CONSETT MAGAZINE

Issue 108 | Nov 2021



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Welcome Bonny Lads and Lasses,

Thank you for picking up your free Consett Magazine.

In this edition we take another look at the lives of the people making a difference in Consett through the lens of the Consett Corona Photo Project. The project is still going strong documenting life in DH8 throughout the pandemic and beyond - this month the project caught up with a taxi driver who has been doing the utmost to keep passengers safe, a dance teacher performing classes online, the North East Ambulance Service's Hazardous Area Response Team (HART), and the ladies from the congregation of St.John's Church in Snods Edge; among other people doing extraordinary things within our community. If you'd like to get involved in the project, turn to the bottom of page five to get in contact with the Corona Photo project team.

Remember to check out all of the advertisers for quality local products and services, without these wonderful local advertisers the free Consett Magazine simply would not be possible.

This month's front cover is an aerial shot from "Durham Drone Dude" who sent in this spectacular image of Ebchester from a height of 80 metres - a big thanks for submitting this unique perspective. If you'd like to see your photograph, illustration, or art on the front cover - go ahead and give us a call on 01207 438 292 or email us on editor@consettmagazine.com.

Have a wonderful November Consett,

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

Thank you!

* Also check out consettmagazine.com and Consett Magazine on Facebook/Instagram for even more local content updated on a daily basis. And remember to please support our awesome advertisers, they make this magazine possible each and every month - without them we'd be unable to print, distribute, and maintain our online platforms.

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Contributors

Barry Kirkham
Marco Elsy
Lorraine Weightman
Christina Groves
Alex Nelson
Liam Cook
Christopher Rea
George Ledger
Debbie Todd
Chris Bruce
Steve Webb
Kathryn Rooney

SCAN ME

The Front Cover

The front cover this month is by Durham Drone Dude
Send any drawings or photographs to:
editor@consettmagazine.com

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Atlas Taxis have been working throughout the pandemic along with other taxi companies in the area, making sure essential workers can get to work and the rest of us to the shops. Corona guidelines however must be followed and as can be seen in this photo, Perspex screens have been installed in taxis to ensure driver and passengers remain safe. (Image: George Ledger)



Dance classes like most exercise and sporting activities have been hit hard during the pandemic. The Pauline Cook School of Dancing in Consett only managed to open their doors for short periods between lockdowns. However, being ever resourceful they have maintained some teaching for their dancers via live Zoom lessons. Pauline, Natalia and Jack have been delivering classes from the studio and also from their own homes. If you think holding a meeting over Zoom is tiring you should try taking one of Pauline's lessons! (Image: George Ledger)



Driving Schools, like 'John Rayner Driver Training', have been forced to close during the three lockdowns and had to comply with government guidelines. They were further affected when they were allowed to start up again, as Test Centres were forced to close with practical and theory tests suspended. Pupils who had a test booked had their appointments cancelled, refunded, or rescheduled. (Image: George Ledger)



Andy and Tracey may have managed to adapt to working from home while being civil servants, but as artists and historical re-enactors they had to adapt to life during a pandemic. Following relaxations of Covid-19 restrictions in March '21 they are now looking forward to getting back into the wider world and are keen to attend steampunk events and go on weekends away with their 'time travelling tea tent'. (Image: Debbie Todd)

Consett Corona Photo Project - Nov 2021

The photo project was started in March 2020 at the start of the first national lockdown. George Ledger, a retired police officer and photographer, began to document the impact of the coronavirus on Consett and its communities. What started out as a personal project soon expanded into a growing collection of photographs of people, volunteer groups and businesses during the pandemic.



Ian, of Consett Music Tuition, had continued to tutor his pupils online. As can be seen in the photograph above, Teresa, a student was enjoying Ian's personal tuition in April 2021 at his Blackhill studio. (Image: Steve Webb)



England Boxing confirmed that amateur boxing clubs, such as Fight Fitness Guru Boxing Club, could start to reopen their doors after lockdown on April 12th 2021. This was the first stage and was subject to meeting the strict criteria limiting the number of people allowed in a venue at any one time. Indoor training was permitted in stages, firstly with children and under 18's, then individual adults and finally adult groups. (Image: Chris Bruce)



North East Ambulance Service Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) now work alongside other emergency services at the centre of serious accidents and threats. The ambulance service hope they can save more lives during the early stages of a major incident. Their important training exercises were disrupted over the past year. It was great to see Rescue North East (RNE) a Consett based firm, delivering specialist training locally to HART personnel. (Image: George Ledger)



The ladies from the congregation of St John's Church Shotley at Snods Edge have put their crafting skills to good use during the pandemic. They have produced a Covid-19 commemorative quilt which is now on display in the church. (Image: Chris Bruce)

George was joined by other photographers, Debbie Todd, Chris Bruce and Steve Webb and as the collection grew, they decided to work towards hosting an online and local exhibitions. To see more photographs, visit their Facebook Page.

facebook.com/ConsettCoronaPhotoProject - or contact: consettcoronaphoto@gmail.com

Rock of Ages - By Lorraine Weightman

This time last month I discovered by sheer fluke that the first day in October is the 'International Day of Older Persons'.

Apparently it is a day to appreciate the contributions that older people make to society and with the number of those ageing people worldwide projected to more than double in 2050, I - as a now officially older person, believe it's worthy of some thought!

People who study ageing put it into three categories, Biological, Psychological and Social Ageing.

So what is considered old?

It's common practice to change the bar as one reaches a certain age.

I can remember turning thirty and thinking that was a huge milestone and by my fortieth birthday I was hanging on to some semblance of youth; by organising a trip to Dublin in a Star Trek uniform with a beam me up badge placed proudly on my chest. By fifty I seemed to calm down momentarily but still found myself careering around at a Ceilidh surprise party organised by my husband. And on my 60th birthday, I was attempting head banging to Paranoid by Black Sabbath with my good old mates on the Demi dance floor in Consett!

Yet if age is definitely just a number; we still all experience biological ageing - which is known as senescence - where arthritis, hard of hearing, loss of memory and vision kick in; but with the help of exercise, ibuprofen and a few morning and night prayers; most of us somehow manage to get though.

Psychological age is how old one feels, acts, and behaves and Social ageing refers to changes in a person's roles and relationships and sometimes how they are expected to behave.

I remember watching my family and more senior friends age after turning 60 - some more quickly than others - and I guess the delaying tactic may be about attitude. We have all heard the saying 'young at heart' and I recall my Mam joining the over sixties at St Patrick's in Consett and loving every minute of it; mainly because she was able to tap dance to 'Alexander's 's Rag Time Band' and sing 'Don't Bring Lulu', while doing the Charleston! And my children when they were small were enamoured with their stylish contemporary Grandma who they didn't see as old at all.

A couple of years ago I was lucky enough to be given tickets to a Kiss concert at the Arena in Newcastle. The band who have been entertaining the rock world since 1973 burst onto the stage with the energy of performers almost 50 years their junior, and in full make up, padded shouldered costumes and platform boots they rocked the night away. Totally taken up in the moment, I sang along to 'God Gave Rock and Roll To You' and 'Crazy Nights'



Yet the highlight for me was watching a 67 year old Paul Stanley, guitar in hand, zip wiring over the audience to a platform in the middle of the arena shouting 'I'm coming to see ya', then singing a couple of verses of 'Love Gun' before zipping back to the stage.

And in my opinion there's no better place to see ancient rockers strutting their stuff than in The Turf on a Saturday Night out in Consett.
So to all of those 'older persons', hang on in there as long as you can, and keep celebrating EVERY day as your day; I know I will!

'Credibility is someone else's idea of what I should be doing.' - Paul Stanley

'And if you should survive to a hundred and five
Look at all you'll derive out of bein' alive
And here is the best part, you have a head start
If you are among the very young at heart'

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North West Durham

On 6th October 2021, the Conservative Government carried out the largest overnight cut to the basic rate of social security since the second world war. This came despite warnings from experts, charities, local authorities, MPs, claimants themselves and many more.

Richard Holden, the MP for North West Durham, chose not to vote to retain the uplifted rate of Universal Credit despite it impacting:

- **8360 households in NW Durham**
- **5567 households with children**
- **3121 claimants who are in work**

It is common knowledge the £20 uplift to Universal Credit was a temporary measure, to cut it at a time when many people are still out of work and the cost of food and fuel are increasing is nothing more than cruel. We could now see roughly 800,000 people across the country plunged into poverty.

Let's not also forget, many people who claim UC are the same people who kept the country running during the coronavirus pandemic – They are care workers, hospital porters, teachers, shop staff, workers who emptied our bins and bus drivers, many of whom often live pay cheque to pay cheque and can find themselves at food banks before their next pay packet.

It is an uneasy fact that anyone is only two pay days away from poverty and sadly, following crisis after crisis for 18 months, working people should not be paying the price for the Government's mishandling of the pandemic.

As usual, North West Durham Labour Party decided to act in the interests of the people who would be impacted most by the Government's actions. Fundraising has been taking place for a number of weeks and all donations received will be handed over to the main food banks in the constituency later this month.

This isn't the first time we've had to do this when the Government has abandoned working class people and we're sure it won't be the last – but as long as the Tories continue to target the good people of North West Durham we'll be there to support them, probably with a bit of help from Marcus Rashford.

Content submitted by: Emma Heenan
– Fundraiser, NW Durham Labour



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New Charity Shop In Consett Makes Record-Breaking Sales On First Day Of Trading



A new charity shop in Consett has made record-breaking sales when it opened its doors for the first time on Thursday this week [14/10/21].



Located on Victoria Road in the town centre, the shop was launched by Willow Burn Hospice to generate income to fund hospice care in Derwentside. The new shop was officially opened by long service volunteer, Maureen Gallagher, who has volunteered for the charity for over 20 years. Shoppers were treated to goody bags and Bucks Fizz as they joined the team to celebrate the first day of trading.

Sally Ruddle, Head of Retail at Willow Burn Hospice, said: "The whole team are absolutely thrilled with how successful the first day has been. Our aim each and every day is to raise vital income so that our colleagues at the hospice can continue to provide care to those living with life-limiting illnesses in our community.

We have been very excited about the move as the new premises is in a bustling location, next to high street brands and the bus station. A huge thank you to everyone who has helped with the move and refit, including staff, volunteers and our partners in the community. Good luck to Tracy [Shop Manager] and team Consett in their new retail home."

Willow Burn has been part of the Consett retail community for many years, having previously operated a book shop and more recently a charity shop on John Street, which closed last week, so that it can be transformed into a wedding pop-up shop later this year. As well as the hospice team, many Consett businesses were part of the shop fit out and move including Consett Carpet Centre, Aspect Voice and JCS Security Systems.

Willow Burn is a nurse-led hospice located on Howden Bank in Lanchester and is a state-of-the-art facility offering specialist supportive, palliative and end of life care, including in-patient care, respite, day services and bereavement and family support.

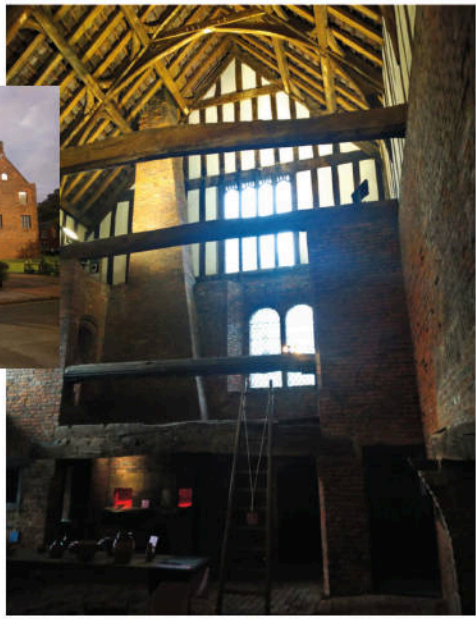
The new shop is open Monday to Saturday, 9.30am – 4pm.

For further information about Willow Burn Hospice and the new shop in Consett, please visit:

www.willow-burn.co.uk







I explored Marshall's Yard, a former tractor and roller manufactory which is now a successful retail park close to the centre

Places to go...

Gainsborough & Retford

I was looking forward to my visit to Gainsborough on 30th September, staying overnight. I was arriving from London on an LNER Azuma into Lincoln, and changed on to a new Northern two carriage train which was going through to Sheffield. Gainsborough has two railway stations, one is Gainsborough Central, close to the town centre (but Newcastle Central it ain't), and it sees few trains and has zero facilities. The other, which I arrived at, is Gainsborough Lea Road which is better served, but likewise has zero facilities, not even a ticket machine. and is a good mile and a half south of the town centre.

There's a ramp for buggies and wheelchairs with three flat refuges which were puddled over an inch deep and I had no alternative but to jump through them, getting one foot wet in the process and keeping the other foot dry. It was a good half hour walk into town and I found the very central Gainsborough Hotel under renovation. I think, reading the reviews, that I got one of the less good rooms, but I could not really recommend the hotel, with no public space apart from the reception, and breakfast only available at a cafe up the road. Not finding any restaurants for an evening meal, and eschewing the many takeaways, I settled for a meal in McDonalds. I returned to my room to find the key card did not work, and no staff about. I entered my room only by pumping the handle up and down and belting the keycard on the door's reader simultaneously until it eventually gave way.

Breakfast in said cafe was quite good and I explored Marshall's Yard, a former tractor and roller manufactory which is now a successful retail park close to the centre. And then Gainsborough's glory, the old Hall on the north edge of town, a Tudor and Jacobean edifice of palatial size with a timber Great Hall and Kitchen, and excellent views from the roof. The house was built in the late 15th century by Sir Thomas Burgh, with later Elizabethan additions. It is one of the best preserved medieval manor houses in England. It's now in the care of English Heritage, and it is really worth a visit, but the rest of the town is something of a let-down.

With four hours before my train home and the famous Gainsborough model railway which was started in the late 1940s now a COVID-19 casualty, I really had nothing to do for the rest of the day. A walk on the banks of the River Trent was thwarted by the lack of bridges. So I resolved to get the local train straight away to Retford which proved a much better choice: the Market Place was buzzing, the Chesterfield Canal and King's Park made a pleasant walk between station and town, and the Bassetlaw Museum was welcoming and informative about the town's history, especially the sections about rural agriculture and the Mayflower Pilgrims. Indeed, as the picture shows, representatives of the Wampanoag community in the USA had recently visited Retford to built a traditional ***Wetu*** in the grounds of the Bassetlaw Museum. The museum is quite extensive and when leaving I found I had missed out an entire wing, but I needed to make my way back to the railway station. The compact town centre was fascinating to explore, and overall I found Retford a good deal more interesting and resumed my trip north on another LNER Azuma with a ten minute same platform change at Doncaster for Durham which I reached bang on time at 1826. .

alexnelson@dunelm.org.uk
www.nationalrail.com

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As well as our regular walking football sessions on Monday and Friday evenings, we are now looking to start a female only walking football session and would invite anyone, of any age, to get in touch if this is something that would be of interest to you.

We would need a minimum of 10/12 players to make a session viable so please pass the information onto anyone you think may be interested. If you haven't played football before but are willing to give it a try then you are still welcome to come along.

Once we have enough interest we can decide on when the sessions will be held.

Some quotes from our current players:

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"A great way to keep fit, meet new friends and boost well-being both physical and mental, whilst having fun in the process"

Contact Tim on 07866305686 for further details.



Christmas Toy Box Appeal

Last year Kathryn Rooney ran a Christmas toy appeal for the corona vulnerable people and volunteers group in Consett. She arranged with local shops and businesses to take collection boxes for new toys right before the lockdown hit. The support from local people was phenomenal. The group was able to supply toys to 168 local children with the help of social workers, schools and refuges. They also identified families who were most at need and delivered directly to them.

The group is doing it all again this year and have already got a growing list of businesses and organisations who have committed to take a toy collection boxes.

The easiest way to donate is to use the following **Amazon** wish list, simply go to link, choose the gift you'd like to purchase, pay and it's delivered to the Toy Box Appeal.

www.amzn.to/3ilqO7l

It's hard to imagine, but if the group hadn't supplied toys to the refuge, some of the children would not have received any presents from Santa Clause on Christmas morning.

If you require any further information about the toy appeal please contact Kathryn on 07880176493 or email: kathryn.rooney @durham.gov.uk

PRINCE BISHOP
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How to make a visit to the vets as stress-free as possible for your cat

Many cats find visits to the vets stressful but there are some things that can be done to make it a more enjoyable experience for you and your feline friends

1) Choose a cat carrier that completely unzips, or where the top can be completely removed. This allows them to be slowly exposed and lifted out if necessary, rather than being dragged out a front opening box.

2) Make the carrier a part of the furniture. Leave it in the living room with the front/top open and place their favourite toys, treats or catnip inside, so they are intrigued to go inside. Don't just get it out when you know you need to take them to the vets.

3) Try to get them to enter the carrier voluntarily by using their normal bed, treats and toys inside.

4) On the day of the visit, spray a feline facial pheromone spray (such as Feliway) inside the carrier 30 minutes before you leave to help keep them calm.

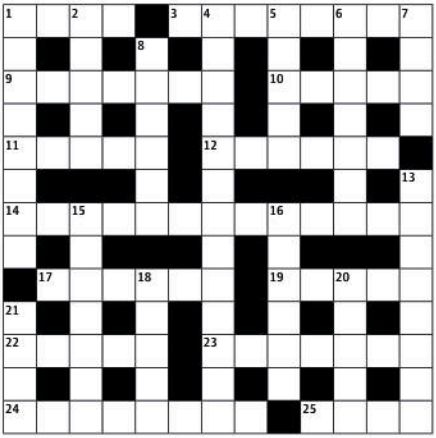
5) When in the car, secure the carrier on the floor, or on a seat with the seatbelt fastened.

6) When you get to the vets, raise the carrier off the floor by placing it on the seats or on an elevated shelf if available. Consider covering the carrier with a blanket or towel.

7) If you know your cat is becoming stressed while waiting for your appointment, let the reception team know, and they may be able to move you to a quieter area of the practice.

www.princebishopvets.co.uk

Puzzle Corner November 2021



Across

1. Top of one's head (4)
3. Notified (8)
9. Vie (7)
10. Trembling poplar (5)
11. Municipal leader (5)
12. Element essential for animal life (6)
14. Reluctance (13)
17. Capital established by Ataturk (6)
19. Suitable spot (5)
22. Smouldering fragment (5)
23. Mathematical proposition (7)
24. Main roads (8)
25. Incursion (4)

Down

1. Restorative drink (4-2-2)
2. British soldier (5)
4. For the most part (13)
5. Prepared (5)
6. Greatest in status, authority or power (7)
7. Put into a liquid (4)
8. Liquid fuel (6)
13. Prestigious (8)
15. Excessively talkative person (7)
16. Look — goose (6)
18. Missile with a straight thin shaft (5)
20. Around (Latin) (5)
21. Interlaced structure (4)

Answers for October

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

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

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-- About Our Head Chef --
Parvin Kumar



Our Head Chef and an owner of "The Soami's Trio " Parvin Kumar having hotel management back round 8 years in five stars hotel of India with experience of authentic cuisine Before this he run takeaway for 5 years in peterlee called Soami's salsa and also Served in Newcastle at the spice cube (British curry awarded) and popular restaurant in Sachins and last one was Haveli Ponteland (Michelin guide) is driving force behind our revolutionary menu striving for no less than perfection in the execution of each dish served.

There are many misconceptions about food. It's my pleasure of the Soami's trio team to address these and bring to the north east a trio cuisines dining experience that is vibrant, exciting and truly unforgettable.





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IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU

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We've teamed up with Durham Business Growth Grant to fund up to 35% of your branding, web and marketing.

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What is the "Dress Code" for Your Business?

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