CONSETT MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2019

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Cover Art By John Bagnall

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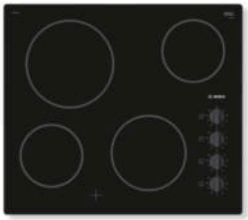

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Welcome

Dear Consett Readers,

We're delighted you've taken a moment out of your busy day to pick up and read this month edition. Over the past seven years (Consett Magazine launched in August 2012) we've had the good fortune to talk to some very interesting and inspiring people - thanks to everyone who's contributed over the years.

One of the main reasons this magazine was launched was to spread the good news about our town, afterall Consett has plenty of it. The problem is that most newspapers & local media contains fairly negative content - this is not something our company "Firefly New Media UK" wanted to advertise in for two reasons, 1. The local newspaper is not very cost-effective for small businesses to promote themselves in, and 2. The local newspaper was jam packed with negativity and downright "bad news".

We launched Consett Magazine as a cost-effective alternative with nothing but optimism and positive local content. We see ourselves as the good news alternative and I hope you feel the same. If you've got any feedback on how to improve Consett Magazine or would like to contribute your story or advertise your business just call us on 01207 438 292.

September is the month to get back to School or back to work if you've had the good fortunate to take some time off to relax during the Summer months. One such person is Mark Laybourn, who posted a picture of the Consett Magazine in Holland! We think this is a great idea and would love to see your photographs of a Consett Magazine in a different city or faraway place!

Warmest regards,

Barry Kirkham, Marco Elsy, and everyone who makes the Consett Magazine possible.

PS - Please mention the magazine if you choose to contact any of our advertisers. Remember the magazine is free every month in print and there are hundreds of stories also available on consettmagazine.com - all made possible by our wonderful advertisers who support the magazine both in print and online.

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Contributors

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Marco Elsy
Neil Sullivan
Lorraine Weightman
Christina Groves
Alex Nelson
Catherine Meades
Joe McGuigan
John Bagnall

The Front Cover

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CONSETT A POTTED HISTORY OF AN INDUSTRIAL TOWN - REVISITED

By Brian Harrison



It seems to me quite apt that I should revisit the first articles I wrote for the Consett Magazine way back in 2012. There was so much I could have added to this article but at the time space was at a premium.

Whats in a Name

Although its origins are lost in the mists of time the first written mentioned of the town can be found in the Boldon Book survey which was complied on the orders of Hugh du Puiset, Bishop of Durham in 1183. The survey, like the Doomsday Book, was designed to assist with the administration of the vast diocesan estates of the Bishopric of Durham. The name then was given as Conekshued and the area was owned by "Arnold the Baker". In 1297 the name was given Conkesheued within the Papal Registers and Letter. 1312 the registers of the Palatine of Durham it is stated as Couckeheved. 65 years later in Bishop Hatfield's survey it is given as Conkesheued and the area was then owned by Thomas Grey and William Stobes. Moving forward now to 1443-1550 the towns name starts to take on its more familiar look and is denoted as Counsett, Conset, Consyd, Consed and Cowside all of which appear in the Wills & Inventories of the Surtees Society Volumes 34 & 35. Within the court of Henry the VIII there are a few accounts of the town when it is given the name Conside in Latin and in the English translation is now stated as Consett.

The Brief Potted History

Consett, the town we know today, has only been in existence since the early 1840's and the foundation's of the Consett Iron Company. Prior to that it was a couple of hamlet like communities dotted between the Stanefordham Inn and the end of what is now Sherburn Terrace.

The foundation of the new Iron Works at the turn of 1840 saw men come from all four corners

of the kingdom to join in and become part of this new found wealth and industrial boom, later followed by many of their families. These early years were a turbulent time of unrest especially between the English and Irish faction's, religion playing no small part. There were many running battles throughout the years, some very famous like the Battle of the Blue Heaps, some not so. The town was often condemned in the press as a place of lawlessness and at times even compared to the American Wild West, something which stuck. These underlying problems of religious bigotry persisted in Consett, as in a lot of areas, right into the mid 1900's, although nowhere near to the extent of those early years. I am sure those of the older generation will clearly remember the tension's between the Catholic and Protestant schools, mostly pure bravado but there were those occasional scuffles. However, out of those turbulent beginnings grew a town rich in culture and its own heritage which the hard working people of this area could be truly proud of.

Unfortunately the industry in our area began to dwindle. It started first with the pits, which had been part of our area's backbone, and by the 1970's there were none left and the visual landscape of our area began to change. After the works were Nationalised we could no longer hold on to our specialism's and work began to be given out to other parts of the steel industry in other area's. We were now just a small part in a massive cog and located in the wrong place. Parts of the Works began to close, such as the Rolling Mills, and our town began to hold its breath. Whispers began about closure, slowly at first, but then began to be openly talked about. By the end of 1978 the people of our area began to fight back. We marched, we leafleted and protested sometimes at the tops of our voices, but the cogs had already started turning. In 1980 the heart of our industrial town stopped beating with the closure of the Works and the loss of over 3700 jobs and silence fell across the town.

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& DISTRICT
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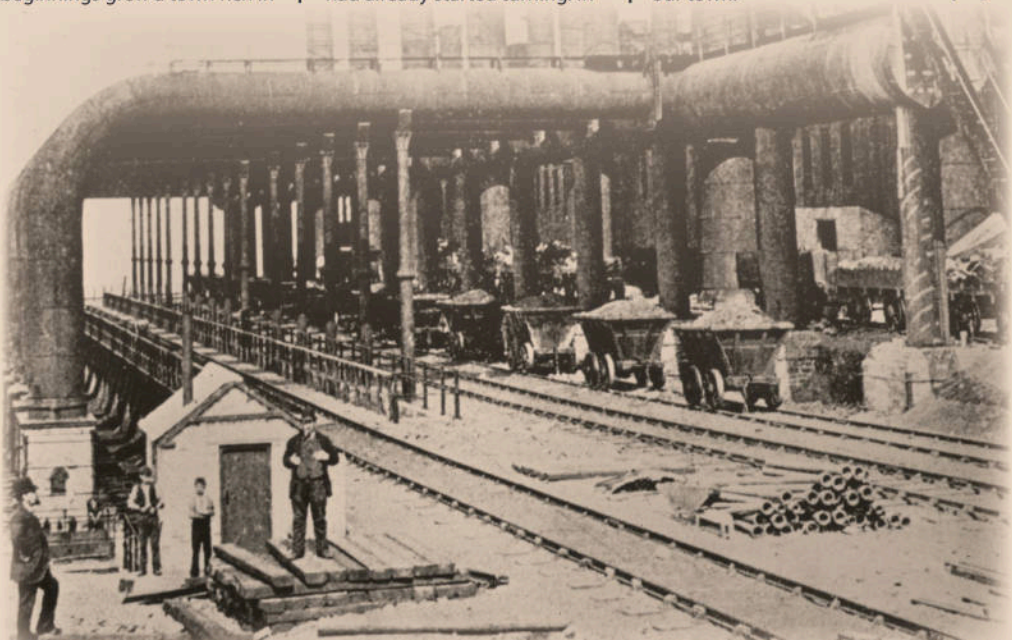
The Skyline of Consett was now forever changed and its people now had to change with it. It is to the credit and shear determination of the people of this town that we not only got ourselves up after such a massive blow, but we came out it stronger then ever. The sense of pride and belonging this town has given its people is truly awe inspiring and can be seen and heard when ever you talk to someone of this area. This is our town.



By Barry Kirkham

How much should you invest in your website?

When most businesses think web design, they often only consider the appearance of the site - not it's functionality.

That's why thinking about how much you should invest in your website is very important.

Simply assigning a certain £ budget to a website design isn't enough to guarantee you'll get the most from your website and digital marketing.

If your business is new to the world of digital marketing, all of the following efforts must to be undertaken for your website to be successful and deliver results to the business.

- Strategy
- Branding
- Content Creation
- Design
- Programming
- SEO (search engine optimisation)
- Digital Marketing

How do web designers determine website cost?

The primary factor in website cost is the complexity of your website.

At Firefly we first determine website complexity by gathering information from the client on the results expected from the website and its purpose. (some may refer to this as "Planning" or "Scoping" of a project).

So, how much will you need to invest in a website?

In our 9 years in the business, we've found that the average 2019 website costs are as follows:

Small business marketing website: **£1K - £4K**

Medium business marketing website: **£4K - 10K**

Add ecommerce, customized databases, or applications: **+£5K - £20K**

How do you make website cost efficient and effective?

First, estimate the level of creative design required for your website.

The cost of your website design is a bit tricky because creative design is subjective. For example, we've worked with clients that have a hard time articulating their brand image. This can result in many days of additional effort before we reach an approved design. Websites that are designed by committee are also prone to additional time and effort. On the other hand, if the client knows their brand, and what they want to portray, the creative effort can be quite efficient. Additionally, creative media/content, like original video and photography, can sometimes eclipse the cost of the website.

Next, estimate the level of complex functionality.

The cost of the technical and programming effort is usually 50% of the total website budget. The majority of small to medium-sized, marketing-focused websites, don't require much technical complexity.

Complexity, and therefore increased expense, starts when we require features like:

- Membership
- Ecommerce
- Custom application development
- Integration with external services

Fortunately, many of these "complex" pieces can be found in pre-made "modules". These prebuilt modules or SAAS (software as a service) solutions mean that some complex functionality does not need to be built from scratch. If the right module can be found and integrated into the website, the business can save tens if not hundreds of hours of web development.

Ongoing Marketing & Maintenance Cost

We would recommend that the minimum amount a business allocate is £1,000 per month.

For an average business, a website is 60% – 70% of their online footprint or presence.

The cost for consistent marketing depends on a variety of factors. How active does the business need to be in order to maintain profitability, compete, and grow? This answer is different for every business.

Call Barry Kirkham from **Firefly New Media UK** on **01207 438 292** for a free website and digital marketing consultation to help grow your business online.

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Wannabe: The Spice Girls Show



Saturday 14 September, 7.30pm | £13 - £15

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Mad About The Musicals



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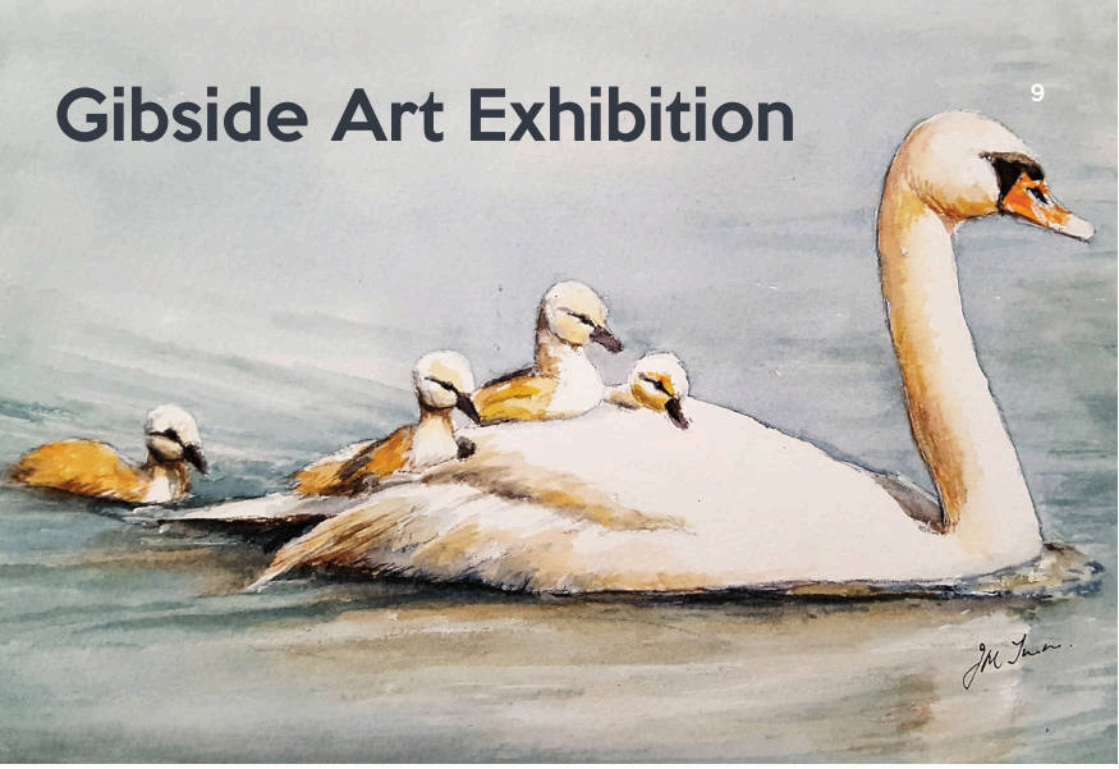
Gibside Art Exhibition



The Gibside Art Club based in Rowlands Gill has been in existence for more than 50 years.

There are currently around 45 members drawn from all over the district and surrounding areas.

We get together every Wednesday night from 7pm – 9pm in the local Community Centre at Strathmore Road Rowlands Gill, NE39 1JB to paint and enjoy each other's company.

We hold an Exhibition of our work every year on the first full weekend in October. This year it is to be held on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th October.

Opening times are 10.30 – 4.30 on both days. Admission is only 50p. High quality refreshments are available at very reasonable prices – teas, coffees, cakes, savouries and soups – some home cooked.

Our pictures are all recently painted originals. In addition we sell a small number of unframed originals, prints and cards. You can pay by cash or credit card.

The picture of the swan and cygnets, a very peaceful watercolour painted by one of our favourite artists, Joan Turner, is the first prize in the raffle.

Raffled proceeds go every year to a Charity nominated by the members of the club. This year the money will be donated to the Sick Children's Trust.

They provide home-from-home accommodation for families with sick children in hospital to allow families to stay close.

They built Scott House within the Freeman Hospital which provides living quarters and 18 en-suite bedrooms for families.

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th October

10.30 am – 4.30 pm
Refreshments & Raffle
(Raffle proceeds to the Sick Children's Trust)

Rowlands Gill Community Centre
Strathmore Road
NE39 1JB
Pay by cash or credit card

Admission 50p

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

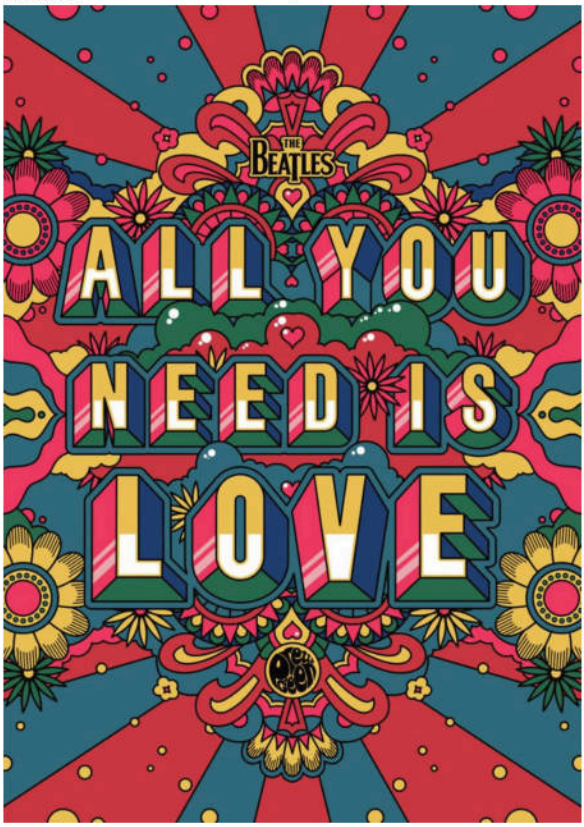
With only one week left of the holidays we were forced to think about the return to school. All those lovely lazy days fading to distant memories as we waited in the queue in Gibson's to get measured for school shoes. They had to be black and flat yet our free summer feet and toes were reluctant to be laced up and tethered. After the footwear was boxed and paid for we were guided round the corner to Collinson's to get new school uniforms. White stiff collared shirts in packs of two, three sizes too big so we got our wear out! Smart trousers and knee length skirts that had a flexible waist band which could be rolled over a number of times to facilitate the desired length.

Trussed up and unready we returned to school on the day with a new teacher in a strange classroom that smelled of wax floor polish and bleach. Distant thoughts of Allensford hovered like the early evening midges that danced in the gentle sunlight of a long summer day; and hot under our new shirt collars, we picked up our pens to attempt to personalise blue covered English books and burnt orange squared Arithmetic ones. Finding it almost impossible to write our names, we realised the summer holidays had managed to erase everything we'd ever learned, so as eyes glazed over, minds wandered. That first day back lasted for ever.

Eventually as we inched our way home in the afternoon September sun in ill fitting blazers - desperate to discard school clothes to put on shorts, t shirts and sand shoes to go out to play before teatime - we chatted about the day's events. One of our classmates hadn't turned up for school as she was having grommets fitted. My only knowledge of grommets was from my uncle who had a VW Beetle and having no kids of his own tried to pass on his mechanical and car maintenance knowledge to a younger generation. His navy blue overalls had a black front as they were covered in oil and grease and his large hands made the spanner he always carried look like a pair of tweezers.

I'd watched unenthusiastically as he gave me a run down on how to replace the sealing grommet to prevent overheating! Needless to say I was unimpressed at the time but the thought of someone doing the same thing to one of my classmate's ears filled me with dread.

My friend's couldn't enlighten me so I went to bed that night prepared for the nightmares that came. A vivid imagination can be a blessing but on some occasions, a curse.



I remember looking at the dark dancing ceiling shadows with wide awake eyes hoping my friend wasn't in too much pain as the blue overalled doctor tried to fit a VW sealing grommet into her ears.
My Mam, as always came in to kiss me goodnight and was surprised to see my distress and asked what was wrong. On hearing my story she tucked me in and said everything would be fine and things would be better tomorrow.

As promised the next day was better than the last and at school we started to get into the swing of things. Grommet girl was still absent and as the teacher scratched a chalk circle on the blackboard with a large wooden compass, my mind was elsewhere. I visualised my friend's ears being twice the size of her head sporting sealing grommets and then closed my eyes to try and erase the thought.

Just then the secretary arrived and asked if I could be excused as there was someone outside waiting. The school nurse smiled and asked me to follow her into the medical room. She opened her bag and put the tiniest thing on the edge of her thumb. Your Mam asked me to show you this ear grommet as she said you were interested. I laughed out loud with relief and appreciation at my Mam's efforts to dispel my fears. I transferred the minuscule object into my blazer pocket to show my friends at break time.

Love is all you need!

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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 9 – Wills and Administrations

Wills can be really interesting for family historians. They give us an insight into the mind of the person who wrote them – not to mention they can list most of the members of the person's family.

1858 is the key date when looking for wills.

From 1858 onwards, probate became the responsibility of the state and copies of the original documents can be obtained via a government website for £10 each.

Before 1858, probate was the responsibility of the courts of the Anglican church – even for the wills of non-Anglicans.

These church courts were hierarchical so depending on the size and location of the deceased's assets, there were typically a number of levels at which a will could be proved – the highest being the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC).

Luckily, most wills for the Diocese of Durham (which included Northumberland) were proved in the Durham Consistory Court.

The originals of these wills are kept in the Palace Green Library in Durham and images for many are available online.

Administration was the process by which someone was legal appointed to administer an estate in the absence of a will.

The associated records – often known as "Admons" – are much briefer than wills but may still provide useful information. Admons are obtained from the same sources as wills.

For more information on the registers of various non-conformist groups together with previous articles in this series, see the Cameo Family History Website: www.cameofamilyhistory.com.

Next month: Newspapers

Tel: 07855 556 384
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Places to Go: MANCHESTER

The original plan was to go to Jodrell Bank, the radio astronomical observatory in Cheshire, walking distance from a little country station called Goostrey, on Tuesday 23rd July.

Unfortunately, on 7th July, Jodrell Bank was designated a World Heritage Site and a big festival weekend was arranged which meant that the site was closed for clean-up on the day of my planned visit. This would have used an Advance Purchase ticket with TransPennine to Manchester, and a day return to from Manchester to Goostrey. Since Advance Purchase tickets are not refundable (although the date can be changed before time of travel), I decided to stick with the date and have a day in Manchester with Daniel whose presence reduces my fare by 1/3 using the Family and Friends railcard. Note the child you travel with does not have to be your own.

The journey was spent in part using the free wifi to determine things to do in Manchester, using the web address below. We arrived at Manchester Victoria in the middle of a signal failure at nearby Piccadilly, so baled out of the train there. Lucky we were not going to Goostrey after all. Victoria station was once one of the worst in the north of England so it is good to see it all restored and looking smart.

We had an early lunch at Yo! Sushi in the Arndale Centre using my Tastecard, and found that the National Football Museum, formerly free, now charges £10 for adults and £5 for children. (I have subsequently discovered they accept my National Art Pass for free admission.) So we headed instead to the Northern Quarter to the Greater Manchester Police Museum in Newton Street, open free but only on Tuesdays, for a fascinating couple of hours on crime and punishment. Handcuffs were demonstrated, we were placed in the cells and sat before the bench in the court room.

We explored the area around Oldham Street and Tib Street and found a pleasant little pavement café amongst the vintage shops on Oldham Street in the Northern Quarter. I introduced Daniel to Afflecks, the vintage emporium which is a Manchester institution. Piccadilly Gardens was full of children playing in the fountains on a hot day.

For the afternoon we took a tram to Media City to visit the Imperial War Museum North (IWMN) at Daniel's suggestion, and stayed there until closing watching videos and learning about conflicts from the First World War to the present day, including the Yemen and Syria. No dry as dust exhibitions here.

We would have visited The Lowry art gallery in Salford, but it closed at 1700, same time as the IWMN. So we took the opportunity of a meal at Café Rouge, once again using with my Tastecard before taking the tram direct into Piccadilly and our train home. Even better, owing to trouble affixing a second unit to our train at York and then a trespasser on the line in Durham, we arrived back at Chester-le-Street 45 minutes late which means we are entitled to a delay repay payment of half the ticket value. That can go towards a trip to Jodrell Bank later in the year.

You can only pack so much into a day and so we missed all the commemorations of the Peterloo Massacre of 16 August 1819, when peaceful protest about parliamentary reform led to Hussars charging the crowd and killing eleven and wounding over 500 people. There are no less than seven free exhibitions about the massacre running throughout September in the excellent Manchester libraries.

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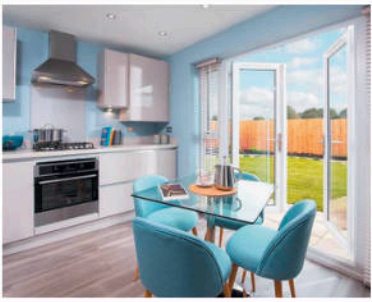

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By Christina Groves
Prince Bishop Veterinary Hospital

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However it is important that you get the right policy. I would recommend a lifetime cover policy as they will pay out for long term conditions for all of the pet's life. However they are more expensive than limited policies but if this is all you can afford it will be better than nothing – just be sure you understand the limitations before you part with your money.

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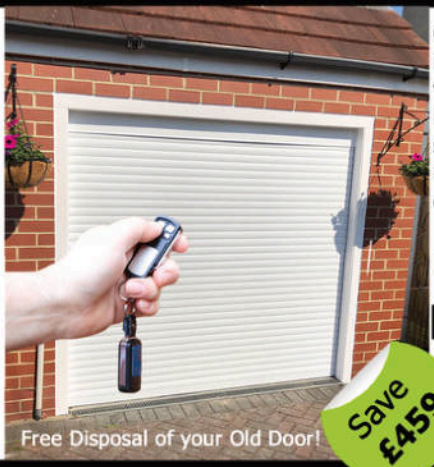

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A WINTER'S TALE

A winters tale that just happens to be true, and that's a fact from me to you.

Once upon a time as our milk delivery girl called Sharon was on her rounds, she was asked by an old chap quite politely of course, "Excuse me miss, but would you mind putting my bottle of milk inside of my gate instead of outside? Because you see I have a bad chest, and I get cold easily going out into the snow to get it".

"Alright then", answered Sharon sweetly and with a smile. "I will do that for you".

Two weeks later the old chap again approached Sharon and requested "Excuse me miss, but would you mind putting my milk halfway along my garden path? You see I have a bad leg, and it's a long way to go to the end of the path".

"Alright then" answered Sharon through gritted teeth and trying to be pleasant, "I will do that for you".

Two weeks later, Sharon was once again approached by the old chap and requested to.

"Would you mind putting my milk next to my back door? You see I have a bad back and it's a bit of a struggle to get along the path and back".

"Very well then" said Sharon rather loudly. "But let me tell you this mister. For an extra ten bob a week, I'll bring the bloody cow down and squirt the damn stuff straight through your letter box. Will that please you, you old goat?"

Now the moral of this story is, and I'm sure you'll agree, you may ask a favour off this lass, but not too often. Sometimes you might even fancy making a poss.

Then remember, she will look with favour on you. You'll see, if you order an extra pint or three. But too many requests, she will ignore.

In fact lad, she won't even bring the bloody milk to your door.

By Joe McGuigan

Google Reviews ★★★★★

FireFly New Media Presents: stovesburningwood

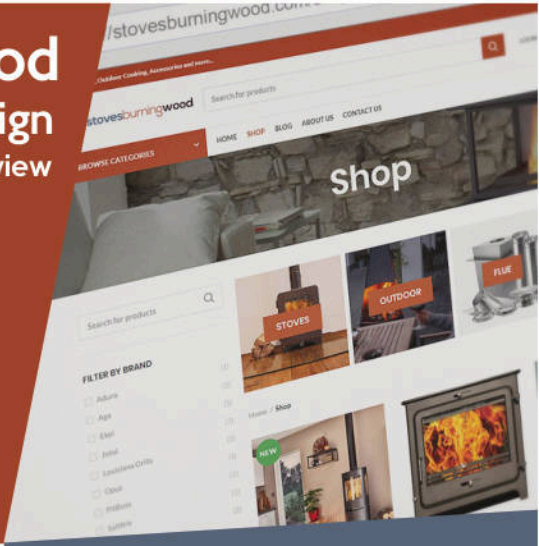
Stoves Burning Wood

E-Commerce Website Design

100% Customer Satisfaction, 5 Star Review

"Value for money is great, extremely helpful guys, always there to answer questions and the post production help that you get, doesn't stop once you've paid your last invoice!"

- Mr. J. McMahon - Founder



stoves burning wood

Logo Design

"We're extremely happy with our new site, logo and setup as it's been something that's sat in the pipeline for a couple of years now on our end, untouched."

- Mr. J. McMahon - Founder

Business Card Design & Print

We were asked to create a business card to promote the online store at trade events. We kept the same style we'd created when making the website and logo.

"Firefly helped us achieve a big project in a small space of time."

- Mr. J. McMahon - Founder

Call 01207 438292 today to get your project started.

