CONSETT MAGAZINE

Issue 112 | March 2022

We ♥ Consett

Front Cover By: Chris Bruce



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Hello and welcome to the March 2022 issue of the Consett Magazine.

We hope that the change in text size has improved the readability of the articles. We'll continue to listen to the feedback from our readers and strive to improve every aspect of the magazine.

In this issue of the Consett Magazine Lorraine Weightman dives deep into the historical island of Lindisfarne and the fascinating story of St. Cuthbert on page 4 and 5.

Consett Rotary Club and Haystax have teamed up to plant nearly 800 tress as part of project aimed at creating a fully accessible farm area. More info on page 6.

Our beloved Derwent Walk is under threat by new plans in the area. Find out what you can do to save this iconic local foot and bridle path on page 7.

Consett In Focus is a photography project brought to you by the same people involved in the Consett Corona Photo Project, see their amazing behind the scenes pictures of Aladdin at the Empire Theatre on pages 8 and 9.

Buzzila: local legend, music producer and DJ. is back and has been busy over the past year, read all about it on page 11.

We were sent a fantastic hand written poem by Mrs. Salkeld, kindly scanned and sent by the wonderful staff at the Consett Library on page 14. (See the original handwritten version online)

Kind regards from Marco, Barry and everyone who makes the Consett Magazine possible!

If you have a story, issue, photo or poem you'd like published, please don't hesitate to contact us via email: editor@consettmagazine.com

firefly.magazines

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SCAN ME

The Front Cover

The front cover this month is by Chris Bruce. Send your drawings or photographs to: editor@consettmagazine.com

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Clear White Light

By Lorraine Weightman

I guess this may be true for many of us in Consett. From being a child I have felt an affinity with Holy Island, also known as Lindisfarne.

I went on trips and pilgrimages there with my family when I was young, and although I didn't know all of its history then, I always felt its magic.

The fact that we had to travel along a causeway when the tide was out, just to get there, knowing there was the remote chance we could be cut off from the mainland if we read the tides wrongly, always enthralled me. And of course there was the majestic castle, the ruined priory, the beautiful church and the amazing stretches of beach.

I hadn't visited for a long time, yet it was no surprise - when I arrived a good number of years later - to get that feeling of tranquillity and belonging I'd experienced so many years before; as I explored the places I remembered as a child.

On entering the church I was enamoured with the fantastic sculpture by Fenwick Lawson, depicting monks carrying the body of St Cuthbert from Lindisfarne - for fear of Viking raiders - on the long journey to his final resting place in Durham Cathedral. Moved by this emotive image I decided to find out more about Cuthbert.

It could be said, that all legends begin with a grain of truth.

In St Bede's account of Cuthbert, when he was a young shepherd in Melrose, Bede described how Cuthbert encountered a long stream of light illuminating the night sky with its brightness; while all those around him were asleep. It was a life changing moment for him, and when he found out this happened on the same night of Aidan the Bishop of the Church of Lindisfarne's death, he vowed to enter a monastery, as he believed it to be a sign. However successful he was - Cuthbert was made Bishop Of Hexham in 684 by the King of Northumbria at the time - he yearned for the simple life of a hermit and returned to Lindisfarne to live there, retiring to Inner Farne.

He is attributed with many miracles and so much more has been written about him.

I have stayed on the island of Lindisfarne several times, loving that feeling when the tide comes in and one is completely cut off while enjoying an evening meal, a few drinks and good craic with both guests and locals in the bar.

I have wonderful memories of the The Lindisfarne Hotel, especially the owner who when carrying out a tray of food, remarks to the residents;

'Hot stuff coming through, and I'm not talking about the breakfast!

I would also recommend, The Crown and Anchor, The Ship Inn and The Manor House. The room I stayed in here looked out onto the statue of St Aidan, the Priory, and the Church, and remember wishing I could wake up to that spectacular view every morning.

It was here, while having dinner I met a young man working in the restaurant that I used to teach many moons ago close to Consett, when he was 6 years of age.

Hearing the words 'Mrs Weightman' delightfully shouted across the room from the kitchen, once again made me realise that my home town is always there to greet me and I wouldn't have it any other way! We exchanged stories and it was lovely to see him grown up, happy and successful.

Lindisfarne the island and Lindisfarne the band both have a special place in my heart and when I was lucky enough to be given tickets to see 'The Lindisfarne Story' in St Mary's Church on Holy Island, I was more than delighted.

It turned out to be a unique experience with Ray Laidlaw and Billy Mitchell documenting the band's history, peppered with chat, funny tales and renditions of the band's greatest hits; which the congregation were only too happy to join in with.

That was in June 2015, and I'm happy to say I was overjoyed to be celebrating Lindisfarne on Lindisfarne! It's strange but if you have ever visited you may, as I do, feel a sense of complete calmness and contentment there, and being alone - as Cuthbert craved - is no hardship.

His feast day is celebrated on March 20th, which is technically the Spring equinox, recognised as a time for rebirth and new beginnings. With that in mind Billy Mitchell and Ray Laidlaw are beginning another tour in March 2022; telling yet another Lindisfarne Story!

www.lindisfarnestory.co.uk

Rotary Row

By Lorraine Weightman

Consett Rotary and some of their family members have been busy helping to plant trees as part of a project in the local area designed to create a back to nature farm experience which is fully inclusive and caters for the needs of families; whether they be able-bodied or physically disabled, neurotypical or neurodiverse.

This project is the work of a farming family who have a family member with a chromosomal disorder and, realising that an area set aside for nature can have a calming effect, have decided to create an environment to help lots of families.

The plans set out include a fully accessible farm area with areas for quiet one-to-one contact with animals and animal therapy sessions. There will also be an accessible pets corner, and areas to view larger animals; along with a fully accessible cafe, sensory rooms and a Changing Places toilet.

The outdoor area will also have an outdoor classroom and a bushcraft area, nature trail and a rustic play area (all with wide, level and accessible paths). In addition, it is planned to build an accessible holiday park, with fully accessible lodges.

With lots of work to be done and much more required, 21 Consett Rotary members and friends spent a few hours planting trees, and with a total of around 800 to be planted the club will be involved to ensure that the project is successful. In the first visit the Club added around 50 hours of work to the project with many more to come.







enquiries_haystax@outlook.com

Save the Derwent Walk

By John R Davidson

Following on from the Restoring Our Railways Feasibility Study publication commissioned by Durham County Council and the MP for Durham North & West, Mr Richard Holden, a "Strategic Outline Business Case" has now been submitted to the government for consideration that outlines two possible transport options running down the Derwent Walk to the Tyne. The Derwent Walk is still very much under threat and the threat is very real indeed for many local residents, despite significant and ever growing opposition!

Last year a small group of local residents set up an opposition group on Facebook to oppose any threat to the Derwent Walk and try to protect this valuable peaceful traffic free Heritage Route down the Derwent Valley used by thousands of walkers, cyclist, horse riders, and people with disabilities.

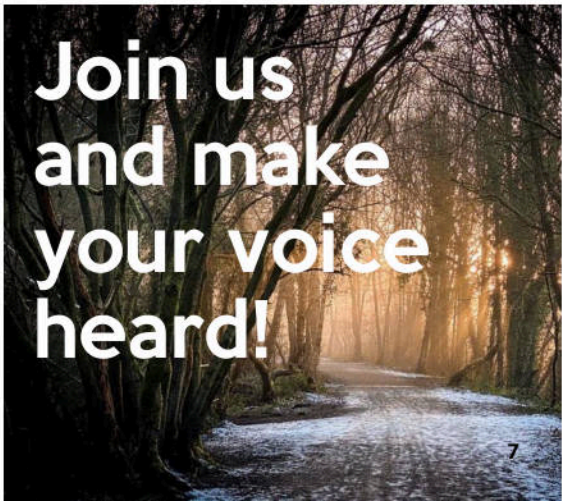
With over 6,600 members, the group is furious that this proposal is still under consideration and they have collected over 25,000 electronic signatures already on a petition to stop this destruction of the Derwent Walk from proceeding.

The group have decided that it is now time for action, and on Sunday 20th March, they are encouraging as many people as possible from their many "user groups" and their friends and family to get onto the Derwent Walk to demonstrate how special it is, and how furious they are that there should be any consideration given to take this asset away from our region.

Group founder John Davidson hopes for local people opposed the plans to join his group of walkers and protestors on the20th March.

He said: "Join us on 20th March at a gathering for photographs between 2.45 and 3pm on the Nine Arches Viaduct near Swalwell. A group of us will be walking from the Rowland's Gill viaduct in the constituency of Durham North and West at 2pm along to the Nine Aches Viaduct for the finish at 2.45 – 3pm, so.

- Put on your walking shoes
- Saddle your horse
- Put on your bike helmet and cycle
- Walk your dog
- Charge up your mobility scooter
- Put on your running shoes and run with your running buddies
- Get those binoculars out and get Red Kite spotting."





Showing the full cast of the C.B.S. Theatre Group's during the final dress rehearsal of their production of Aladdin at Consett's Empire Theatre. (Image: George Ledger)

George Ledger
@Consett in Focus

The talented Lee Brannigan putting the finishing touches to his costume as Widow Twanky.



Lee not only showed his talent on the stage but also his skills as a 'quick change artist' as he made numerous costume changes during the performances. (Image: George Ledger)









The CBS stage crew (including some of the performers) putting up the scenery on "get in day" before the dress rehearsal. (Image: Chris Bruce)

'Consett in Focus' Documentary Photography Group

We are starting out on our new Project documenting Culture and Hobbies in the Consett area. This follows on from the 'ConsettCoronaPhotoProject' which can still be viewed online at:

facebook.com/ ConsettCoronaPhotoProject

This month we are highlighting the hugely popular and successful CBS production of Aladdin. Our photographs feature the hard work and dedication of all performers and backstage staff who helped create a fantastic show for the audience.

FULL ARTICLE ON: consettmagazine.com



Lee Brannigan coming over all diva-like and wowing the audience as Widow Twankey. (Image: Chris Bruce)



Aladdin played by Harry Hudson during the live performance (Image: Steve Webb)



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Buzzila
March 2022

Thanks again for your support & I will continue to support and promote our local magazine, businesses & events.



Hey guys, firstly, a happy new year to you all, I hope you're all keeping well. As most of you may know, names BuZZila, I am an electronic music producer, composer, songwriter and DJ, primarily working in the scenes of Trance music, and Electro House / Big-Room House. In terms of DJing, I also love playing classic Trance, particularly 90s, whilst producing, I enjoy especially creating uplifting and melodic Trance records.

I also run Buzzin' Records Ltd, an independent North-East based label, which has a few artists around the world signed under it, including Irish based artist & DJ, SONIC. I also am a resident DJ on a number of radio stations including Nova Radio North-East 102.5fm, an opening DJ at globally renowned event brand Goodgreef, and a former resident DJ in Ibiza during 2017.

It had been a tough year in 2022 for all of us, but I would particularly like to thank everyone for their support & kind wishes, as in September I sadly lost my beautiful wife, Paula, from Cancer, but I will continue to push my career forward, as it is what she would of wanted, and thank you to all those who attended her service at Christ Church in Consett, and thanks especially to all of the staff at St Cuthberts Hospice for taking such good care of her & treating her like a Queen. In terms of new music, my first ever UK tour will be kicking off later this year, with venues all across the North-East and further afield interested, and I will also be releasing lots of new music. I may have to take it slightly easier due to my own health potentially being impacted by the early stages of Parkinsons disease, but I will not let this stop me, and BuZZila will be around for a long time yet.

I will also soon be bringing out a number of physical CDs on Buzzin' Records Ltd, my North-East based independent electronic music label, both on my own storefront and in local shops. We are also working much more with SONIC, an Irish based Hard Techno artist & DJ who has presented live shows on many radio stations, and who has been on our label Buzzin' Records for some time now. Thank you all again for all of your amazing & loyal support, and don't forget to follow my official pages on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and also especially on SoundCloud & Mixcloud.

While your at it, follow 9 Point (Photo / Media) aswell, the brand of my official photographer, graphics editor & video producer, Brandon Thirlwell, who designed a lot of my merchandise on the Teespring website. Hope that you all had a great Christmas, and I'll be seeing you all a lot more in 2022. Let's keep the music going! Thanks to all my friends, family, my team, my wife who will always be my number one, and of course to you guys, my loyal fans & listeners, who have supported all my hard work from day one. Love, BuZZila #trancefamily. **Jamie Buzzeo (BuZZila)**



Brampton





I wrote an article on Brampton in Cumbria after my planned trip there was cancelled after the Tier 4 lockdown measures were introduced. My piece at the beginning of 2021 had to be illustrated with pictures by a local photographer. Brampton can now be done easily as a day trip, as the journey is only 70 minutes from Newcastle, but is better as an overnight stay, especially when there are fine inns like the Howard Arms to support.

Originally Brampton Junction, the junction was removed in 1923 when the spur line to Brampton Town was closed. The branch was known as "the Dandy" and I started my exploration from Brampton station by following the old line towards the town. Under the Brampton bypass road there is a pedestrian tunnel too small to permit a train to pass through. I dropped off my bag at the Howard Arms as it was too early to check in, although they said they would put it in my room. I then walked east to the New Mills trout farm where I was hopeful of having lunch at "The Bite" which is the highest rated café in Brampton. Unfortunately, there was a chalk board at the entrance which claimed that the café was, simultaneously, closed for the day and also fully booked, which seemed something of an achievement. I carried out a one-way conversation with three friendly alpacas and retraced my steps to the road northeast to Lanercost Priory where a very pleasant café fed me with steak and cheese ciabatta. I explored the church which was created by reroofing the nave of the original monastery, whilst the central crossing, transepts and Quire were left as ruins, now in the care of English Heritage.

It was a good two miles walk to Lanercost from Brampton, pleasant enough but not really deserving of a return trip. I left Lanercost at 1445 reckoning that I could walk around the grounds of Naworth Castle and intercept a bus about 1530 on the 685 route from Newcastle to Carlisle. I had checked there was a stop there on the Stagecoach website. I got back to the stone bridge with two arches built about 1724 by four local masons which can still be crossed on foot. For vehicular traffic the bridge was replaced in 1962. Forking left up a steep hill I climbed up to find grassy fields surrounding the country seat of the Howard family and arrived at the A69 junction five minutes before the hourly bus duly appeared. There was no actual stop sign but the bus driver was happy enough to pull into a road opening for me to get on. My hotel was near the bus stop and adjacent to a turf accountant and Saturday night ended with the Star restaurant Anise which I found on the Roam app.

After eggs benedict at breakfast and a service in the glorious Arts and Crafts church, St. Martins, designed by Philip Webb, I checked out of the hotel and walked via Brampton station to its nearest tourist attraction, Talkin Tarn. Down the road parallel to the railway, until meeting a footpath to the left and then over the fields surrounded by glorious English countryside in all directions. You enter the country Park surrounding a large lake by the back door, and the ladies in the tearoom kindly let me leave my case in the disabled persons lift, unused as the upstairs café was closed. It took 40 minutes to circumnavigate the lake on foot, and then back to the station for the 1506 train home.

nationalrail.com

alexnelson@dunelm.org.uk

www.nationalrail.com





PRINCE BISHOP VETERINARY HOSPITAL

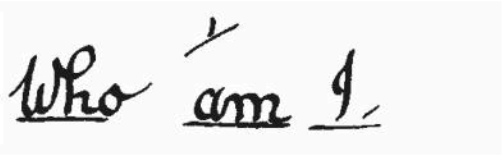
Dental Disease

Up to 80% of dogs over the age of three have clinically significant dental disease so it is a really important issue in veterinary medicine. Dental disease in dogs and cats is different to that seen in people (who most often get tooth decay) because the biggest problem we most often see is inflammation and infection in the tissues surrounding the teeth (also known as periodontal disease).

Periodontal disease occurs due to accumulation of plaque and tartar on the teeth which causes gum recession and pocketing where the tooth meets the gum. This infection and inflammation can spread deeper into the tooth socket causing teeth to become painful and loose and even resulting in tooth root abscesses.

Most dental disease is preventable with daily brushing using a special pet toothpaste but if your pet already has a build-up of tartar, your vet may recommend a scale and polish under general anaesthesia first. It is also recommended that dental X-rays are performed and the same time to identify any disease located beneath the gum line which may be causing problems. Many vet practices will offer free of charge dental checks for your pets, so if you've noticed your pet has smelly breath, discoloured teeth or pain when they are eating, book them an appointment to get checked out as soon as possible.

www.princebishopvets.co.uk



I'm Mr. Nobody, for nobody knew
my name,
named after the gardens where I was found,
my only claim to fame,
as a baby I was left, on a doorstep
all forlorn,
a doctor decreed November [19]35, was the year
I was born,
Taken to the cottage homes, in Medomsley,
to be precise,
I grew up there during the war years,
it wasn't very nice,
times were hard, we were hungry but couldn't
say a word,
children, we were told should be seen
and not heard,
We were all awakened early, lots of chores
to carry out,
if they weren't done property we would end
up with a clout,
At school we were "always", treated
with distain,
we were only "homers", they made that
very plain,
birthdays were not recognised, we never
received a card,
Christmas, one small gift, for which we gave
thanks to God.
No-one taught us the alphabet or how to
read and write,
we had no books or pencils, we were in a
saury plight,
food was mainly inedible, and not worth
a mention,
I'm now in the twilight of my years, contented
and on my pension.

I. Salkeld

From the memoirs of Billy Salkeld.

Died 28th October
2011

(Special thanks to Consett Library for scanning this and sending this in to us.)

FOR THE TRADE
MARKETING

MARKETING TIPS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND TRADE BUSINESSES IN THE UK

It's no secret word-of-mouth is one of the most powerful ways for any trade business to get new customers contacting you, however, relying completely on this type of marketing is not a clear strategy to scale up and grow your business.

Not sure where to get started? As experts working with businesses in the construction sector providing accounting and marketing services to growing companies; here are our top tips for marketing your trade business:

1. LAUNCH YOUR WEBSITE

Your website is one of the very first places your customers will look while researching which company to give their job to. It's basically your 24 hour shop front, legitimising your business, showcasing your past work, and overall showing customers who you are and what problems you can solve for them.

You don't need to be a coder to get your website up and running, just like you don't need to be able to be a plumber, electrician, and bricklayer to make your construction business a success. You know it makes sense to outsource or build a team of experts in their field to get the job done professionally. You can't do everything yourself. The 'For the Trade Marketing' team have been building and maintaining websites for 20+ years, making it simple for companies at all stages of their growth to get the very most from their online presence.

2. BE VISIBLE (CLUE: IT'S ALL ABOUT GOOGLE)

Without a doubt one of the most important aspects of marketing in the internet era (after having your website upland running) is to appear on search result pages (Google and Bing) when your customers are searching for the services you provide. Think about whenever you're doing research on a product or service you need, do you 'Google it'? If the answer is yes. Then this is probably what your customers do too. So be visible on search.

HOW TO BECOME VISIBLE ON SEARCH AS A CONSTRUCTION OR TRADE BUSINESS?

Well it's not clear how exactly Google's search algorithm works, but we do know that structuring your website content and optimising the text/copy on the website pages to include keywords your customers are searching for will certainly help. It's a super competitive art of marketing called "search engine optimisation" or SEO, which can take months if not years to bear fruit. But you shouldn't worry too much because there are quicker ways to appear in front of your prospective customers without having to spend a lot of time and money on content writing and link building.

Good news! Here at 'For the Trade Marketing" we have an expert team of Google Ads professionals who can cut through the nonsense and start getting your company noticed by customers on search results pages fairly quickly. All you have to do is [LINK HERE] book a convenient time to speak to us about your goals, we're confident you'll have leads coming in, lining up work for your crew in no time.

3. USE SOCIAL MEDIA

Using social media is one of the most powerful methods for reaching new customers for your trade business - it's good practice to have a social media posting strategy in place which shows your followers your latest work, how you've helped other customers, and provide valuable content to help people remember you when the time comes for them needing your services.

As the world's most popular social media platform, Facebook is a very good place to start because many people rely on Facebook to locate businesses and to contact them.

Many customers will also wish to contact you via social media channels, so it's a good idea to have all your contact information up to date and reply to messages quickly.

5. GET REVIEWS AND TESTIMONIALS

It's important to show potential customers that you've had other satisfied customers, so getting reviews is a must for any trade business looking to differentiate themselves from their competitors.

Reviews may come in the shape of customer testimonials which appear on your website, they could be reviews on your Google My Business listing, business directories like Yell.com, or on your social media pages.

After completing a job, get in the habit of asking your customer for a review.

6. SEND EMAILS TO YOUR CONTACTS

Email marketing for your trade business is still one of the most effective ways to communicate with your customers.

Whenever you're collecting emails from customers, make sure to get permission to put them on your contact list. You can also include a sign up form on your website for people to sign up to your newsletter.

A good welcome email for new sign ups should show off your work, brand, and provide interesting valuable content for customers to peak their interest when receiving emails from you.

If you're targeting existing customers, you need to give them a good reason to come back to you - a simple way to do this could be to offer discounts or helpful advice reinforcing that you're an expert in what you do.

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PROPER BUSINESS ADVICE TO GET OFF THE TOOLS

The worst part about getting a new job is actually doing the work! We want you to take a step back, see the bigger picture and plan for a future where you no longer have to put in the long hours and hard work, let us take you to the next level and get you better, bigger and more bountiful clients. **Let us give you the tools, to get off the tools.**

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We'll get your accounts sorted and sent off well in time. We'll help you out wherever you need our support and, when we're done, you'll realise how much time you've saved by getting us to sort it.

ALWAYS ACCESSIBLE

We can get you set up with accounting software that saves you time and makes life easier - like any decent tool. We'll cut the crap and give you access to the info you need.

BRANDING

Branding is made up of all the touchpoints you have with a customer which gives you "gut feeling" about your company. Branding is not what you feel about your company. Branding is what your customers feel about your company.

WEBSITES

Your website has several jobs to do, it should act like a host to every "guest" that visits. Think of your website as a full time employee. An employee that never sleeps or complains.

MARKETING

How does your potential customer pick your company as the best fit to fill their need? Customers make decisions based on what they've seen, read and heard and now you are in control of all three!

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