August 2022
Issue 117

CONSETT MAGAZINE

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Welcome to the August issue of the Consett Magazine and congratulations on not melting in the heat.

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 a respite from the heat with our free monthly magazine.

Lorraine Weightman teaches us about good British Etiquette on **pages 4 and 6.**

Consett In Focus have been at the Durham Miners Gala and bring us some fantastic photos on **pages 8 and 9.**

Local author and local visual artist both have some exciting news on **page 11.**

Last month a local historian gave a talk about finding his long lost great-grandfather on **page 12**.

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 George Ledger. Send your drawings or photographs to: editor@consettmagazine.com

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Ette-Quette

By Lorraine Weightman

Being brought up in Consett without a car meant it was a real treat for me, as a child, to go for a ride out round the reservoir on a Sunday afternoon.
We were lucky enough to have friends and family who would accommodate us and were happy to drive. One such friend had a large Rover which I recall having a hint of purple and grey with huge leather seats. In the days of no seat belts I slid about on the slippery soft leather upholstery in the back, while my Auntie Rose chatted away in the front seat to Mr D. puffing away on her Kensitas cigarette. My small frame clinging on as he turned the awkward corners and negotiated the bends through Allensford.

I remember stopping off at at the Lord Crewe in Blanchland, and being treated to an ice cream cornet and my Auntie Rose to a whiskey and dry ginger! These were familiar surroundings and when my London aunties and uncles arrived, there was always another excuse for a ride out to see the beautiful surrounding countryside.

On one occasion we went to The Anchor at Whittonstall. This time the convoy had three cars as we were all being treated to lunch by our visiting relations.

I, as the youngest member of the family wasn't always able to engage in the adult conversations, as most of the time they didn't make sense and they seemed to talk about stuff that was of little interest to me. I was dreaming of spending the day in the play park hanging upside down on the 'spiders web' and wearing the toes of my shoes out by spinning on the roundabout and using them to brake when it was time to get off. However I did said yes and no in the right places, which seemed to keep them happy.

One of my London aunties asked if I would like to choose my meal from the menu, I asked what Croquette potatoes were, and instead of offering a description, she was intent on correcting my pronunciation, saying,

'I think you'll find its 'croquet', which sounded like 'crowkaay' to my embarrassed ears!

From then on, even though it was one of my favourite sounds I was reluctant to pronounce anything with 'ette' on the end, for fear of being reprimanded, and checked the dictionary or

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thesaurus when in doubt. Later in life I found out her correction attempt had been totally incorrect and was in keeping with Patricia Routledge's character Hyacinth, when spelling out her last name,

Mrs B U C K E T, pronounced Bouquet!

Having always being fascinated by the sound of words I remember loving from my early days at The Plaza, being shown to my seat by an usherette, taking the heavy throws and eiderdowns to the Launderette, in Shakespeare Street, and wearing the slipperettes that turned up in my stocking one Christmas!

The dictionary explains that words ending in 'ette' usually describe the feminine or smaller version of an original noun, and the names of imitation products, yet to me they were much more than that, they made me laugh!

If Etymology is the study of words, then I was studying Ette - y - mology!

I deliberately sought these words out; amused by advertisements for a foundation garment, named a corselette, a cupboard with a cooker in it, called a kitchenette, and a Dinette was a piece of wood screwed to the wall with a chair in front of it!

I also remember leatherette and suedette clothing, shoes and bags, before they evolved into 'pleather' and 'faux' And I wonder, if you, like me, loved the candy striped flannelette sheets and pillowcases that were so soft and inviting to sleep on.
One of my favourites was at Mr D's home. He had in his living room a 'Cellarette' which is basically a wooden cabinet to store and serve alcohol. It looked like those pieces of furniture that people used to hide their televisions in!

However the 'ette' that fuelled my imagination the most came from a story I heard from my Auntie Rose, about one of our Irish relations who used to carry a mini statuette of St Anthony of Padua - the patron saint of lost things - in the side pocket of her handbag, to help her find her way to the correct platform at the train station! Perfectly understandable, she couldn't take her medal of St Christopher - the patron saint of travellers - as she'd heard he'd been demoted and left off the Church's calendar!

In conclusion, I'm happy to say that at one point, I felt that Victoria Wood and I were on the same wavelength, so I'll leave her with the last word, as in one of her stand up routines she explained, that while on the phone trying to book tickets to the theatre,

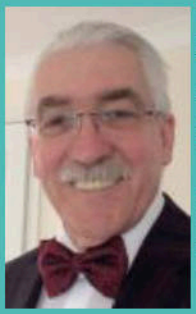
"They said, I'm sorry, all our regular seats are sold, but we can offer you a 'banquette' in the upper circle. I said, if I've come all the way from Derby I want to see the play!"

KidsOut
THE FUN & HAPPINESS CHARITY

Norman Sellar, a member of Consett Rotary Club, has this year been able to organise days out for pupils from local Consett schools, funded by the Kids Out charity. Norman joined Consett Rotary in 2019, having moved from Frome to County Durham with his wife Barbara. While living in Somerset and a member of Frome Rotary Club, from 2008, he was introduced to the Kids Out charity. This charity which began in 1990 organised a National Day Out hosted by Kingston Rotary Club and Littlewoods organisation. It was a trial event but proved to be so successful, it spread across the UK. Kids Out is organised by Rotary Clubs across the country and this year they took 77,000 children to different venues.

While in Frome Norman was part of a team of Rotarians who took 1000 kids to Longleat which happens on the second Wednesday in June every year. After moving north Norman was asked by Kids Out UK to be a Kids Out Ambassador in the North East. The aim of Kids Out is to give disadvantaged children a fun and educational day out. The children who are aged from 5yrs - 14yrs have individual needs. Schools, or other organisations involved with care, nominate the children.

Norman explained that, 'We in Rotary (District 1030) decided to resurrect Kids Out in the North East and we are delighted that Beamish Museum have allowed us to join them this year.' He continued 'We did try to start this back in 2019 but because of the onset of Covid for two years it was cancelled, for the children's safety.
As we had to start from scratch it was decided to ask for donations from local charities and local businesses. But finally this year, we were able to take 662 from 19 schools with 8 Rotary Clubs joining Consett Rotary at 5 separate days at Beamish Museum.'



Norman and his team would like to thank: Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust, Impress Precision Machining and Project Genesis whose kindness gave them the chance to resurrect Kids Out in the North East.

Norman has worked tirelessly to keep this going, establishing relationships with schools in the area, to make things happen in 2022.

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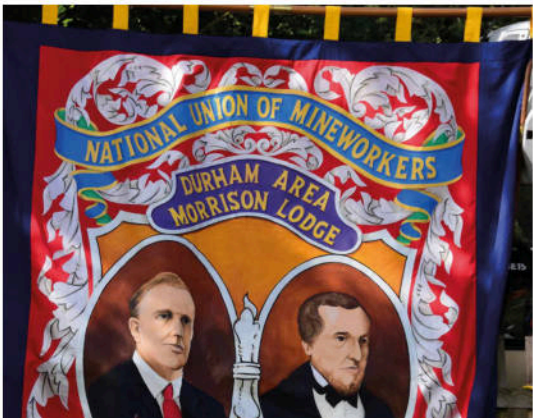
'Consett in Focus' Documentary Photography Group

Durham Miners Gala

The Durham Miners Gala returned after a break due to the Covid pandemic. The organisers hoped for a big return, and they certainly weren't disappointed. More than 200,000 people packed the streets of Durham on Saturday, including many people from the Consett area accompanied by more than 60 miners' banners and more than 50 brass bands – the most in decades. Consett In Focus had the pleasure to accompany the Morrison Busty from an early start at the community centre in Annfield Plain, seeing the blessing of the banner, before starting a walking tour of the area with the Silver Band playing and entertaining the crowd. Then it was off on the bus to Durham for the 'Big Meeting'. The route of the march, started at the Market Place, along Sadler Street, crossing Elvet Bridge, stopping outside The County Hotel to entertain the 'balcony of Key workers' before continuing and finishing on the Racecourse.

Following a well-deserved rest, some refreshments and a tour of the show field, it was the return journey back to the Market Place and back to Annfield Plain.

Photographs by Chris Bruce and George Ledger











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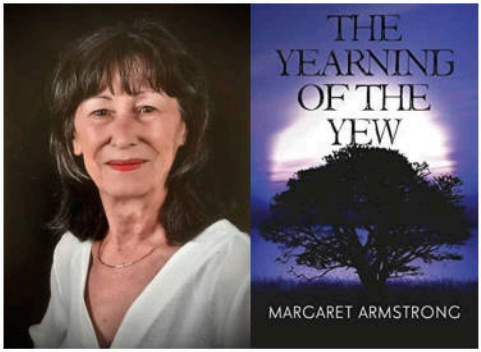

The Yearning Of The Yew

Margaret Armstrong, from Consett has just had her debut novel published by Pegasus.

Margaret, a prolific writer and poet is a member of Consett Writers who meet in Consett Library every Monday.

The Yearning Of The Yew is a tale of a vengeful ghost and is based in Durham and Lanchester. A truly imaginative and entertaining story it will have you on the edge of your seat.

Margaret wrote this story during Lockdown along with another which is yet to be published. She said, 'Having little else to do at this time, I took the opportunity to do something I had wanted to do for many years'

Margaret who was born The Grove, attended St Patrick's school in Consett, After leaving Consett Technical College she spent a short time as an invoice typist at Consett Iron Company before moving south, where she lived for over 35 years; bringing up her family.

She returned to Consett, to care for her Mother in 2001, and was delighted to be back on home ground.

Margaret explained, that she had always had a yearning to write a ghost story and the idea came about while she was lying in the bath!

The ancient Yew tree symbolises death and resurrection in Celtic culture, and Margaret used this as the basis for her story.

The book can be purchased through Pegasus Publishers, Foyles, Amazon, and also through the Waterstones website, priced at £9.99

It will be soon be available in Consett Library.

Exhibition inspired by trees and forests goes on display



An immersive and interactive free exhibition inspired by the ancient trees and forests of County Durham has gone on display.

Bishop Oakland, an installation by North East visual artist Bethan Maddocks, is now on show at Bishop Auckland Town Hall's gallery, which is run by Durham County Council.

Visitors can explore a forest full of paper tree trunks, unfurling foliage and coloured leaves which they can touch, listen, play and add to.

The exhibition's paper forest is inspired by the prehistoric 'coal forests' which created the coal seams beneath the region, and 'Bishop's Oak' - a 400-year-old tree found in Wolsingham.

Visitors exploring the forest will find spotted trees and striped bark - patterns taken from fossil records of ancient tree relatives which grew in the area 250 million years ago. Looking up, they will find oak leaves, acorns, and rough oak bark representing the ancient native woodland of County Durham.

To find out more about the exhibition, as well as Bishop Auckland Town Hall's upcoming programme of events, visit www.bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk



Appeal For Relatives of Blackhill Born WWII Bomber: Arthur Brown



My name is Léon Wijers and I live in Baexem, Netherlands.

On August 17, 1941 a bomber from the RAF was shot down and crashed against a railroad bridge over the Maas River in Buggenum, The Netherlands.

My father and grandfather, who lived in a small village (Leeuwen) opposite from Buggenum, at the other side of the Maas River, witnessed the crash that night, but couldn't do anything to help the crew from the plane, a Armstrong Whitworth Whitley (Z6754).

The 5 men died and one of them was Arthur Brown, born in Blackhill, Durham; he was married. The crew was buried at Jonkerbos, Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

Time passed by, but in 1963 the level of the Maas River was lowered because repairs had to be done at the weir in Roermond.

We found some pieces of metal from the plane on the crash site and on three of them were little identification plates, two from the engines (radiator) and one small plate (front starboard).

The plates were put away and forgotten for many years. Now, by cleaning up the house from our (longer ago passed away parents) we've found this identification plates and we thought that maybe descendants/relatives would like to have a plate, as a piece of remembrance off the brave men, who died for the freedom of so many.

I've been searching a long time but didn't succeed, mostly because of privacy rules.

I now write this with the big question: do you know anyone who can help me in my search?

It would be a great honour for me to give the plates to the family from Arthur Brown, so they would have a piece of memory from the plane, in which Arthur Brown fought for freedom and justice and gave his life for.

If you have any information, please send an email:

leonwijers@hotmail.com

Historian's talk on finding resting place of great-grandfather

A historian give a free online talk on his quest to find the final resting place of his great-grandfather who was killed while fighting in the First World War.

As part of Durham County Record Office's successful Third Thursday programme of local history talks, the session by guest speaker David Yeoman took place on Thursday 21 July.

'Finding Wilfred – a Great War mystery' focused on David's search for where his great-grandfather Wilfred Lomas, a member of the 10th Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry (DLI) was buried. Wilfred was killed in action in December 1917.

David said: "My mother remembers seeing a letter the family received in the early 1920s stating that my great-grandfather's body had been exhumed and was to be re-interred at Poelcappelle, in Belgium." It appears that Wilfred's body may have been exhumed at some point and then lost.

The project also brought together the DLI Collection and DLI Archive.

For more about The Story go to **www.durham.gov.uk/thestory**

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Durham County Council

Hunmanby for Spirit of Yorkshire Distillery, and Filey







For a summer outing by train, the east wolds of Yorkshire offer an enticing prospect. Take a trip to Hunmanby, on the line from Scarborough to Hull, and it's a short walk to the new Spirit of Yorkshire distillery, from which the products are now matured and for sale. From the north east you get there on a train to York where you head north east to the coast at Scarborough. You can check your routing at nationalrail.com, now in its twentieth year of booking rail tickets and answering enquiries. If you have a short connection, change trains at Seamer, the station outside of Scarborough where the lines from Hull and York meet. If you have a long connection wait at Scarborough itself, may be on the long bench, about 139m, which is reputed to be the longest in the world. The small island-platformed station at Seamer is great for quick changes, not so good for a longer wait.

Through Filey with its unusual covered train shed, to Hunmanby, you take a left on leaving the station uphill on the Bridlington Road, passing a tyre recycling facility (I did not know tyres could smell as much!) to the industrial estate where the distilliery is located. Tours run daily at 1100, 1300 and 1500, with no 1500 tour on Sunday. Book at spiritofyorkshire.com. The owning family are farmers and brewers, so the process is kept in house from field to bottle, since they even bottle the spirit on site. Made with 100% homegrown barley and water from the chalk beneath their farm, the "Filey Bay" single malt whisky isn't just made in Yorkshire, it's made OF Yorkshire.

Time your journey to spend the rest of the day at Filey Bay itself, with trains covering the trip from Hunmanby back to Filey about 20 past the hour. Having my bag from a few days away, I elected to avoid the footbridge and take the flat path out on to the Muston Road. As a regular depositor of luggage, I checked the Radical website to see if I could leave it somewhere, but Filey was not covered. (Radical works with general dealers, computer stores and Indian restaurants etc to look after items cheaply.) I turned right around the end of Station Avenue and into the compact town centre. In the 1850s the developer John Wilkes Unett, completed the Crescent, a grand row of houses on the cliff top to provide quality accommodaiton for passengers arriving by train. The railway had arrived a little earlier in 1846. Another developer, Sir Billy Butlin, built an even bigger site to the south which was due to open before the Second World War, but instead became RAF Hunmanby Moor. Eventually opening his holiday camp in 1946, Butlins traded until 1983 and a peak capacity the 11,000 campers eclipsed the 6,000 people in the town itself.

There are five miles of golden sandy beach at Filey, and to the north bracing walks may be had at Filey Brigg, a promontory of land jutting out into the sea. It's one of the best stretches of beach in the UK, with a range of eateries and entertainment to please the visitor. It was a lovely afternoon and I enjoyed my potter about. On return to the station for a well-connected trip from Filey, via Seamer, to York and north, I noticed a neat sign in the window of the taxi company: Left Luggage 50p. I wish I had passed by before! An unencumbered walk around a town is always better than hauling a bag.

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Ask the Vet - TICKS

It's that time of year again when the temperatures start to rise and those pesky ticks are crawling on to our dogs and causing mayhem! They are nasty little critters that can cause Lyme disease, so keeping your pet up to date with a parasite product that repels or kills ticks is the best way to prevent it.

Contrary to popular belief, ticks don't jump or fly, they actually crawl on to dogs (and sometimes cats) when they come into contact with them. Ticks tend to live in woodland, moorland or areas of long grass so it would be wise to check your pets after walks in those areas.

You cannot completely prevent your pet from getting ticks, but there are many things you can do to reduce the risk of getting them.

· Use a preventative treatment which can come in the form of tablets, spot-ons or collars

· Avoid places where ticks are likely to be found (see above)

· If you are going somewhere different for walks, check to see if ticks are common in that area

· Always check your pet for ticks after being out for a walk – their favourite areas are on the head, around the ears, armpits, tummy and groin

· If you find a tick, use a proper Tick Remover or a pair of tweezers to gently twist it out, and dispose of it in a sealed jar containing alcohol or bleach

· Avoid old wives tales with regards to removing them, for example you CANNOT remove a tick with perfume or alcohol; DO NOT burn it off your skin; removing them with finger nails is NOT the best method

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any help or more information regarding ticks, and always remember, "Prevention is better than Cure".

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