Issue 115 June 2022

CONSETT MAGAZINE

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Front Cover By: Debbie Todd

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A huge welcome to the 115th Issue of the Consett Magazine!

Continuing to publish positive local news every month!

With the expansion of Consett Magazine's distribution points, we're looking to get more stories, photos and events from you!

Reach us at editor@consettmagazine.com or visit our Facebook page.

This month we have another packed issue, cover to cover with great positive local content!

Lorraine Weightman hosted a fantastic night to promote her poetry book "Lockdown Lines" on **pages 4 and 5.**

Debbie Todd brings us an insight into a new local dance and fitness business "Tank Girl Training" on **page 6.**

Consett In Focus was at the Consett Comedy Festival during the May Bank Holiday and brings us some hilarious pictures on **pages 8 and 9.**

The Salvation Army is fighting hunger with a new cafe called "Nice Bites" more info on **page 11.**

We caught up with Dan Pye, the new voice of local comedian "Lost Voice Guy." Read the partial interview on **page 12 and 13** with the full interview available online.

We'd like to thank everyone involved in the making and production of the magazine.

For nearly 10 years we've tried to bring the people of Consett positive local news.

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

Advertising prices start from £69 per month. Call 01207 438292 for more info.

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SCAN ME

The Front Cover

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

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Lockdown Lines Finale

By Lorraine Weightman

Almost a year after Lockdown Lines was published by Consett Rotary in conjunction with Firefly Media; a sold out Charity Presentation Evening took place on Saturday May 7th in St Patrick's Hall Consett to acknowledge the success of the venture and to celebrate its achievements.

The book which contains twenty six poems, written during Lockdown by Lorraine Weightman and illustrated by Fr John Bagnall is a chronological account of how the pandemic affected everyday life for her, her family, and basically all of us in general. Written with humour, compassion and a little bit of 'tongue in cheek' poetic licence; it chronicles and reveals some of the feelings and coping strategies we all experienced during those challenging times.

The evening of celebration began with a presentation to the Umbrella Community Centre CIC, WillowBurn Hospice and St Mary's Convent by the President of Consett Rotary, Lynne Ackland and Fr John Bagnall, parish priest of St Patrick's in Consett. All three charities received £1,000 each.

This was followed by a splendid night of fun and dancing headed by the amazing Emerald Thieves; a band of fantastic musicians from Durham City. Food was prepared and served by Rotary members to guests, who were very generous in supporting the evening by buying Lockdown Lines Books, Bingo and Pick A Prize tickets. The licensee from the hall ran the busy bar with willing volunteers and

Rotarians had acquired tempting wines and beers to sell to raise funds.

It is heartwarming to observe how a local community can join together like this in support of one another, to enhance the well being of those in need who will in turn benefit from their efforts.

Lorraine who was interviewed on BBC Radio Tees earlier this year about the inspiration behind the book experienced one of her poems 'One Potato, Two Potato' being read out on air by Rachel Teate on the Upload part of her weekly programme. Rachel also arranged for the poem to be archived in The British Library as part of their Lockdown Upload Partnership.

All in all, the Lockdown Lines Finale turned out to be a brilliant night, with everyone enjoying a good old fashioned get together which was the culmination of a year of fundraising for our local community.

The books are still available to buy now in selected shops and venues in Consett* and can be purchased online for £4.99 + £1.00 p&p in the UK.

To request your copies – email:
lorraine7556@gmail.com
PayPal Link:
paypal.me/lorraineweightman and Lockdown Lines will be delivered to your door.

There is no reprint planned so once they're gone they're gone!

Where to buy your copy of Lockdown Lines now:

Consett Library
St Patrick's Church Consett
Brooms Church Leadgate
Edward's Coffee Shop and Eatery
Knitsley Farm Shop
Thackery's Consett

Local Consett shops, businesses and places of worship supported the project, buying advertisement space, selling books in their establishments and donating prizes for the final event. A list of these benefactors can be seen below

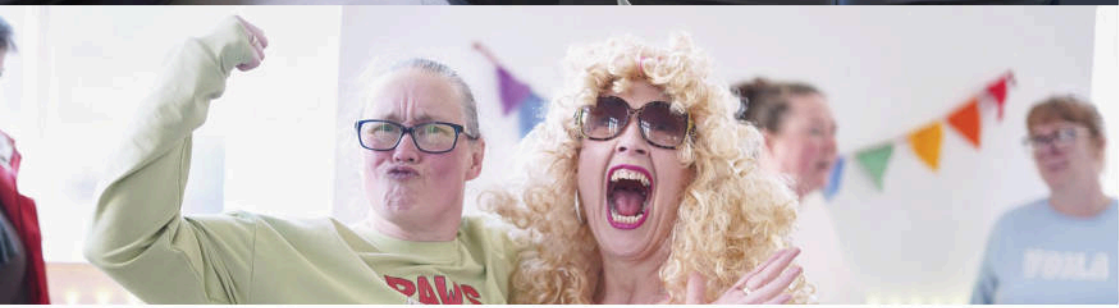
Many thanks to the following for their support

Consett Rotary
Firefly New Media
St Patrick's Church, Consett
Edward's Coffee Shop and Eatery
Thackery's, Consett
Steel Town Music
Specsure
Consett Library
Knitsley Farm Shop
St Pius Church, Moorside
Brooms Church, Leadgate
GreenKeepers
Henley Gardens Garage
The Flower Shop
DML Cars
Rendles
The Bathroom Shop

'Mighty things from small beginnings grow.' - John Dryden







TANK GIRL TRAINING

There's nothing better than seeing new businesses open within the area. Friday April 1st saw the opening of Tank Girl Training at The Dance Centre on Steel Street in Consett.

Julie Ryan (AKA GI July) and her team, SGT Sarah and Bombshell Becci have breathed life into the old dance studio building with a fresh lick of paint and a pole studio, gym and treatment room. They are offering various fitness class including rock fit, groove n glow, and pole fitness classes.

The classes are mostly revolved around fun dance routines to enable you to improve your fitness and strength while having fun. They also offer classes in the community for those who find it harder to travel.

To find out more information check out **www.tankgirltraining.com**

Care Connect

Care Connect is a Durham County Council service that provides 24/7 support at the press of a button.

We provide at home assistance by providing our customers with a personal alarm worn about the person which connects to our Control Room based at Chilton, County Durham.

Care Connect is a 24/7 service, meaning you can contact us day or night and out of hours by pressing your emergency alarm button. It also means we always have staff on hand to support you or check you're okay at home.

Your call will come through to our Control Room, where an operator will provide you with support or assistance. From there we will send one of our mobile responders to help you, call the emergency services if necessary, and inform your emergency contacts.

Care Connect is a great service for:

- Elderly people
- Vulnerable people
- People who live alone
- People with illnesses
- People with disabilities
- People with dementia
- Those who are at risk of falling
- Anyone who feels they need extra support

Our customers find that the Care Connect service provides them with help on hand if they need it and provides great comfort to their families. We want you to feel safe and secure at home, but also maintain your independence.

Join Care Connect today and get the peace of mind you need. Friends and family can't be there all the time, but Care Connect can.

Call 03000 262 195 or email care.connect@durham.gov.uk to apply or find out more information.

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Worried about elderly parents or relatives?

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"I have Care Connect for my Mam. They always go the extra mile to make sure she's okay after a fall"

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TSA

For further information:

www.durham.gov.uk/careconnect

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care.connect@durham.gov.uk

You can also find us on facebook.com/CareConnectDCC

Durham County Council

‘Consett in Focus’ Documentary Photography Group

This month the ‘Consett In Focus’ photographers attended the highly successful ‘Consett Comedy Festival’. Consett's very first Comedy festival, held on the Bank Holiday weekend was a great success and enjoyed by everyone who attended. Organised by LiveWorld Ltd and hosted by the Rugby Club – they are already planning a bigger event in 2023.

The festival was a mix of Afternoon shows for the family and Evening shows strictly for the adults, both had some of the biggest names in National Comedy.

Acts included – Simon Brodkin, Ivan Brackenbury, Lovdev Barpaga, Steffen Peddie, Barbara Nice, Phil Reid, Wacky Woody, Steve Royle, Adam Morrison, Dom Woodward, Anth Young, Danny Posthill, Jack Gleadow, Clayton Jones, Psychic Stu, Ian Younghusband and Sammy Dobson.

Photographs courtesy of George Ledger and Chris Bruce

If you are part of any Art, Craft and Hobby group or know of any people or groups that are and would like to be part of this growing project, then please, please contact us at:

Our Facebook page:

facebook.com/ConsettTownofCulture

Website:

consettinfocus.weebly.com

Or email us - consettinfocus@gmail.com






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Nice Bites

The Nice Bites Café at Leadgate Salvation Army is open every Tuesday during term time, serving from 12 noon.

Clare and Liz who are responsible for cooking the meals, prepare a wonderful three course lunch which is available to everyone at a very competitive price (2 courses for only £3.00 and all 3 courses for £4.00).

Clare and Liz shop every Monday for fresh food ready to create their delicious recipes. One of the favourites is chunky vegetable soup which is all hand prepared.

Clare and Liz peel and chop a mountain of vegetables for this and the main course, explaining that although it is hard work, 'We enjoy doing it, and we get to meet lovely people each week'

Leadgate Salvation Army ran a Tuesday café for a number of years but like many other establishments had to close because of COVID restrictions.

Liz, as spokesperson for the facility said, 'As soon as we were able to re-open safely, we did so, starting with a takeaway service only.'

Through word of mouth and the power of Facebook the Tuesday café has become very popular with local residents.
It now offers a dine in option as well as a takeaway, as diners can sit and chat while enjoying complimentary orange juice or tea/coffee afterwards.

A small band of helpers set the tables, take orders, tidy up and wash dishes so the service all goes smoothly.

To top this, they offer a free delivery each week to Haven House a retirement housing complex and The Haven bungalows.
This is a fantastic service by local people working for their community for the benefit of all.

Regular customers enjoy the flexibility of dine in or takeaway and if you wish to sample this wonderful fayre, you can be assured you will be given an extremely warm welcome as well as a delicious home cooked value for money hot meal.

Why not try it and see!

Leadgate Salvation Army are on Facebook, view the menus there.

The Salvation Army Leadgate
Green Street, Leadgate
DH8 7PU Consett
Durham England

01207 501790
www.salvationarmy.org.uk



Dan Pye - Voiceover Guy

1. Tell us little about yourself.

I am Dan Pye, a voice over artist and science presenter living in Castleside. I've worked on a huge range of projects from video games, radio and TV commercials, corporate videos, in store announcements, animations, answer phone messages, and other interesting, out of the ordinary projects.

I'm mostly booked for my friendly, warm, character filled performance in a Geordie accent. Most notably I worked as a continuity announcer on Channel 4 (that's one of the people who talks between the programs), and as the Geordie accent for Consett born stand up comedian and Britains Got Talent winner, Lost Voice Guy.

Aside from voice work, I am also the Director of Astronomy at Kielder Observatory in Northumberland. A career which runs in tandem with voice over, albeit rather contrasting.

2. How did you become a voice actor?

I originally wanted to take this pathway of a career when I was in school. I was really interested in particularly in continuity, this voice which spoke to you from the TV, guided you through the content, and felt like they were watching along with you. I was always incredibly inspired by animation. Such as the Simpsons, Looney Tunes, etc. I wondered what the careers of the people who brought the characters to life was. In my naivety, I didn't realise it was an action viable career option.

Through college I studied TV and Film production, which some often liken to a cop out of actually doing any work, however, for me I wanted to use it as a vehicle to achieve a place in that industry. During my years in education, I became heavily involved in a local community radio project, and on turning 18 joined the board of directors representing youth amongst the team. One day, whilst on a short break from activities at the station I went to get a news paper at the shop across the street when I was stopped by the promotional car for Metro Radio. Kenny, who was driving the car and worked heavily in promotions amongst other activities with Metro, asked me if I would run across the Tyne Bridge in my underwear for a PR stunt.

Well, mid September weather, and rush hour traffic, running across a bridge connecting 2 of the North East's largest cities together, how could I possibly refuse, so I stripped to my Bart Simpson "Y" Fronts and off I went. Following this the station kindly paid for me to visit London for the weekend and take part in a project with Universal Studio. It was a commercial production for the new series of a TV show called Andromeda. I was on screen and used as voice only throughout the final production of the ad, which was technically I guess you could say, my first voice over work.

Leaving education, I fell into the pattern of retail work for a bit, until I eventually found my way to a full time career in local radio. Joining a radio station in Darlington, the Director and Creative Head at the time sat me down for a meeting to inform me that I wouldn't suit voice over work as I was too nasal, and that I should focus my efforts on doing the job I was being paid to do. This hurt, really hurt, coming from two significant figures like this and just becoming a new Father, I took this to heart and gave up on this career path.

A few years passed and I realised it was time to leave radio and start my own venture, a coffee

shop which celebrated my hobbies, science fiction, comic books and video games. After a year of running the cafe aptly named Dark Matter Cafe, in Durham, I realised it would be a great project to advertise the cafe by running events akin to comic conventions you see in the US. A couple months later we ran a sell out event of 1200 people at the Gala Theatre in Durham. Over the next few years we ran similar events across the region, and the cafe kept on developing, until works in city centre Durham started to affect trade. In 2015 after a sell out event again in the Gala Theatre, we decided to part ways with Durham and move the event to a larger accommodating venue, the Stadium of Light in Sunderland.

This time we ran the event over 2 days, and brought in some big guests. The event was tough, there were mistakes made which on reflection, could have been prevented, but it was too late, financially the event was a disaster. The actual event itself was great, but the stressed surrounding it really damaged the company, and me.

One of the guests who attended was a chap called Charles Martinet. He provides the voice of Super Mario and other characters in the franchise, and has done for more than 30 years. He questioned my passions, dreams and my career goals, and I told him openly and honestly. He then questioned why I quit, just because two people said I wouldn't make it. I couldn't really give a compelling answer which wasn't riddled with excuses. So after a moment of inspiration, and a good talking to from Charles, I went and purchased a microphone, reconnected with producers I knew from working in radio, began training and learning the industry, and started back on the career path I'd otherwise left behind years before.

Read the full interview online:
consettmagazine.com

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Keighley

I completed a job in Keighley (pronounced Keethly) in West Yorkshire earlier than expected and had several hours to explore the town which I have visited several times before. I was free to wander until 1901 when my train left for Leeds. Then it was over the bridge to join a CrossCountry train to Durham, my TransPennine connection having been cancelled owing to a shortage of train drivers. No matter: all the money back under Delay Repay!

The station at Keighley is well located for visits. First, a walk north of the town for Cliffe Castle Museum and Park. This was originally the home of Victorian millionaire and textile manufacturer Henry Issac Butterfield. The house was completed in the 1880s and was a showpiece of international art and French decoration. Sir Bracewell Smith, then Lord Mayor of London, bought the Castle in the 1950s and turned the gardens into a grand public park and remodelled the Castle to be a free museum for the people of the district. Zero expenditure except for a voluntary donation.

Walking back into town, one can admire the impressive war memorial, and in the corner of the park is a new memorial to Captain Sir Tom Moore, born in the town where he attended the Grammar School before joining the army. He was created a Freeman of the town even though he lived in Bedford in later life.

I was unsure if the National Trust's East Riddlesden Hall, a fine 17th century country Manor House, would be open, but it was only five bus stops away (on the useful Shuttle 662 bus towards Bradford) from the station to find out. Now open Saturday to Wednesday, I discovered, there was a wedding party in full swing on the Thursday afternoon and it would have to wait for another time.

As luck would have it I arrived back at Keighley ten minutes before the last round trip to Oxenhope on the heritage line, Keighley and Worth Valley Railway. Being school holidays, it was Timetable A in operation, the most frequent, with both steam and diesel traction in use. Most heritage railways now use this system, shown on the photo with different time tables depending on likely demand and availability of volunteers. K&WVR has six separate timetables linked to a calendar of their operating season. I bought a ticket for £13.50 (concessions were available) and travelled the five mile length of the line, stopping at Oakworth station which became famous through the 1970 film The Railway Children. Do you remember at the end Jenny Agutter crying out "Daddy, my Daddy!"? Then on to Oxenhope for an ice cream and back calling at all six stations.

Finally, only 100 yards from the station I found Keighley's top rated Indian Restaurant, the Curry House. Whilst not particularly imaginative in name, the food, and accompanying Kingfisher beer, was first rate so from going in at 1745 to leaving ten minutes before my train, I was royally treated, which is why I fell asleep on the train to Leeds, and had to be woken up by the train conductor.





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

PRINCE BISHOP

Kennel Cough

Kennel cough (also known as canine infectious tracheobronchitis) can be caused by bacteria and/or viruses. It is a very contagious disease passed between dogs when they are in close contact, which means it can be contracted in boarding kennels, but also at puppy classes, agility sessions and dog shows. Even meeting other dogs out on a walk can put an unvaccinated dog at risk of kennel cough. The main clinical sign is a dry, hacking cough that will often lead to retching, and is usually exacerbated by excitement or exercise.

Supportive treatment (such as anti-inflammatories and cough suppressants) may be used if a viral infection is suspected, but bacterial infections may require a course of antibiotics. In some patient, the infection can develop into pneumonia which is much more serious and is likely to necessitate several days of hospitalisation.

An intranasal vaccination against the main viral and bacterial causes of kennel cough (Parainfluenza and Bordetella) is available and many kennels will require this vaccination before they will board your dog. This vaccination is required on top of their normal annual injections so please ask your vet to protect your dog against kennel cough on your next visit.

www.princebishopvets.co.uk



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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.

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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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