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April 2020

CONSETT MAGAZINE

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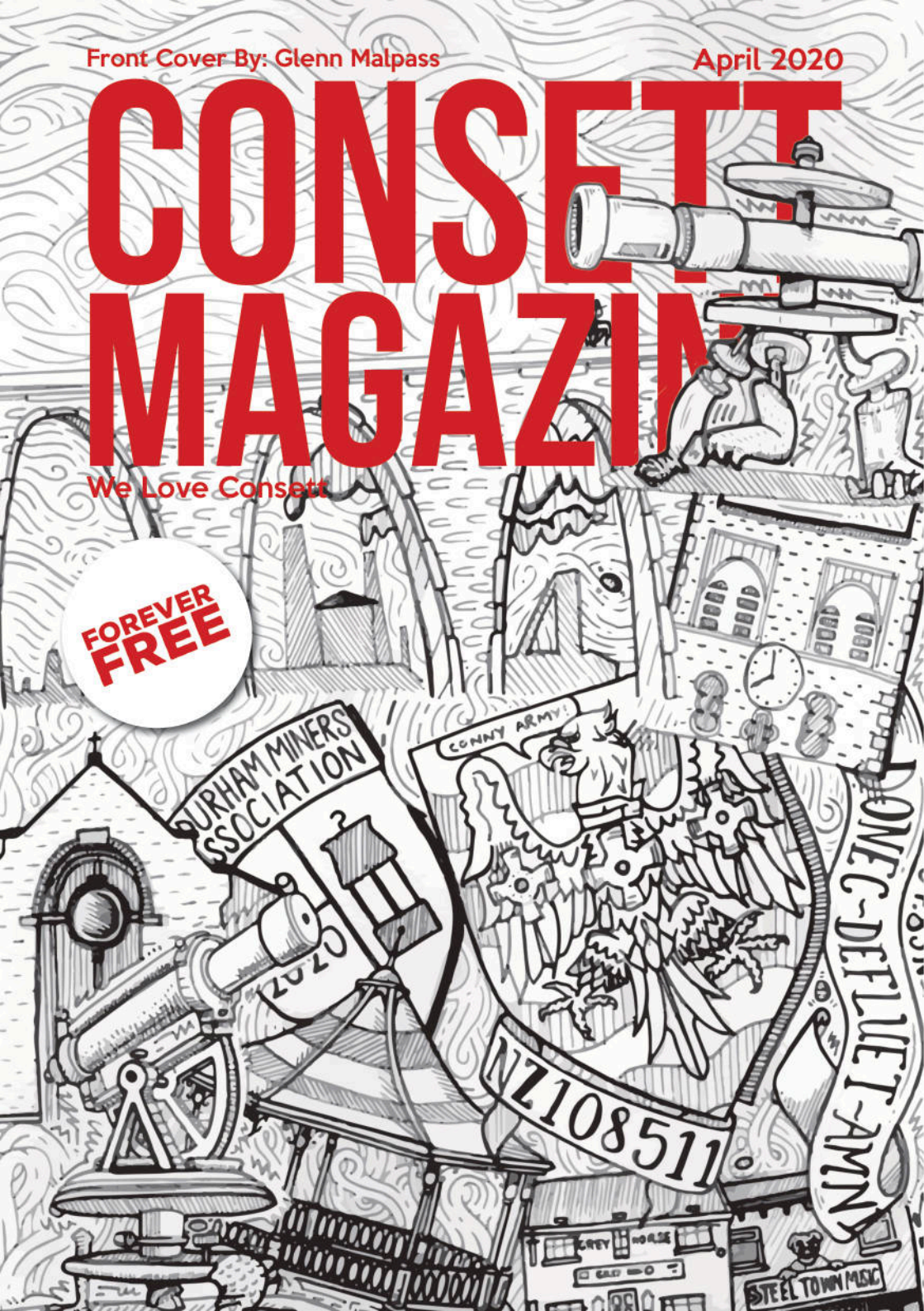

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Dear Consett community,

It is with deep sadness Consett, the UK and indeed the world is having to deal with the Coronavirus pandemic and the aftermath expected to follow.

Initially we planned to postpone the print edition of Consett Magazine, going digital only, but after some of our readers reached out to us to say they wouldn't necessarily be able to access the online edition - we felt it was important to push ahead and publish positive local news in the face of this crisis. And this raises an important point, while many of us are able to surf the web without much thought, some people just don't feel confident enough to use the internet - and this is totally understandable.

Considering many of the people who've been asked to self-isolate are elderly or vulnerable; it seems unfair for the UK government to expect everyone to be able to use the 111 website to read the NHS guidelines/ announcements or to contact their healthcare providers. So, we hope those of you who know people who may be at risk are able to check on them with a phone call and make sure they are being looked after; getting food, care, prescriptions, and communicating with them (everyone needs a friend, especially at this uncertain time).

If possible, please deliver this magazine to someone who may not want to venture outside or have access to the internet (of course, make sure you are following government guidelines when isolating and/or coming into contact with others). We always hope to keep everyone informed both online and in print.

Don't worry, there's more than just CORONAVIRUS news in this issue (read local history, a person piece on local legend "Jimmy" Anderson, Lorraine Weightman's story, and much much more).

As we look out for everyone in our community at this important time, it's great to see how this crisis is bringing out the best in people. Keep being awesome Consett.

Stay safe, keep your distance, and most importantly look after one another,

Barry Kirkham, Marco Elsy, and the Consett Magazine team.

FireFlyNewMedia

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Phone: **01207 438292**

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SCAN ME



The Front Cover

The front cover this month is by **Glenn Malpass**
send any drawings or photographs to:
editor@consettmagazine.com

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A Mischievous Bogle – The Hedley Kow

Like many rural places Durham and Northumberland have there myths and legends, none more so than the tales of the mischievous Bogles. Creatures of folklore who, either ghost or goblin sprite, would pray upon any poor unsuspecting person who crossed their paths. The most famous of these for us in this area would be that of the Hedley Kow.

The Kow itself was never said to have been dangerous as in all the encounters no one was ever harmed. The legends of the Kow were first put to pen in early 1800's, although the tales of its exploits are said to have been around for centuries before. A shape-shifting bogle it would appear in numerous forms, sometimes as a twig on the road, sometimes as a person or a beast of burden.

One old women who was out collecting twigs and such for kindling found a lovely dry twig laying in the road. She picked it up and placed it in her basket and then walked on. Before long the basket became heavier and heavier till she could no longer carry it and it dropped to the ground spilling out across the road. The stick then jumped up and began to dance away in the style of a folk dance swaying side to side and when some distance from the old women it gave out a hoarse laugh before fading away.

In around 1800, two young men from Newlands, Ebchester were dressed up in their Sunday best having arranged to meet their girlfriends down by the river Derwent. They set off, as all young men on dates did, with excitement and joy. On reaching the banks they saw their girlfriends ahead walking in the opposite direction, they shouted but the pair arm and arm continued walking. The lads followed but no matter how much they tried the girls stayed ahead of them. This continued for sometime until the lads found themselves knee deep in a mire. Suddenly with a wisp of smoke the girls disappeared with a deep laugh that no women could ever make came booming out of the smoke. Realising that they had been tricked by the Kow the two ran for home. The Kow pursued them laughing and taunting them all the way. The first stumbled into the Derwent between Ebchester and Hamsterley Hall, tumbling head over heels followed closely by his friend who collided with him. The two tussled in terror thinking each was the Kow on top of them. Realising what had happened they both got up found their footing and ran to the safety of home. With the hoarse laugh of the Kow still ringing in their ears they each recounted their story.



BRIDGE OVER THE DERWENT, EBCHESTER



The Kow was also said to have had some heart. It never appeared to anyone during a time of great sadness or mourning, but the same could not be said of births at which it was seemed to have always showed itself in some form or another. Whether it was spooking the horse of the man riding for the midwife, or knocking on the door of the residence and disappearing. Why it appeared at these times more often is unsure. The Kow also liked to mimic voices, appearing at windows of the servant girls in the manor houses of the area pretending to be their lovers or shouting down the hallways in their masters voices. He also liked to appear as a dairy cow who would continuously escape the milkmaids attempt to catch it before disappearing with its familiar laugh.

Last century a new story of the Kow became more used for children. The story simply goes that an a old women walking came across a pot full of gold on the road. Looking around and seeing no one near she decided to take it home.

When arriving back at her cottage the gold had turned to silver, but she is still happy as it was something she had never had before. Previously she had made the decision to hand the gold over to the local constabulary as that much gold must have been stolen.

But now being silver she is not so certain and decides to keep it. However the silver then turns to a lump of Iron. Great thinks the old lady as a nice lump of Iron would be so much easier to sell and at the end of the day she started with nothing anything is better than that.

So she reached into the pot and as she pulls out the iron it turns to a stone which wriggles in her hand. She drops it to the floor and the rock dances away laughing. But the old women did not get upset, instead she chuckles to herself thinking how lucky it was for to finally have met the Kow in person.

SCAN ME

for more online

Born to be Wild

"Jimmy" Anderson - By Debbie Todd

Born and bred in Consett, Jim Anderson has lived a full and exciting life and has many a story to tell.

A keen poet, he's wrote many an ode to the area and of his many adventures. Still a keen motorcyclist he was a regular on the racetrack in his youth.

An engineer by trade he appeared on full metal challenge with his brothers under the team name '3 shades of grey'. Together they built a miniature tank for the show which they called 'wild thing' which was judged to have the best workmanship of all the machines taking part.

Still very active, Jim spends a lot of time tending to his garden and reliving the tales of his staggering 85 years of adventures to many a keen ear.

instagram.com/debbietoddphotography







To advertise in next month's issue call: 01207 438292





BuZZila is Back!

'Hello guys, great to speak to you all again, as most of you will know, the names Jamie, otherwise best known as Consett's very own electronic dance music artist and DJ, BuZZila.

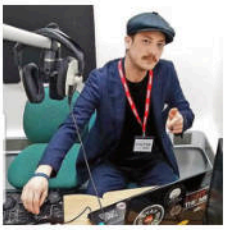
Quite a lot has happened since I've last spoke to you all, in particular I've been around the UK more often than ever right now, including a live stream guest appearance at 'On The Decks Streaming' (OTDS) which is an online music platform and broadcasting station, based in Sheffield, alongside a special guest interview in Liverpool on KCC Live Radio, where I'd brought on a classic Trance mix featuring plenty of tracks from the music scene of the 90's and early 2000's.

Also, as you may have seen, the well known electronic music event brand, Goodgreef, took their 19th Birthday celebrations back to their home city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, more specifically at Digital Nightclub, Newcastle, where I can be pleased to say I was added to the DJ lineup and asked to open the event in Room 2 with a 90's classic Trance anthems mix, so I'd like to thank all of you who turned up to that in December and all of those who tuned in to my latest guest appearances and interviews.

Recently I've taken a step back from touring and the majority of may live shows, including those hosted by my independent electronic music label, Buzzin' Records, founded in 2017, and I've also taken a break from my modelling & fashion career, this is due to many things, but mostly to do with my own mental health and well being, which I've never really spoken publicly about, but has taken it's toll on me and my music endeavours.

I would like to personally thank all of you who have stuck by me and supported myself and the UK's Trance music scene, including my friends, family, the clothing brands who I work closely with and promote, the photographers, the labels, the supportive radio stations and magazines, those of my own team who help keep things running smoothly, from the live events, to the constant travelling, to interviews and photo shoots, the hectic overnight business trips, and of course to you guys who support me, listen to my music, come to my live shows and buy my tracks, you lot are the best.

Despite everything, don't worry, as I'm still creating, producing and releasing new music from the studio, including my brand new track 'ARENA' (Radio Edit) released under Behaviour Recordings that was released earlier this year and my up-and-coming release The 'Cally' Typhoon which is due out on the 1st of April and is dedicated to my uncle-in-law David Calford, a good friend who sadly passed away in December, who always was a huge fan of my work, and also I'm still going to be working as best I can to continue doing interviews and guest DJ appearances around the UK.

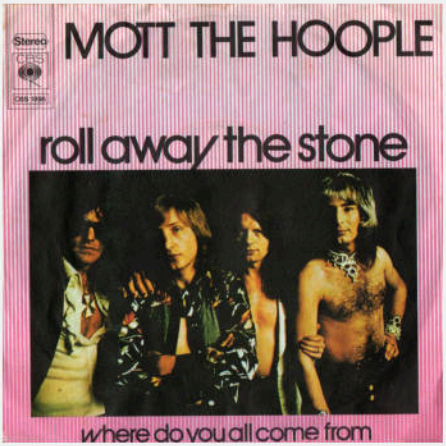


That's all from me for now, don't forget to follow me on my social media pages including Instagram, Facebook and Soundcloud, and make sure you all stay safe during these uncertain times. Thanks again, BuZZila.'

instagram.com/buzzila/

Roll Away The Stone - By Lorraine Weightman

Roll Away The Stone



Easter is a Christian festival and holiday time for many, however the way it is celebrated has changed and developed over time.

As children we were encouraged to give up something we liked during Lent - which was usually sweets - and we didn't eat meat on Fridays. Yet the thought of all those chocolate eggs on Easter Sunday managed to sustain us throughout the 40 days.

It may seem old fashioned now but we also looked forward to a new outfit for the occasion, and couldn't wait to boil eggs in a pan filled with onion or beetroot skins to turn them brown or red in anticipation of our egg decorating.

From ancient times eggs represented a symbol of new life, and Christian culture adopted this after the death and resurrection of Jesus.

One story about the first Easter egg concerns Mary Magdalene and suggests that she managed to obtain an invitation to a banquet given by Emperor Tiberius Caesar. Holding an egg in her hand she proclaimed that Christ had risen from the dead. Caesar mocking her, said the egg in her hand had more chance of turning red before her eyes - and apparently it did!

Sharing eggs at Easter time became popular in many cultures and held it's place among other traditions. One tradition that is accredited to Scotland is that of rolling painted or dyed eggs downhill to see whose can travel the furthest, allegedly to symbolise the stone being rolled away from the tomb.



After our Easter Sunday celebrations at home, at St Patricks School in Consett there was always an Easter Monday Fayre which included a fancy dress competition.

In 1964 four royal babies were born. I didn't know this but my Auntie Rose - who I believed knew everything - and she probably did - came up with a fancy dress idea for me. She always had the ideas, but fortunately for all of us, my Mam had the sewing machine!

We bought some blue material for a cape and white cotton for an apron and cap so I could be transformed into a royal nanny. We made little crowns from tin foil and placed them on the heads of four of my dolls and put them carefully in my pram. Tingling with anticipation I walked with my Mam to school and pushed the pram proudly round the playground. I can remember having my photo taken for the local paper and all the adults smiling as it was so topical.

Looking back, I see how much effort my family invested in my well-being and how their creative ideas and skills made my home made outfit win a prize. I guess life was simpler then and still was almost 10 years later when I was eighteen. With no internet, email or mobile phones, we looked things up in a dictionary or a thesaurus and communicated verbally or in letters. Social media in my day was the Consett Guardian and Chronicle and the red phone box outside the post office!

And about that time, I wasn't rolling eggs down a hill or entering fancy dress competitions. I guess I was more likely to be dancing in Botto's to Mott The Hoople, singing 'Roll Away The Stone'!

To advertise in next month's issue call: 01207 438292



The Eden Miners Centre

Local volunteers are supporting the trustees of The Eden Miners Centre who are in the process of renovating the former Eden Miners Hall in Leadgate, and in their own words are hoping to 'provide a venue for activities and events that educate, inform and entertain a broad range of age groups living in Leadgate and the surrounding area.'

Now registered as a charity and anxious to get started - while waiting for responses from grant applications - they raised £800.00 themselves by selling sports equipment left over from the closed youth club.

Working together in 2019 they emptied, cleaned and painted and refurbished the neglected building in preparation for an grand opening afternoon tea celebration, inviting local miners and families who had worked at The Eden Pit. This was just the start.



The local history society were now able to house their history books and artefacts and hold meetings there. With many ideas for community projects but still low on funds, the trustees and volunteers arranged a social evening in November incorporating a talk by local miner Jimmy Edwards entitled 'Eden Colliery - Leadgate and It's Development'. Jimmy who worked at Eden Colliery from 1962 until 1976 entertained the packed room with stories and photos of his time in the pit and the appreciative audience were happy to contribute to the centre to help the hub of ideas turn into a reality.

The group are now busy planning photography workshops for young people as well as arranging visits from local school children to experience their families history by viewing books, photographs, mining archives and memorabilia which tell of the past.

Many people remember the building being a hive of activity with reading rooms, billiard and snooker tables, an upstairs dance hall which was also used as a function room for weddings and celebrations. It's hoped with the help of community backing and funds the building will be restored to its former glory.

If you feel able to help, volunteer or attend the proposed workshops please contact The Eden Miners Centre on Facebook or email edenminerscentre@hotmail.com

Anyone interested in The Bill Stockdale Leadgate and District Historical Society can contact:
Martin Boyle 07803048522
martinboyle137@gmail.com
or visit Leadgate Village on Facebook

Facebook Group Provides Assistance to Vulnerable People in Derwentside



https://www.facebook.com/groups/162784901408501/

By Jacqueline Clarke

At time of publishing, the group "CORONA Vulnerable People And Volunteers (Consett, Lanchester, Stanley)" has amassed 2,300 members in just 5 days.

The group has organised itself super fast and has already split the individual needs of different citizens into nine categories with nine people in charge of each group:

SCAN ME

for more online

For pet care
For groceries / shopping
Mental health
Children related
Friendly calls
Medication
Food bank
Medical advice
Vulnerable people / leaflet distribution
Sanitary products

Volunteers are being asked to visit the facebook group and contact the relevant organiser to offer their assistance.

People in Need? Vulnerable people

If you think you may need our help. Please look on the announcement page to contact the relevant person on the FB group or simply call:

Amy on **07837 701817** or **07798887525**

For newspaper deliveries **01207 508350**

For milk deliveries **01207 270359**

Want to donate?

Join the Facebook group to contact the relevant person for food bank donations or visit the "Go Fund Me" page which has been set up to raise money.

Donate here:

www.gofundme.com/f/corona-vulnerable-people-fund

To advertise in next month's issue call: 01207 438292



This Old Age Thing!

By Joyce Shaw

The old adage that age is only a number was never part of my vocabulary as I never thought about my age…I simply got on with life and living it!

I fobbed off the forgetfulness, with the theory that I had a butterfly mind and had so many projects in the air, that it was little wonder I forgot where the car keys had gone, or that I had bought the same item of groceries only the previous day and wondered why I had two of them now, or that the hard boiled eggs had boiled dry until I heard the explosion in the kitchen!

I streamlined my life when I moved house, many years ago. Never again would I own a lawn mower (I loved having a garden but not mowing the lawn or weeding!) and there would be a place for everything and everything in its place. As a creature of habit I could instinctively know that the shopping bags would be in the boot of the car, the house key would always be on a certain hook, the pills would always be next to the kettle, ready for the morning, the coffee and tea caddies could be found in the dark if necessary, as they sat on the shelf next to the kettle. Sad life you may say, but it meant that I had time to put my thoughts into more important matters.

Whenever I change my car, I never seem to be given a choice of colours and so my latest car is black. No one was more shocked than I was, when I realised how many people have black cars in a supermarket car park!.

I thought I had solved this problem by sticking on some bright red poppies…however they do not glow in the dark and they are easily hidden in between other cars and so, a lovely lady gave me a surprise gift of a red ladybird to push onto my car aerial so that I could recognise it from a distance and the colour matched the poppies! All was well until recently when I started questioning myself again about the whereabouts of the car in the car park. Having eventually tracked it down, I realised that not only had the ladybird disappeared but so had the car aerial!

However the radio still worked when I switched on the engine so it reminded me again that in old age I only sweat the big stuff! Then I started looking at people with a new eye…not only the policemen looked so young, but so did my doctors and even the car mechanics and even my neighbours! How many times have I met strangers who begin a conversation with "You used to teach me…". Funnily enough this has not depressed me but in fact has enhanced my social field as I enjoy hearing from folk who are 50 years younger than me and have so much new information to give me.

It has been said before, and I do believe it, that old age is 15 years older than I am... so when I'm 90 perhaps I'll defer to being of an age where I can expect to be helped across a road or someone in church finds the hymn number for me! Meanwhile life is beautiful and varied and full of surprises so when the joints take time to get into gear, and the eyes take time to focus, remember that all the years of experience you have is an advantage, so that you can survive another day and clock up another adventure!!! Final thought and what a consolation someone else has said it first……Alex Cole, baseball player "My memory's starting to go…the only thing I can retain is water."!!

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North East Business Support Fund is Still Available

We're letting all local business owners know that the North East Business Support Fund (NEBSF) is still going strong in the midst of Corona madness, but it must end as scheduled this year, so if you've been putting it off, then put off putting it off until after you've done it.

There is still over £300,000 of plump, juicy funding for projects available to County Durham businesses in 2020.

The application process takes 15 mins to complete online, and the entire contracting process can be done remotely and hygienically.

The Fund can support projects that encourage resilience and help create a supportive environment for business including:

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Consett Bridge Club

Bridge is an intriguing card game, played by millions around the world. It is the one game that transcends the generations.

The young and the old can play together with equal pleasure. Many a child has been taught to play by their grandparents. Age is no barrier; one can play the game from the ages of 9 to 90.

We have put in place a course of bridge lessons at the Consett Bridge Club, which will take beginners up to a reasonable standard within 20 weeks.

However, due to the immediate threat from coronavirus, we have had no choice but to postpone the teaching course until a time when it is safe to engage in social activities once again.

If you would like to learn how to play this excellent game, at a suitable time in the future can you please register your interest by contacting:-

Liz Whiting : telephone 01207 659573 or consettbridgeclub@outlook.com
Facebook: Consett Bridge Club

There is a good chance that our regular meetings on Monday evenings and Thursday afternoons will be suspended until further notice by the time this will be printed.

To advertise in next month's issue call: 01207 438292

Old Regional Slang

By Alan Stocker

I have, over the past couple of years amassed approx 50 words that you hardly hear these days. These are from around this region. Myself being 80year old still use a lot of them to people of our era. A few examples are as follows:

PUGGY
Means taking birds eggs from a nest.

DUNCHED
Means bumped into someone or something.

CRACKET
Means a small stool to sit on.

Do you have any slag words you don't here anymore? send us some by email: **editor@consettmagazine.com**

"In with both Feet" an autobiography of a Consett lass "Available on Amazon"

A whirlwind of drama, life, struggles, travels, love, loss, heartache and personal triumph.

A most riveting and well-crafted biography/memoir!

From the opening pages, Ms. Shaw (nee Buckett) description of the different characters she encounters and her attention to personal and cultural detail for the time periods starting with the 1940's and up through today, transport the reader to another world just by experiencing the lives of these incredible true to life and authentic characters, yet they are unlike any you've met before. It touches on some pretty heavy issues at times but never gets too depressing. Just real. Fans of dramatic non-fiction/ memoirs, or anyone who just enjoys an entertaining, well-written story with lots of drama and emotional impact will enjoy this book.

There are some surprising twists and some parts that really catch you off guard – some shocking and some sad… but this just makes this true book even more amazing and inspirational. The ending gives an emotional satisfaction necessary in a great book. Try it, you'll be pleasantly surprised!

To advertise in next month's issue
Call: 01207 438292

#StayTheF—Home

A Movement to Stop the COVID-19 Pandemic

Our governments are only slowly implementing measures to control the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and containing the COVID-19 pandemic. Slow reactions, public appeasement policies, and their urge to stabilize the economy have kept them from taking the measures needed to protect millions from this disease. However, it is not only the government's burden to bear. It is time for us, as citizens of this earth, to take action now and do our part in fighting COVID-19.

Let's put it bluntly: Stay The F— Home!

The Self-Quarantine Manifesto

With no well-studied treatment and no viable vaccine available for at least another year, the only effective way to keep the coronavirus pandemic at bay is to give the virus fewer chances of spreading. The following list of actions, ordered from easiest to implement to most effective in the fight against the pandemic, should serve as a set of loose guidelines for people who wish to join the movement and take action that can actually make a difference.

1. Don't panic, but be alert.
2. Wash your hands often and practice good cough and sneeze etiquette.
3. Try to touch your face as little as possible, including your mouth, nose, and eyes.
4. Practice social distancing, no hugs and kisses, no handshakes, no high fives. If you must, use safer alternatives.
5. Do not attend concerts, stage plays, sporting events, or any other mass entertainment events.
6. Refrain from visiting museums, exhibitions, movie theaters, night clubs, and other entertainment venues.
7. Stay away from social gatherings and events, like club meetings, religious services, and private parties.
8. Reduce your amount of travel to a minimum. Don't travel long distances if not absolutely necessary.
9. Do not use public transportation if not absolutely necessary.
10. If you can work from home, work from home. Urge your employer to allow remote work if needed.
11. Replace as many social interactions as possible with remote alternatives like phone calls or video chat.
12. Do not leave your home if not absolutely necessary.

By joining the movement and therefore limiting possibilities for new infections, you are not only protecting yourself, but you are also helping contain and limit the spread for everyone else, especially those who are at higher risk to suffer severe consequences from this virus.

If you care about this cause, please share it on social media, via e-mail or just tell your friends and family about it.

But please, just #StayTheF—Home.

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We are fully insured, and CRB checked, fully licenced and Certified in Canine First Aid

DOGSAFE® Canine First Aid CERTIFIED

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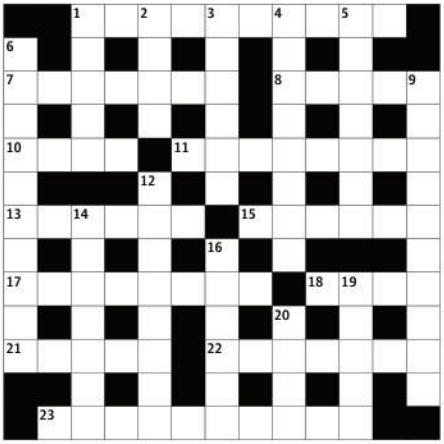
Puzzle Corner



April 2020

Across

1& Do something
23. beyond one's apparent capacity (5,5,4,6)
7. Survive for as long as is required (4,3)
8. Plant of the lily family with a single showy flower (5)
10. Playthings (4)
11. # (4,4)
13. Expenditure (6)
15. Has faith in (6)
17. Capable of making mistakes (8)
18. Serene (4)
21. Care for during childhood (5)
22. Heraldic beast on the Royal Arms (7)
23. See 1

Down

1. Annoying (informal) (5)
2. Interior angle formed where two walls meet (4)
3. Hired assassin (3,3)
4. Indiscriminate slaughter (8)
5. Lithuania's capital (7)
6& Someone willing to
9. undertake unpleasant tasks (7,3,10)
12. Caution (8)
14. Author of The Hobbit, d.1973 (7)
16. Woman's buttoned top (6)
19. Regarding (5)
20. Phone (4)

ASK The VET PRINCE BISHOP VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Ask the Vet April 2020 Adder Bites

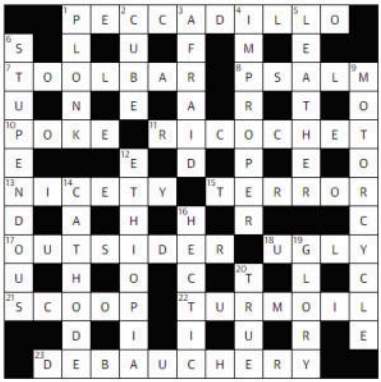
The adder is the UK's only naturally occurring venomous snake and is most commonly found in sand dunes, rocky hillsides and woodland edges between April and July. They are a protected species meaning it is a criminal offence to kill, harm, injure, sell or trade adders in the United Kingdom. Although 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.

princebishopvets.co.uk/client-advice

Answers for March



Answers for this puzzle will be published on the same page next month.



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