of Consett

By Angela Tindle

Shopping

My mother used to purchase her groceries at Aynsley's in Middle Street. I seem to remember that the shop manager was called Harry Garbutt - - a friendly, polite man with a very professional attitude to the business. He always wore a shirt and tie and a long, immaculate, white coat.

I was usually sent to do the shopping on a Saturday morning, equipped with a shopping list and a wicker basket - - no plastic carrier bags in those days!

There were always queues but everyone respectfully awaited their turn without complaint. Sugar, flour, tea and biscuits and such like were kept in large bins with glass lids on the shop floor. They were weighed out, in pounds and ounces, by an assistant and placed in paper bags.

Butter, margarine and lard were cut from large blocks on the counter top. Bacon was sliced on a machine, the rashers deftly caught by hand as they appeared from the stainless steel blade-- quite scary to watch! It looked and tasted quite different to the bacon we get today. The fat was firm and waxy, not wet and soft, and it was sold with the rind on.

Sometimes the rind was stripped off with the back of a knife and cooked separately, the resulting fat being saved in a bowl and used in other ways. It was very tasty when spread on bread and then we enjoyed the delight of chewing and sucking the crispy rind. We did not worry about high cholesterol levels when we were kids!

Cheese was also cut from a block and the choice was either cheddar or cheshire. Cheaper cooking cheese was also available which was hard and strong and made great welsh rarebit. Eggs, stamped with the little lion, were sold loose and great care had to be taken to ensure they did not get cracked - - if they did, there was an awful mess in the paper bag!

The cost of every item was written on each bag in pencil and added up - - without the aid of a calculator! All the groceries were placed in your basket and off you trotted home. Mission accomplished'

It probably took all morning!!

School

My first memories of school were at a kinder-garden in one of the terraced cottages at Shotley Bridge where we used a slate with a special pencil which made a terrific screeching noise when you pressed on too hard. The piece of grey slate was framed with wood and if you made a mistake, which happened quite often, you erased it with a damp rag (or spit on your hanky or finger if no one was looking!).

Further education came in Consett at the Junior School where numbers were drilled in to our little brains as we chanted the tables every school day – I must admit that it did pay dividends later in life. The slate was made redundant and replaced with pencil and paper whence we became slaves to copying the alphabet and learning to spell.

Later, seated at a wooden desk, complete with self-contained ink pot, we graduated to the horrors of crossed nibs, blots and ink-stained fingers. Some kids gave themselves tattoos, stabbing themselves with an ink-loaded nib - - and probably getting the cane for abusing themselves!

I only got the cane once but can't remember why - - I only know that it hurt and I vowed to behave myself in future. You had to hold your arm out stiff and straight (best to close one's eyes!) and wait for the lethal weapon to be delivered across your quivering fingers with a loud swish, causing an intake of breath and possibly tears!

We all lined up outside at 'break time' for a daily intake of milk. The bottles, sealed with cardboard tops, were delivered earlier in the morning in sectioned, metal crates. In the summer it could taste a a bit sour after standing in the sun for a few hours and in the winter you had to knock the ice off the top!

Modern school girls would be horrified to wear this gym tunic with knee-length wool socks and lace-up shoes! In winter a thick, cotton liberty-bodice was worn underneath a winceyette blouse and long-legged thick knickers with elasticated bottoms to keep out the cold!

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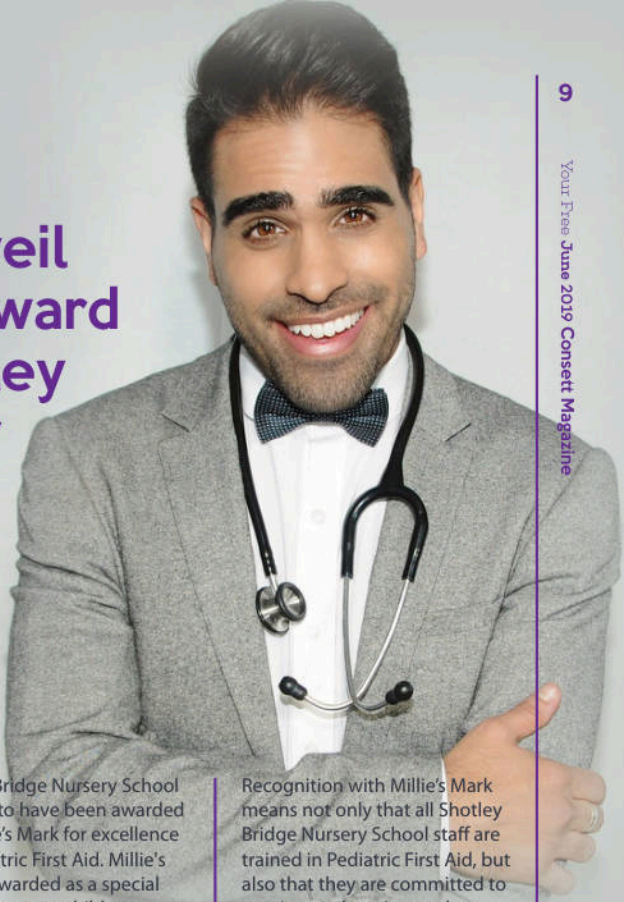
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SHOTLEYBRIDGE
Nursery School Ltd

TV Presenter Dr. Ranj to Unveil Millie's Mark Award Plaque at Shotley Bridge Nursery School



The BAFTA Award-winning TV presenter will be delivering a short speech about the importance of paediatric first aid in schools and will be congratulating Shotley Bridge Nursery School on their prestigious award.

This an invite-only event for 100 parents who will then have an opportunity to look around the nursery classrooms and talk to the nursery staff.

Dr. Ranj is scheduled to do a half hour meet and greet at the nursery. This is an exclusive ticketed event, of which only 15 tickets will be available. Afterwards, parents will be invited to enjoy refreshments in the hall.

Millie's Mark Recognizes Excellence in Pediatric First Aid Training.

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

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) guidelines, which childcare establishments 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.

A representative from the NDNA will be attending as well as Dan Thompson, co-founder of Millie's Mark and father of Millie herself.

The unveiling of the Millie's Mark Plaque and Open Day will be on **Saturday 15th June 2-4pm.**

TEA TIME

I find it amusing yet amazingly heartwarming that when things are going wrong, a cup of tea is consistently offered to make things right.

My Dad loved a good cup of tea and when I was old enough to learn how to make it, I delighted in filling the kettle, swilling boiling water inside the tea pot - just how he'd showed me - always warming the cups first, while making sure to put the milk in last with two spoonfuls of white sugar.

I remember proudly bringing him that first cup of tea, my small hands wobbling slightly so as not to spill any, while I placed it carefully on the little table next to his chair. He applauded and praised my efforts, enthusiastically proclaiming I made a really good cup of 'Air Raid' tea!

Oblivious to the irony I was overjoyed that my cup of tea had its own title and I sat down to drink mine, savouring the moment, so proud of my achievement. In fact I spent many years believing that my tea was his undoubted favourite beverage.

On Saturdays as he settled down to watch Grandstand in peace at half past one, my Mam and I would get the shopping list and bags sorted, ready to walk into the centre of Consett to buy the meat and vegetables for Sunday dinner. We alternated between Forster's and Thackeray's for the meat - as we loved both - but always bought the vegetables at Donaghy's.

Meanwhile my Dad would be watching and listening to David Coleman and making his tea just the way he liked it. On reflection, tea has played a prominent part in my life since then and I learned people like it so many different ways, it's almost impossible to please them all. When I worked in the Northern Canteen at the age of sixteen during the summer break, we made tea in a large tin teapot with black handles at the front and back to help with lifting as it was so heavy.

I was amazed that everyone expected to get their perfect cup of tea from that one pot. One bus driver would say,
'Mine's halfy halfy!
Panicking and blushing at the same time I asked him to explain.

'Half milk, half Rosie Lee'
I was none the wiser!
Others would watch while I poured, then hold up their hand gesturing me to stop, saying,
'That's too strang hinny, al need hot wata in!'
Realising tea making was a fine art which I hadn't mastered I was relegated to the back yard with a bucket for peeling potatoes.



Still, at home the kettle was always on the boil, whistling softly on the low gas with the teapot beside it.

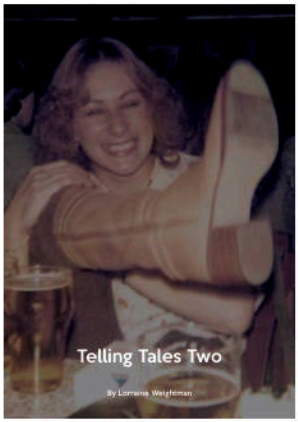
After I went to college I realised the importance of tea as everyone drank coffee but my Mam posted me Ringtons regularly to help me feel at home.

One of my friends who nicknamed me Arthur would ask me how I liked my tea when he came to visit.
'Do you want a proper cup of tea or fortnightly?'
Bemused I enquired what he meant.

'Whey fortnightly's too week man!' he said with a twinkle!

Then the unexpected happened one ordinary Tuesday in the summer of 1982. After I got in from work I received a call that changed my life. I held the phone away from my ear in disbelief but the reality was true. My Mam had found him, eyes closed, sitting in his chair next to the fire, with the sport on the television.

The only consolation we had in those dark days ahead of us, was that the tea in the mug on the little table beside my Dad was still warm.
And now it was all clear.



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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Part 6 – Parish Registers: In the Archives

If images of the original parish registers are available online, then you are lucky – these are the primary source material. However, if you are working just from indexes then you should consider verifying the data in the archives for the following reasons:

- The creation of an index allows for errors and omissions.
- The original register may include additional information not present in the index.
- By scanning the register, you may locate other family members missed when searching the index.

It is also important to remember that not all parish registers are online – in this case the only option is a visit to the archives. There are four main archives covering the historical counties of Durham and Northumberland:

- Durham Record Office, County Hall Durham, DH1 5UL
- Northumberland Archives, Woodhorn, Ashington, NE63 9YF
- Tyne & Wear Archives, Discovery Museum, Newcastle, NE1 4JA
- Palace Green Library, University of Durham, Durham, DH1 3RM

Which archive(s) you need to visit will depend on the parish you are researching. Before visiting an archive, you should check out their website as this will include details of their procedures (for example, you may need to book) and opening times as well as giving access to their guidance documents and online catalogue.

For more information on the holdings of these various archives and advice on how to prepare for your visit, together with previous articles in this series, see the Cameo Family History Website: cameofamilyhistory.com

Next month: Non-conformist Ancestors

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Places to Go: Edinburgh

The Family and Friends Railcard (F&FR) includes friends because the children you travel with may not be your own. My children are all adults now, but It is possible to travel with someone else's child (5-15) to get discount from the adult fare. To give a local example, on an off-peak journey from Yarm to Cramlington, the fare is £28.80. But with a child using the F&FR, the fare falls from an undiscounted adult and child fare of £43.20 to £24.50. In other words, it is cheaper to travel standard class with a child than without one. I have often thought there is a potential business in renting out children to save money on rail fares, but this is capable of misinterpretation.

I therefore borrowed a family friend, 12 year old Daniel, to make a day trip to Scotland, and after some consultation on a trip to Edinburgh we decided to go a little beyond and try the boat trip in the Forth Estuary and Deep Sea World at North Queensferry, either side of the iconic red Forth Bridge.

We had two advance tickets, out with Cross Country from Newcastle, returning with LNER. It's perfectly legal to mix and match like that since the tickets are issued as two singles. We managed to get to and from the Scottish capital for under £20. A separate return to North Queensferry (£4.95, saving 85p), delivered us first to Dalmeny, a small station above but close to South Queensferry. We walked down the road into the small town, then east along the coastline towards the towering Forth Bridge to Hawes Pier, virtually beneath it, where our comfortable vessel the Forth Belle awaited for a trip to see the three bridges and Inchcolm Island.

As it was out of season we could not land on the island, where the jetty was being repaired, but we saw plenty of bird and sea life, including seals lying on a navigation buoy. I had a Dalwhinnie Winter's Gold whisky from the bar (following a previous visit there for this column) and Daniel enjoyed a cola. I must say the sound system on the boat was first class: a mixture of recorded material, with sensible use of sound effects, and live commentary. We went under the two road bridges (opened 1964 and 2017), and the Forth Bridge (1890) with trains running across frequently.

Daniel calculated it was 122 steps up to Dalmeny station, plus a further 14 up and 12 down, and we took a train over the bridge to North Queensferry, which was well signposted and all downhill to the Deep Sea World, an aquarium famous for its collection of large sand tiger sharks. Opened in 1993 in a disused quarry, its main attraction is the 112 m (367 ft) long transparent acrylic underwater viewing tunnel, which is one of the longest of its kind in the world. We were delighted to be offered a special visit behind the scenes to see how fish are propagated and look over the viewing tunnel. In 2005, the aquarium opened a new seal enclosure, housing resident seals as well as injured ones rescued by the SSPCA.

Only buses run over the older road bridge now, so we made our way to the Ferrytoll park and ride (strange name: no ferry, no toll!) for a surreal ride on a solo Stagecoach express, where we were the only vehicle visible on the bridge, to Edinburgh and our train home.

Alex Nelson

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- 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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KENNEL COUGH

Kennel cough (also known as canine infectious tracheobronchitis) can be caused by bacteria and/or viruses. It is a very contagious disease passed between dogs when they are in close contact, which means it can be contracted in boarding kennels, but also at puppy classes, agility sessions and dog shows. Even meeting other dogs out on a walk can put an unvaccinated dog at risk of kennel cough. The main clinical sign is a dry, hacking cough that will often lead to a retch and is usually exacerbated by excitement or exercise.

Supportive treatment (such as anti-inflammatories and cough suppressants) may be used if a viral infection is suspected, but bacterial infections may require a course of antibiotics. In some patient, the infection can develop into a pneumonia which is much more serious and is likely to necessitate several days of hospitalisation.

An intranasal vaccination against the main viral and bacterial causes of kennel cough (Parainfluenza and Bordetella) is available and many kennels will require this vaccination before they will board your dog. This vaccination is required on top of their normal annual injections so please ask your vet to protect your dog against kennel cough on your next visit.

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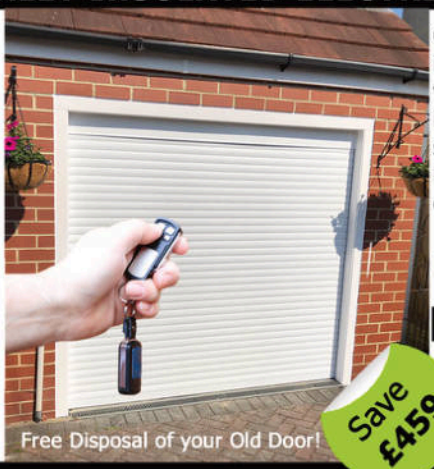
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