CONSETT MAGAZINE

Issue 116 July 2022

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A warm summer welcome to the July 2022 Issue of the Consett Magazine!

Publishing positive local news every month!

We're always looking for local contributions to the magazine. Reach us at editor@consettmagazine.com or visit our Facebook page.

This month we bring you another article rich magazine, and as always, completely free.

Lorraine Weightman reminds us of the perils of British weather on **pages 4, 6 and 7.**

Consett In Focus concentrates on the local bands and talented individuals in the area on **pages 8 and 9.**

If you're interested in looking into your family history via the Parish records, then there is some info on **page 11.**

Last month we caught up with local voice-over artist Dan Pye. We bring you the second part of the interview on **page 12** 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

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SCAN ME

The Front Cover

The front cover this month is by SIMONE J RUDOLPHI. Send your drawings or photographs to: editor@consettmagazine.com

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Whatever the Weather

By Lorraine Weightman

After officially becoming a pensioner and applying for my bus pass last month, I recently met up with my family and friends in Consett for a drink, after going to see Sister Act at The Empire - which by the way was the most fabulous and entertaining experience - and we reflected in the half full pub on what Friday nights used to be. As most were my age or older we talked about the good old days when you had to book your taxi on a Wednesday to make sure of getting home in the early hours of Saturday morning after Botto's. Perhaps the rose tinted glasses kicked in a little bit as we contemplated, recalling our best and funniest nights out.

The following got a mention.
Going out in Consett on a Friday night was always one of the highlights of the weekend. After five days of the mundane, you could smell the Old Spice in the air as the lads put on their Ben Sherman shirts and Levi 501's and the lasses donned their high waisted jeans and crop tops; while using a full can of hairspray on their newly permed big hair! Desperately needed in Consett as at 885 feet above sea level, the wind is always resident!

In common with most Geordies, Consett folk know that going out and



wearing a coat, do not go together, especially when a new outfit is on show. However, one particular Friday when the rain was bucketing down and the newly sprayed hair was in danger of becoming claggy.

I, in a light bulb moment, contacted my friends to tell them I had some blue kagools left over from our trip to Blackpool, and a leopard print backpack that we could carry them in. My friends - used to my 'good ideas' - said, 'Aye, alright then'.

Wearing my blue kagool and carrying theirs I arrived and dished out the rain wear, the idea being we would whip them off quickly before entering the pub and would look perfectly dry and composed as we made our entrance.

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In those days, you had one drink in every establishment, moving round the circuit until you ended up at the night clubs. Which wasn't conducive to the plan of keeping dry.

First stop was 'The Duke' and the kagools came off easily and were quickly stuffed into the cloth b ackpack which had been allocated to one of my friends.

The rain didn't let up, so when we tried to don our outerwear for the next port of call, it was still wet and soggy, but no matter, we needed it, even though 'The Braes' was only a few steps away. Bundling them back in, we headed for the dance floor, putting the back pack in the middle so we could dance round it. Making another quick dash to 'The 'Black Horse', we wrung out the kagools in the Ladies toilets; put on our lipstick and stood by the pool table with our drinks. To our delight everyone coming through the door was soaked to the skin while we still had the big hair!

Next stop, 'The Freemasons'. In here my backpack friend starting complaining that her shoulders were hurting as the the weight of the drenched kagools were dragging her down. I told her not to worry, as she had been a life saver and instrumental in our night's mission. Strangely enough, she didn't seem to find this funny!

In time we made it to the 'Company Bar' and were pleased to see the karaoke was still in full swing!

While the others bought the drinks; in a haze of alcohol induced enthusiasm I sought out the song list file and asked if we should put our names down. Hearing the familiar, 'Aye alright then', I chose something we hadn't sung before, as I'd just seen the film 'The Blues Brothers'.

The distant roll of thunder, and the heavy splashes on the pavement outside enticed us to have an extra drink in here while we waited for our turn to sing. Then our names were announced and herding our group to the front, I handed out microphones and urged them to look at the screen.

I have to say there was not much audience participation as we launched into the Cab Calloway classic 'Minnie the Moocher', with no clue of the tune or even the lyrics!

After the booing stopped, we made a quick exit, and headed for 'The Turf'; unfortunately leaving the backpack behind! When I hinted we go back in to retrieve it, instead of hearing the usual reply, there was an ear splitting and definite,

'NO!'

A few drinks and dances later and after last orders were called, I meekly suggested, 'Shall we have kebab meat, chips and gravy on the way home?' And I was delighted to hear a resounding,

'Aye Alright Then!'

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‘Consett in Focus’ Documentary Photography Group

The ‘Consett In Focus’ photographers have been documenting some of the many local talented musicians.

Consett Brass Band

Consett Brass was formed in 1973 in Consett Junior School and actually consists of two bands, Consett Brass and Consett Junior Brass. The Junior Brass gives children the opportunity to learn new skills and become a valued member of a community-based group.

The band’s objective is to provide the opportunity for the players to entertain and support the local community and after nearly 50 years of continual work within the area, the band are a prominent part of Consett's history and future. Unlike the majority of brass bands, they do not enter competitions.

The Band are always in great demand, and during the Platinum Jubilee weekend, have performed at Fawcett Park, Consett Rugby Club, St Ives Church Leadgate, and St Ebbas Church Ebchester.

Consett Brass consists of many original members and former members of Consett Junior Brass, they still meet and practice in Consett Junior School and Marc, the current Band's Musical Director and Conductor is the son of the founder David Jackson.

Photos of the band practising by George Ledger

Photos of the band at the recent St ives Jubilee concert by Steve Webb

Carrying on with the theme of music Rosanna Whitton, from Satley near Lanchester, runs Flautino music school at Ushaw Historic House. She studied recorder at the Royal College and the Royal Academy of Music and teaches recorder at Durham and Newcastle Universities and the Sage.

At Flautino she does teach recorder but also feels that the piano, percussion or ukelele are better gateways into music, especially for younger people starting out in music.

She also performs as Flautino, at various venues such as Art Galleries, cathedrals and cafes, weddings and funerals, playing Baroque recorder pieces, sometimes in period costume.

Photos by 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



Consett care home residents star in their own comedy club

The fun-loving folk living at our care homes in Consett have been enjoying a good chuckle by holding their own comedy club to celebrate World Laughter Day.

Residents and team members took to the stage and shared their funniest jokes, stories and impressions to kick off the event 'Laughter & Sunshine' during May.

Some of the activities residents took part in included Laughter Yoga sessions, listening to local children's favourite jokes and performances by visiting comedians and singers. Resident's tips to bring sunshine and laughter include: "Think about the most embarrassing thing that happened to you when you were young and I'm sure you'll laugh about it now" and "Try singing 'Bring me sunshine' and doing the Morecambe and Wise silly walk; it never fails to make me feel cheery."

Resident Michael, aged 78, said: "That was great fun! I really didn't know we had so many jokers living here, I've been laughing all afternoon."

Resident Janet, also aged 78, added: "They say laughter is the best medicine and I couldn't agree more. Even though some of the jokes were terrible, as soon as other people started to laugh it set me off too. A lovely way to forget old age aches and pains, everyone should try and laugh more."

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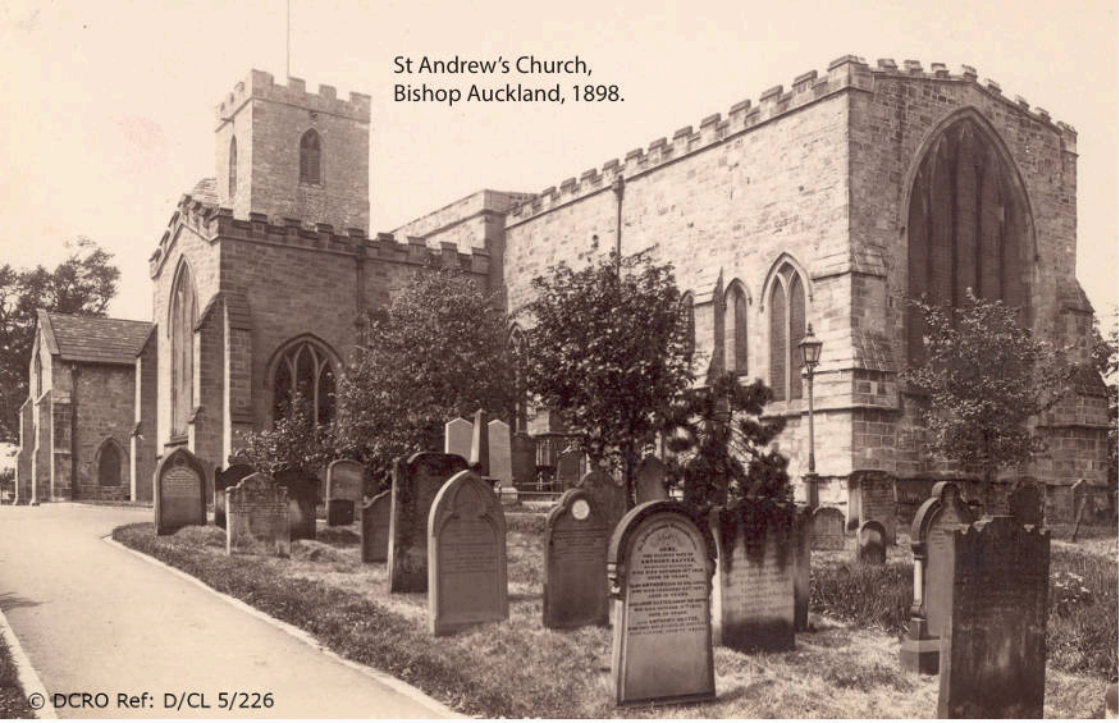

St Andrew's Church,
Bishop Auckland, 1898.

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Talk Will Explore Family History and Parish Registers

The latest in a series of online talks will help family historians discover how parish registers could help them to research their ancestry.

As part of its Branching Out programme, aimed at those who have a grasp of the basics of research, Durham County Record Office, run by Durham County Council, will present a talk focussing on the value of parish records for family history research.

Lasting for an hour, the talk, will take place on Thursday 23 June, at 10am and 6pm. Led by experienced archivists, the Branching Out programme is proving extremely popular and the talks offer an opportunity for people to learn more about the past, ask questions and get advice on their own research.

Cllr Elizabeth Scott, council Cabinet member for economy and partnerships, said: "As this talk will demonstrate, parish registers are often easily accessible and can be enormously helpful in researching family history. As well as registers which record baptisms, marriages and burials, parishes often kept a wealth of other records that can be useful for family history, especially as you get further back in time.

"As our archivists will explain, parish records have a lot to say about the community in which our ancestors lived. The records may also tell you about ancestors who served as parish officers and their time as churchwardens or parish constables. This talk will guide people through the different types of records as well as how to understand and find them."

Places on the Branching Out, Parish Records talk cost £5 each and must be booked in advance to receive the online joining link. People are encouraged to book early as limited places are available for each session.

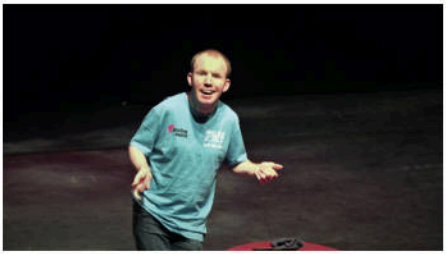


Dan Pye - Voiceover Guy Part 2

3. What have been the best moments in your career?

I think the best moments were some key castings. Being brought in to be a continuity announcer on the television for Channel 4 was incredible. I was doing a job I was so fascinated with when I was younger, finally seeing the other side of the production and being part of this incredible engine which brings entertainment and enjoyment to so many.

A little later on was my first video game casting. Following the inspiration from Charles, I really wanted to work on a video game which allowed me to explore character creation and development, and with Lost in Random from EA Games, I got to do just that. The next would be the moment I was cast as the voice of Lost Voice Guy. It was such a mixed feelings moment. I had fear that this was my voice, my instrument I was passing on to someone else, but what an incredible honour it was, to be asked by another human to be their means of communication. How could I possibly refuse! I'm so pleased to work with such an incredible, creative, inspirational talent that Lee is. Finally, most recently, was picking up an award for voice work. An accolade from your peers to recognise your ability to provide good work, is there anything more satisfying?



4. What advice would you give to our readers who are interested in becoming a voice actor?

I'd say, be tenacious, be ambitious, but learn the craft. This is a business ultimately, you need the tools and the experience to do the job. It's like any skilled job, you can't expect to turn up with no prior knowledge to construct a house with just some cheap tools from a high street store. You really have to invest the time, and finance to make sure your tools suit the purpose. From microphone, to environment. You have to respect the industries workings, rates and make meaningful connections with people within it, and only then can you start the journey.

5. What's next for Dan Pye?

Who knows, all I can say is, coming up next is a whole load of "unknown" in another thrilling episode of the Life of Pye, viewer discretion is required as the following program may contain strong language and scenes of who knows throughout.

Read the full interview online:
consettmagazine.com

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

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Places to go...







Appleby-in-Westmoreland

At just 3,000 in population, Appleby is a small town which is much smaller than my home Co. Durham pit village. It boasts greater antiquity, though, since the Norman keep of the Castle dates from 1092, which is easily found at the top of the hill known as Boroughgate. The Castle is now a comfortable 12 room hotel with three self-contained cottages and, although the rooms are separate from the Keep, it has a growing reputation for cuisine including a five-course tasting menu which I enjoyed during my one-night stay.

I travelled from home via Carlisle on the Tyne Valley Line and after a short break there for a coffee at the long-established Caffeine Rush trike which is permanently parked on Carlisle station proceeded south on the Settle and Carlisle railway to Appleby in Westmoreland station. It has to be admitted that the most scenic parts of the S&C are further south at higher altitude, but the journey by Northern Railway climbing through the Eden Valley is pleasant enough. The station is on the east side of the town, about ten minutes' walk down Clifford Terrace (Clifford being a name you hear a lot hereabouts) and down an ideally positioned footpath to the only vehicle bridge over the River Eden. This is where the horses are washed during the Horse Fair at the start of June. You therefore come into Appleby at the bottom of Boroughgate.

You'll find The Cupboard Under The Stairs, Appleby's newest retail addition, which enchants residents and visitors alike with its licensed Harry Potter merchandise. Close by is the lovely named Crown and Cushion, one of Appleby's popular pubs which has no problem is dividing itself into both pub and afternoon tea café. The rest of the shopping offer can probably be visited in ten minutes, but a useful diversion off the town centre is to St. Lawrence church which is the burial place of Lady Anne Clifford, a black marble monument in the North aisle. The church was badly damaged twice during Scottish raids, but was restored in 1654.

Walk up the hill and you will find one of the most enchanting features of the town, more cute even than the Harry Potter shop. On the left near the top is St. Anne's Hospital, a mid seventeenth century attempt at sheltered housing, for eleven poor sisters and a Mother who led the community, and founded by Lady Anne Clifford in 1651. By 1961 the place was ready for refurbishment. I visited their little chapel and found various versions of the rules of the hospital, which we would now term almshouses, and saw the ladies there resident, but it would have been a breach of the rules to look inside their little cottages, since gentlemen callers are strictly forbidden.

And so to the top of the hill to Appleby Castle, with its the Norman keep, which I enjoyed a tour of on the morning of my departure following a good breakfast. If you like to stay in ancient buildings more like a grand home than an hotel, consider Appleby. Good riverside walks, fishing for guests, even an art deco town swimming pool, pleasant hostelries and historically the seat of the ancient county of Westmoreland, now Cumbria. I recommend the four poster bed of the Clifford Bedroom, overlooking the courtyard. There was a ghost hunt on the night of my visit, but I was tucked up in bed and saw none of the apparitions, and ghost-hunters were not to be seen at breakfast in the Great Hall, built 1454.

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PRINCE BISHOP

Puppy Socialisation

Socialisation is one of the most important things you can do with your new puppy as giving them lots of positive experiences, especially in the first few months of their lives, will help to ensure they become a friendly, outgoing and confident dog.

By the time a puppy reaches about 12 weeks of age, any situations or environments he has not been exposed to previously are likely to be approached with caution so between three and 12 weeks of age, it's really important to get them used to as many people, animals and situations as possible.

Prior to your puppy receiving his full primary vaccination course, he cannot mix with unvaccinated dogs or go on walks, but he can be carried around in public, exposed to traffic and other animals, taken to the vets and may even be able to attend puppy parties if your practice offers these.

There is a lot of helpful information online about how best to socialise your puppy so take the time to read up on the subject as your dog is only going to be a puppy once, and speak to the team at your vet practice if you would like more information or advice.

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