CONSETT MAGAZINE

September 2020



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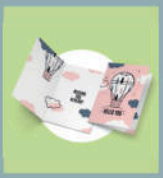

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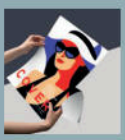

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Dear Consett readers,

It's an interesting time of year, September, the Schools are back (after an especially long time, due to the pandemic) - so we're hoping everyone and everything can get back to some sort of normality, all while staying safe of course.

This month we have some great local content from regulars like Brian Harrison and Lorraine Weightman; Buzzila is back to update us on his musical endeavors, MP Richard Holden discusses local NHS capacity, and Debbie Todd profiles local Taekwondo Champion, Jade Slavin.

We're looking for people to get involved in Consett Magazine.

Have you got a story you'd like to share? Are you a photographer who'd like to see your photo on the front cover next month? Do you have a tip off about something great that's happening locally? If the answer is yes, then email us on editor@consettmagazine.com

We accept content from local people, charities, businesses, politicians, schools, and anyone who's got something to say. You could comment on Consett Magazine articles on Facebook complaining about the author or subject, or you could write your own. Have your say too! We can't wait to help you tell your story and reach our print audience for 10,000+ people or online at consettmagazine.com where we get hundreds of thousands of visitors.

We hope you'll enjoy this months Consett Magazine,

Barry Kirkham, Marco Elsy, and all the people & businesses who make the magazine possible.

Business affected by COVID-19?

If your business has been affected by the recent lockdown (let's face it, who hasn't), get in contact with Consett Magazine's parent company, Firefly New Media (Call 01207 438 292) for ways to improve and digitise your business. Firefly can help you build a website, sell products online, get more inquiries, and ultimately get your business ready for the digital revolution which is accelerating all around us. Is your business ready?

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SCAN ME

The Front Cover

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

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A Year of Anniversaries and Commemoration's

2020 sees a number of major anniversaries and commemoration's for the Consett area and the Consett & District Heritage Initiative (CDHI). On 12th September 2010 the CDHI opened its doors for our first ever exhibition which saw more than 1000 people attending at the Lodge in Blackhill & Consett Park. The date was of a major significance as well being exactly 30 years from the closure of Consett Steel Works. It was for this very reason that our group was initially founded to help commemorate that monumental date. After that event the CDHI was cemented and took up our place in the area as an archive and also to help spread the proud heritage of our area for now and future generations.

We realised then that the Lodge although fantastic as our home base, was far to small a venue for future exhibition's. Since that first exhibition we have held 2 exhibition's yearly in May and October. This year has been unprecedented due to the Covid 19 epidemic making an exhibition impossible. However, we are planning on a celebration online on the 12th of this month to mark 40 years since the closure and also our 10 years anniversary, which will take place on our facebook group pages. There are other groups also doing the same including the "visitconsett.co.uk" website and also "The History of Consett Steel" group on Facebook. So if you can get online on the 12th and also a few days before to see what events are happening I am sure there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

This year also see the 70th anniversary of the fatal gas accident at Consett Steel Works which saw the death of 11 steel men. Due to unforeseen, but totally preventable circumstances, a valve was blocked causing the area the men were



in to fill with carbon monoxide. As men began to drop the other steel men rushed in to help quickly being overcome themselves. The sheer bravery of these men saved many but also saw some of the rescuers also become the victims. A commemorative memorial to these men is now being erected next to the site where this tragedy took place near to Tesco Consett. The Project Genesis Trust(PGT) have took up the mantel to have this memorial built and the CDHI are proud to have played a part in its conception working along side with PGT. The memorial was initially to have beeen unveiled on the anniversary of tragedy on the 1st July, but due to the sheer unprecedented times the dates had to be moved.

The unveiling of the memorial is now to take place on the 12th September and due to the epidemic will be live streamed on the VisitConsett web page. Ernie Jeffrey (92) will perform the opening. He is the son of John Jeffrey one of the 11 men who lost their lives. There is a taped interview from John done for the VisitConsett site on youtube which is well worth watching, here is the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9t76IQK8mxk&feature=youtu.be

There will also be a smaller version of the plaque placed into Blackhill & Consett Heritage Park below the Lodge at the bottom gates. A very temporary plaque was placed in situ purely as a stop gap so that a dedication to the official date could be respected. However, we look forward to the real plaque taking its place.



Make Money Using Facebook Ads in 2020



In case you've been living under a rock, you'll be aware of Facebook. The social media company is a giant in the world of tech and it's primary revenue source? Facebook Ads.

In 2019, Facebook had advertising revenues of $70 billion, or £53,490,850,000 Pounds Sterling.

So, how are people and businesses leveraging Facebook Ads to make money in 2020?

We'll tell you in 4 simple steps:

1. Learn about copywriting and advert design.

In my experience, Facebook ads work best with highly visual content and simple text. Start by creating a visual image (for example people faces, or close-ups of your product). You do not need to be a designer to do this, just keep it simple. Your image / visuals matter the most and the text section is usually there to confirm for the user what you are trying to convey with your image. So focus first on your design and then write y
our copy secondly.

2. Understand psychology and generic advertising.

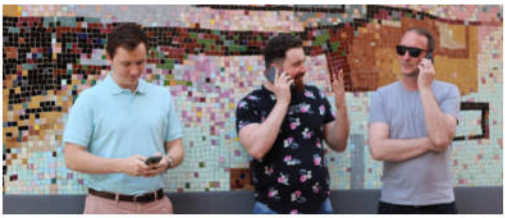
Mastering the Facebook ads platform is probably only 20% of what you need to know, but it's the most technical aspect.. The other 80% comes from your ability to create strategies that speak to your audience. Just take a look at what the competition is doing. The key here is to develop soft skills and empathy / emotional intelligence so that your ads matter to your target audience.

3. Understand the metrics and KPIs you need to be tracking.

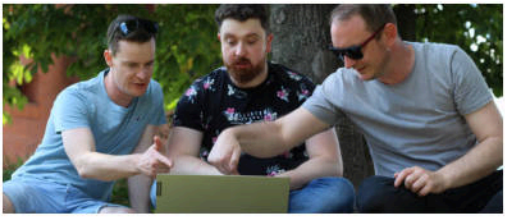
To begin tracking the results of your ads, your website should have the Facebook Pixel installed.
The Pixel will allow you to track your key performance indicators (KPIs); this could be your ad click through rate (CTA), sales, or leads generated from your ads (conversions). Knowing what your objectives are early in a campaign is very important, this will help you to define how well your campaign is performing and ultimately how profitable it is for you.

4. Get started - You cannot begin, until you begin.

If you are running a local business or niche business it's important to get started sooner rather than later with Facebook Ads. There's a ton of data available to gather and analyse, so it's best to begin as soon as possible with a Facebook brand awareness campaign to build an initial audience, then move onto converting the most interested people into customers.



At my company, Firefly New Media I encourage our teams to simply get started, the sooner the better. Planning is important, but you don't know all the issues you'll run into, until you get started! That's why we use Scrum, an agile framework for developing, delivering, and sustaining complex products (or Facebook Ad Campaigns). It allows our teams to deliver the most valuable features of any product (or campaign) in the quickest time possible, and with less costs.



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Changin'

Come gather 'round, people,
Wherever you roam,
And admit things are different,
Outside and at home,
And accept that we're
not, all in this alone.
We use contactless when paying,
And avoid any public singin',
Order online with our smart phone,
For the times they are a-changin'

Go out in your lipstick,
Accessorise once again,
And keep your eyes wide,
With your mascara and pen,
Sweep with a new broom,
As the changes kick in,
And book a slot for Mass,
in the morning,
You can't pick your row,
but at least you'll get in,
For the times they are a-changin'

Always carry a face-mask,
Keep your hand gel on call,
Queue out of the doorway,
and stay one side of the hall,
Don't be an extrovert,
or waywardly sprawl,
you'll only make everyone ragin'
So open your windows,
and break down your walls,
For the times they are a-changin'

Come writers and bloggers,
throughout the land,
Tell it all how it is,
and that you understand,
that these rules and new orders,
are not out of hand,
The old road is rapidly agin',
We're on a brand new one,
and it's not what we planned,
For the times they are a-changin'

The queues are long,
How long will this last,
I'm in the slow one, how
I wish it was fast!
Yet the present now,
Will soon be the past,
You see, I'm only just saying,
That the times they are a-changin'

With apologies to Bob Dylan

Lorraine Weightman
July 5th 2020



These Boots Are Made For Walkin'
By Lorraine Weightman

I've always been a fan of boots, the foot and leg covering that is, as opposed to the chain of chemists.

Even in school at English Martyrs when we were supposed to wear black flat lace ups I sneaked on my boots - which were far too wide for my skinny legs - rolled up my skirt at the waist and sashayed about; erroneously believing I had a look of Nancy Sinatra!
As I grew older and fashions changed - although I'd always had a hankering for cowboy boots - I, like everyone else, was excited when platforms arrived on the scene. All and sundry wanted a pair, and pooh-poohed the old go-go style of the sixties; saying they wouldn't be seen dead in them! Yet, were extremely happy to clomp around in huge soled block heeled boots and shoes in the name of fashion! Falling off kerbs was a regular occurrence, especially after a night out in Consett. And to compliment the footwear there was a plethora of clothing choices available to complete the look; from high waisted flared trousers, skinny tank tops, denim mini skirts, ponchos, and velvet jackets. While the majority took a more conservative approach some of the lads as well as the girls erred on the side of 'pantomime' and chose the more garish options, by adding medallions and bold prints.

Almost all of these style combinations could be seen in Consett on Friday and Saturday evenings around the clubs and pubs, and in the obligatory end of the night hot spot, Botto's!

As a group of friends, a few of us were blessed with the same shoe size, so we could mix and match our footwear to help coordinate our outfits. One of my friends had a wonderful pair of silver leather platform boots which complimented my satin trousers. She agreed to lend them to me as she was wearing shoes to match her new dress, designed by Lee Bender from the fashion boutique Bus Stop in Newcastle. As usual the night started off in the Wheatsheaf in Middle Street and those who had missed out on their tea were able to enjoy a corned beef and onion toastie, cooked in a plastic packet on a grill, resting underneath the optics behind the bar. Next stop was usually The Britannia, fondly known as 'The Brit' where the back room sported a great Jukebox. There was always a smell of Izal toilet paper - which my mother said was 'neither use nor ornament' - when you walked through the door, but that's another story!

The night passed splendidly, and while standing in the queue snaking past Lloyds Bank we anticipated a long night of dancing in the night club. The nice ladies in the cloakroom distributed numbered raffle tickets; carefully placing one on the hanger, knowing full well that the one they gave out would be lost by 2am and those wishing to collect their coats would have to shout out a description!

Once inside, a few of us were served in 'The Tudor Room' to save the wait at the main bar, where the majority of lads hung out, while us girls headed straight for the dance floor. I was beginning to understand the meaning of walking in another's shoes as my toes felt squashed and uncomfortable. Still another half of lager and lime would take away the pain before the 'heavy spot' began. Dancing to 'Nutbush City Limits' had taken it's toll, and by now my feet were killing me. Misjudging the two steps up to the middle of the bar I desperately reached out for the rail and awkwardly bumped into a small group of older men standing at the bar, enjoying a quiet drink. One of them looked very familiar. They were very polite, accepting my apology, so I made my way downstairs to the toilets, just next to the chip buttie room.

My friend was in there, trying to remove cigarette ash and burn marks from the cut out in the front of her dress, while nonchalantly remarking,
'Did you see Jackie Charlton standing at the bar?'
Removing my borrowed boots for some welcome relief, I replied,

'See him! I've just spilled his pint!'



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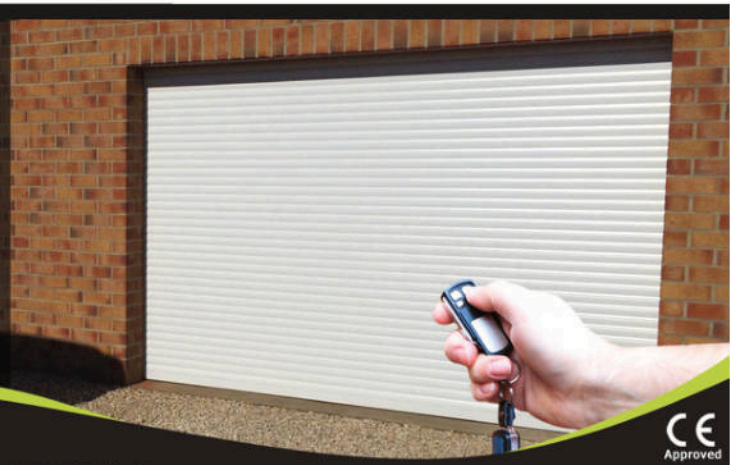

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Places to Go: Horden for the Durham Heritage Coast

Britain's newest railway station opened in the north east on Monday 29th June. It's at Horden on the Durham Coast line between Middlesbrough and Newcastle, situated between Seaham and Hartlepool stations. I took a visit there when the station was only three weeks old with the intention of walking the coastal path north to Seaham along the cliff tops and alongside the railway. It is a walk that takes over three hours to do, whereas the train only takes eight minutes. There are not many options at Horden, but further north there is much choice of footpaths – generally alongside the railway is the most direct and along the wiggly route of the coastline is longer, but more scenic.

Since it is not yet marked on any maps, I was unsure where the new station actually was, but it's at grid reference NZ 447 412, somewhat south of where I expected, but the 1140 train from Newcastle arrived punctually at 1217. Passengers from the south, e.g. Darlington and Yarm, can change at Thornaby to access the Durham Coast Line. Before it opened, it was known as Horden Peterlee, but was opened as just Horden which has caused some confusion. My phone's text messaging translated the three letter code for Horden, HRE, as RYE in East Sussex. And asking for Horden gave a message that info on the London Underground station at Morden could not be given. It will no doubt get sorted soon!

The new station had only four cars in a substantial car park, but on the same day the Prime Minister announced that railways were not just for essential journeys. I headed north along a wide paved track north to join the coastal

path through the fragrant wooded glade named Warren House Gill, accessed via the County council tip and the sewage works. After the Gill there's a sharp left up steep steps to the cliff top and an exhilarating walk along the towards Fox Holes Dene. You go inland here to cross the dene and can either use the coastal path or go direct alongside the railway.

When Tom Wright became Bishop of Durham in 2003 I was asked to plan a walk and bus / rail ride round the diocese over six days which included part of this walk, in that case southbound from Seaham to Easington Colliery. It was decided that the senior staff (archdeacons, Bishop's council members etc.) would all do this walk together and in the area of Hawthorn Dene we got temporarily lost. At the time it was case of too many Chiefs and not enough Indians. Is that phrase even acceptable these days?

Luckily the signposting has been improved since those days and it was no problem to walk down below the railway bridge and over the little bridge in the Dene and along the fields until the large industrial estate at Seaham eventually came into view. I chose the coast route here to round off the day.

I began walking at 1230 and arrived at Seaham Harbour at 1615 at the office of my accountant where I was able to drop off some papers. It was then a further ten minutes up the old track to Seaham station for the train back to Newcastle at 1720. There were some young people (all wearing masks) going for a night out in Newcastle, which previously would have been prohibited. When you have the opportunity to have a day out by train, take it with both hands. You never know if there is to be another lockdown. - **By Alex Nelson**

Nancy Shaw - "In with both Feet"

Each month we'll bring you an excerpt from the fantastic book written by Nancy Shaw - "In with both feet" - Available on Amazon.

PART 2 - AUSTRALIA

We're going where?

We'd been happily married for four years when, in February 1967, two Australians visited the Company and Brian was asked to show them around and explain all the processes that went into making steel, and he did it so well that the Australians offered him a job on the spot. He said he'd discuss it with his wife and get back to them, to which they responded, "Just tell her she's going mate." I was thrilled when Brian came home and told me that people from the Broken Hill Proprietary Company in Melbourne, Australia, wanted to hire him to work in Whyalla, South Australia, and that he wanted to go, but I was shocked at the same time, "Australia. Why Australia? I didn't want to go to Australia. If I had to leave my beautiful home to go anywhere it would be Canada. Canada, where the other half of my family live!" Brian thought for a moment, "How about if we go to Australia for a couple of years then go to Canada? I'd like to see something of the world before we settle down."

It seemed as though everybody was jumping this ship called England. Marjorie, Ken and children and Gran, Lorna and Ted had all gone to Canada and here I was about to jump in with both feet and agree to go to Australia. When I think about it now, most of the momentous decisions of my life have been made on the spur of the moment and this proved to be no exception. I never gave it another thought but said, "Okay then, but after two years we're going to Canada, right?" I suppose if I'd argued against going we wouldn't have gone, but when you've been born and raised in a small village, to have the opportunity of going to the other side of the world when somebody else is paying for the trip was exciting. It was like something you read in a novel. Of course I was going. Wherever Brian was, I'd be right behind. Both of us agreed that we would look upon our time in Australia as a two-year holiday, nothing more and nothing less; after all, we weren't like ordinary immigrants, we weren't really going to settle there, were we?

We broke the news to Nora and Stivvie first and even though I was a bit apprehensive about telling her because she was my nearest and dearest relative, she took it very well and said, "You only have one life to live Nan, go for it!" I should have known she'd be okay, because by now going abroad to live was nothing new. Marjorie, Gran and Lorna had moved to Canada. Cousins Robin, Peggy and Esther Barron had moved to South Africa as well as our best friends Anne and Alan, and cousin Sheila Maguire had moved to Queensland in Australia. So, Brian and I moving to South Australia surprised no-one in my family. Our leaving England was just going to be another letter with a foreign stamp on it and it wasn't a question of anyone being amazed anymore; it was more a question of, "Who's leaving next?"

Consett Woman is Taekwondo Champion

By Debbie Todd

A Local woman, Jade Slavin has been passionate about Taekwondo since She was 9 years old. She has competed all over the world in places like Korea, Russia, Cuba, Vegas and all over Europe.

She is a British four time champion and one of her biggest achievements was gaining a gold medal at the commonwealth games in Glasgow 2014. She now spends her time coaching children in the martial art and modelling in her spare time.

Jade says 'I feel proud to have represented my country and now I love coaching the younger generation who hope to make it on to team GB like myself'.





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Buzzin' Bounceback

Jamie (Founder of Buzzin' Records)

'Hey guys, it's been a busy few months despite everything that's been going on, and I hope you are all doing well & keeping safe.

Since I last spoke to you, I've had a number of radio & event bookings coming through, with brands such as Trancechill Radio, No Grief FM and Global Trance Sessions, also including some virtual live-streamed festivals, such as a Trance Classics mix at 'Set For Love' in an association with Last Night A DJ Saved My Life, raising much needed money for some of the worst hit areas of the globe due to COVID-19 alongside artists & DJs such as the legendary Carl Cox, and an exciting set for Irish Trance Family's 'Rave To Save' festival, also raising funds for the frontline workers in both the UK and Ireland. I've also recently released a brand new single titled Methodical, released under Behavior Recordings and a another one due out on September 1st that is titled Neverland (Radio Edit) and will be released in online stores all over the world.

In the spirit of lockdown, I haven't had much on in the way of live shows, but I am now also nevertheless working away to sorting out Buzzin' Records 2020 / 2021 UK tour, along with another interview on Liverpool based radio station KCC Live.

My mental health, as discussed last time, is still a struggle, due to my ADHD / ADD therapy and of course, Type 1 Diabetes treatment, that I've had since the age of four, but it is great to know that there are so many different people and services out there to help people with issues, including our incredible NHS, but it is very important for people to speak out, even it is to just one person, and I've even went on to doing a special live set for Saving Light Events, an electronic music event company that is one of the many brands supporting mental health out there.

I'd again like to thank everyone who has supported my career so far, if you've went out and bought one of my records, if you have came to one of my shows, purchased tickets to one of the events I've played, if you've read an interview of mine, tuned in to the radio when I've been on air, or even if you picked up one of my flyers, liked one of my social media posts, or followed my official pages, and I'd really like to thank you!

Don't forget to follow all of my official pages including my Facebook, Instagram and Soundcloud profiles! My best wishes to you all during this difficult time, BuZZila.'

PRINCE BISHOP VETERINARY HOSPITAL

ASK The VET

Grass Seeds

In the summer months, injuries caused by grass seeds are a common problem seen at veterinary practices, with dogs with hairy ears and feet being most at risk.

Grass seeds tend to be shaped like little arrowheads which means they can attach onto a pet's fur and burrow their way into their body, causing all sorts of problems when they do so.

Grass seeds most commonly burrow into the space between a dogs' toes forming cysts and infections. These are usually very painful and require medical, and sometimes surgical, treatment. Grass seeds can also make their way into your dog's ears causing infections, and they can even cause damage to the ear drum.

They can also make their way through the skin all over the body, so it's always best to look out for any new swellings or wounds and see your vet if you're concerned. It is recommended that you check your pet after walks and remove any vegetation from their coats (and it's a great time to check for ticks too!) to reduce the risk of them developing any problems.

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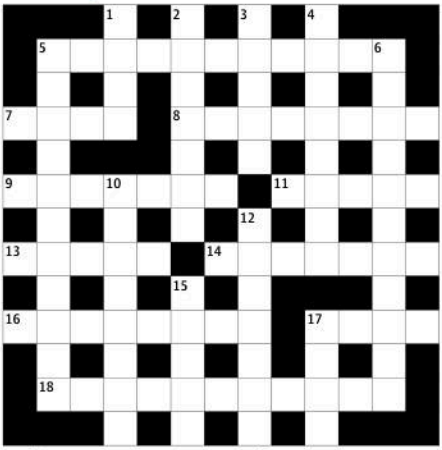
Puzzle Corner September 2020



Across

5. Insubstantial (11)
7. Food fish (4)
8. Setback (8)
9. Inventor of the jet aircraft engine, d.1996 (7)
11. Fungus used in baking (5)
13. Mythical sprite (5)
14. With a pleasing musical sound (7)
16. Ill-educated (8)
17. With an equal score (4)
18. Become converted (3,3,5)

Down

1. Home to the Taj Mahal (4)
2. Germ-free (7)
3. Vitality (5)
4. Distress (8)
5. Mild anaestheticused in dentistry and surgery (8,3)
6. Semi-transparent (11)
10. 1749 Henry Fielding novel (3,5)
12. In a vigorous way (7)
15. Butch (5)
17. Roman gents' cloak (4)

Answers for August

S	H	A	G	G	Y	■	C	A	N	D	I	D
T	■	N	■	O	■	■	U	■	O	■	R	
R	U	D	E	R	■	A	N	D	A	N	T	E
U	■	R	■	E	■	G	■	I	■	O	■	S
C	H	O	W	D	E	R	■	B	O	R	I	S
K	■	I	■	■	■	E	■	L	■	■	■	Y
■	■	D	I	F	F	E	R	E	N	T	■	■
H	■	■	■	U	■	M	■	■	■	A	■	R
O	U	T	E	R	■	E	X	P	A	N	S	E
R	■	U	■	T	■	N	■	A	■	G	■	C
R	U	N	R	I	O	T	■	G	U	I	L	E
I	■	E	■	V	■	■	■	A	■	E	■	D
D	O	S	S	E	R	■	U	N	T	R	U	E

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

Shotley Bridge Hospital Costing £1.5m Each Year, Richard Holden MP Wants Change

The global Coronavirus pandemic and its local impact have re-enforced the need for capacity in our local NHS. While the impact has been devastating for many local families, the impact on families of having to postpone treatment to protect our NHS capacity is the hidden cost of Coronavirus too.

For decades, we've seen the slow move of services away from Shotley Bridge Hospital and I have continued to lobby the Secretary of State throughout the crisis for a replacement community hospital and raised it at PMQs. We cannot continue with a local hospital whose costs of running repairs and maintenance are now around £1.5 million a year. It is neither sustainable nor acceptable that taxpayers see so much spent repairs – rather than investment in services local people need – it's not fair on staff or patients.

Coronavirus means it is ever more important that we consider our NHS, how it works for us and the service it provides in local areas. I'm not going to take no for an answer from national government and will continue to work with our local CCG and others to ensure that we get a new local community hospital that is fully up to scratch and learns the lessons of the pandemic in terms of capacity and care. - **By Richard Holden MP**

Unreal

In the bars high and low, anticipation now grows,
As we wait for what Saturday brings,
Their queuing gets closer, so there's more exposure,
But quenching that thirst is their aim,
When the drink involves bitter, there'll be no quitters,
Just pints being downed like in dreams!
With wild drunken laughter, happy ever after,
All plastered and living it up just like kings!

On the telly I saw him, and I closely watched him,
I thought how he looked out of place,
He said things were changing, he now looked right at me,
He had a wide smile on his face!
His big hands he brandished, then he started spouting,
For a minute or more from his head,
The decisions he's making, the mick, he is taking,
I mouthed at the telly and said!

'You picked a fine time to give me this spiel,
On the 4th of July, the pubs are unsealed!
I've had some bad times, lived through some sad times,
But this time you're just not for real,
You picked a fine time to give me this spiel!',

After he'd finished, I poured a large whiskey,
From my pop up cool bar in the hall,
Dimmed the lights in my lounge room,
Sprayed on some perfume,
Then chalked my darts score on the wall,
Now it's my duty, to stay in with my booty,
And I haven't just lost my old mind,
I'm staying at home sir, where I'm safe and sound sir,
Even though I'm of the keen social kind.

You picked a fine time to give me this spiel,
On the 4th of July, the pubs are unsealed!
I've had some bad times, lived through some sad times,
But this time you're just not for real,
You picked a fine time to give me this spiel!'

With apologies to Kenny Rogers

Lorraine Weightman
July 1st 2020

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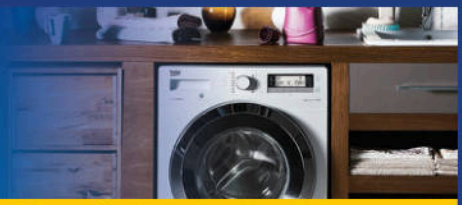

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