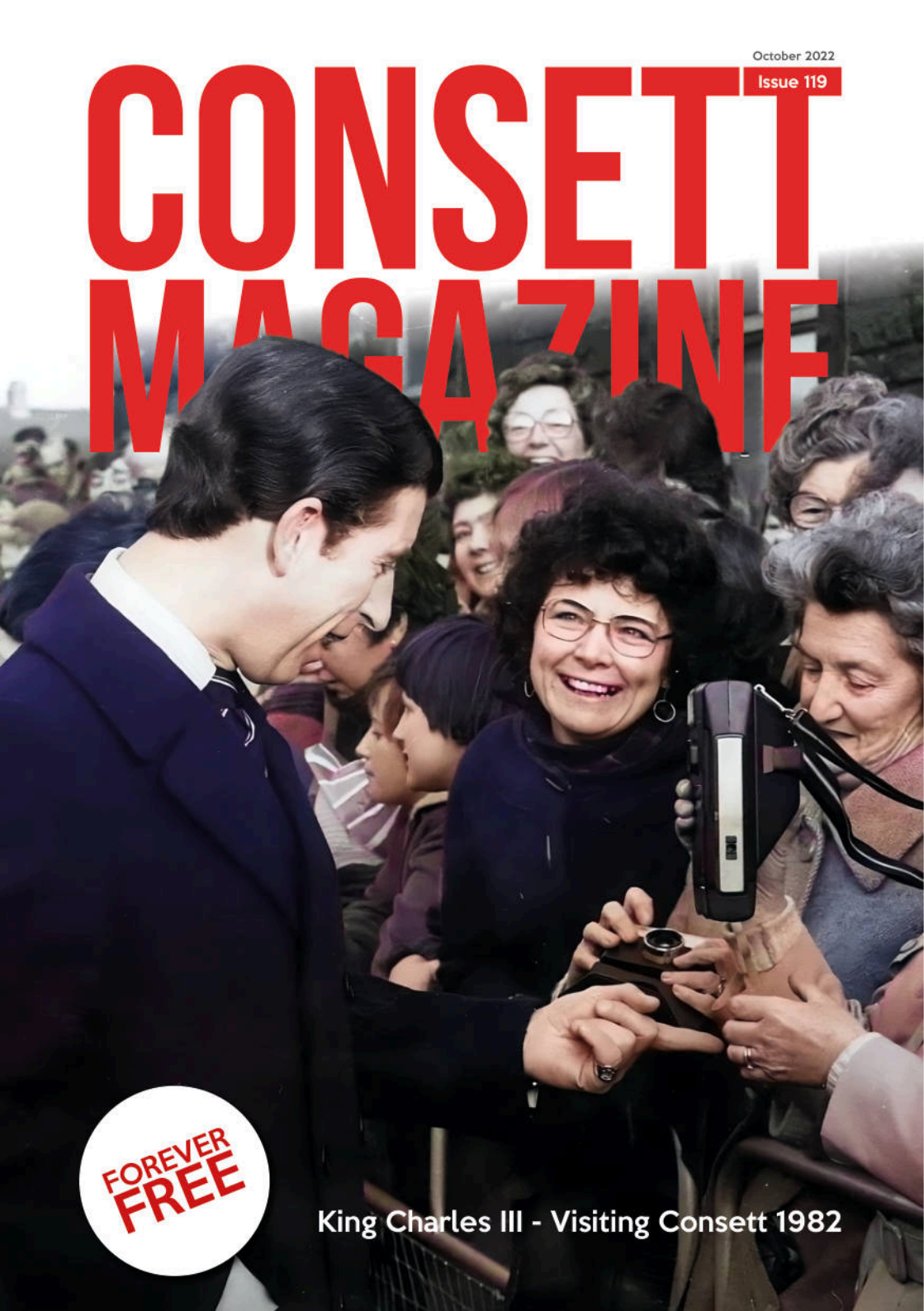
October 2022
Issue 119

CONSETT MAGAZINE



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Hello and welcome to the October issue of the Consett Magazine.

Publishing positive local news every month!

A big thank you to all our contributors, without your continued support the Consett Magazine would not exist.

Local cycling enthusiasts have been raising money for charity, more on that on **page 4**

Local DJ BuZZila is back and has been busy, read up on him on **page 4**

The Cosy Byre opened its doors to all visitors, read more on **page 6**

Consett In Focus looks at the spoken and written word on **pages 8 and 9.**

Lorraine Weightman focuses on Soul Food on **pages 11 and 12.**

Joyce Shaw has written a royal poem on **page 13**

Macclesfield is this months "place to go" on **page 14.**

With the cold weather approaching, Prince Bishops Vets has some advice when it comes to your pets on **page 15.**

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 of King Charles III when he visited Consett in 1982. Send your pictures to: editor@consettmagazine.com

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Cycle Challenge Raises Cash for Charities

Staff from Consett based Amethyst Homes, Dysart and Absolute Civil Engineering completed the 160 mile coast to castle challenge from Tynemouth to Edinburgh, spending 14 hours in the saddle over three days. They have raised over £4,000 which will be split between North East Homeless and Willow Burn Hospice.

There is still time to donate please visit:
www.justgiving.com/team/Amethyst-ACE-Dysart

Photo caption: From left to right is Rachel Todd (Willow Burn Hospice) and cycling and support team, Morris Muter, Samantha Deugo, Gary Coils, Richard Bass, Mike Clark, Paula Spoor, Joanne Emmerson, Richard Emmerson and Brian Burridge (Founder of North East Homeless).

BuZZila - UPDATE

"Hey guys, Hope you're all keeping well. It's BuZZila here, Trance music producer, composer, songwriter, DJ and record label founder from right here in Consett! I am a resident DJ on Nova Radio North East 102.5fm, with the MindScape - Trance Anthems show, also on 0151 Dance Radio (Liverpool), and Vibe FM (Ireland). I am also known for opening the legendary Trance event Goodgreef at Digital Newcastle, and recently closing Oxjam Music Festival earlier this year, but I'll talk about that later!

I run the Buzzin' Records Ltd electronic music label. It releases all kinds, styles & genres of electronic dance music in all online stores including Beatport, Amazon Music, iTunes, Spotify & more. Signed to this label are the likes of SONIC (from Ireland, a resident DJ on Vibe FM & Ibiza Club News Radio), DJ Fabio (the founder of Vibe FM) and myself.



We also run and organise events at venues, clubs & bars all around the UK.

Due to my personal circumstances with different health issues, including Type 1 Diabetes (which I've dealt with since I was four years old), and early onset suspect stages of Parkinsons disease, I have had to take things a bit easier, but despite this, I am still in the midst of my first UK wide tour, including a closing set at Oxjam Festival at The Globe in my home city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. This was all in aid of the charity Oxfam, and it is a very well established brand, known as Oxjam Music Festival, and I recently played at their 2022 event in August, playing a special Trance Classics set, featuring lots of 90s club hits & timeless anthems.

Don't forget to check out my official TikTok channel, which I have recently decided to appear on (yes, I'm finally on TikTok). On which you can see plenty of footage from live events, shows, promotional videos, Behind-the-scenes videos & more. You can also buy my official line of merchandise on Teespring, including tshirts, mugs & more all of my own design.

We've got lots more events & gigs coming up from myself, guest mixes, interviews, radio appearances, and more also coming out of the woodwork. Remember to check out We Are Buzzin' & X-Line [Clothing], a photography / promotions company, and the second a clothing brand, both created by my good friend & official photographer / media director Brandon Thirlwell. Shout out to the team, Chris, Luke, Brandon & the rest of them! Also, a massive thank you to all my family, friends, and of course, YOU guys, who support me & will continue to support me throughout my journey that is yet to come all over the world! #BuZZila x"

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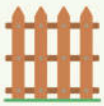
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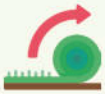
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The Cosy Byre

The Cosy Byre at 70 Medomsley Road Consett opened it's doors on 23rd August 2022. This welcoming cafe is the dream of Jackie and Tom Oxley who have owned the premises since 2009, where they ran a successful accountancy business, which merged in March 2020, just as Covid was beginning to change our lives.

Looking for a new venture, they combined their interests and talents, deciding to open a totally gluten free cafe. Tom, who himself is coeliac knows how hard it is to find places to eat. And Jackie who loves cooking and baking took the plunge with her husband, who undertook all the renovations and decorating.

Together they have created a welcoming, beautifully friendly atmosphere with comfortable surroundings and furnishings.

The menu is extensive and appealing, including delightful sweet treats created by Margaret - who cooks alongside Jackie - whose triple chocolate brownies are definitely recommended.

The delicious coffee is served by Barista Leanda, who enjoys to chat with customers and welcomes them warmly.

On busy Saturdays Leah joins the team to help out.
Along with all the gluten free options; dairy free, vegetarian and vegan choices are on offer.

Where possible all ingredients are locally sourced, and we can look forward to Afternoon Teas and Farmers Lunches already planned for the near future; always safe in the knowledge there is no cross contamination whatsoever.

The cafe is dog friendly downstairs, and treats are available from Sam's Place two doors down. There is a bookable room upstairs which comfortably seats up to 12 people and can be used for meetings, parties etc.

Why not head along to The Cosy Byre and see for yourself.

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The Written Word

Consett Creative Writing Group

Consett Writers is a creative writing group, meeting every Monday 2-4pm upstairs in Consett Library.

Directed by local writer Lorraine Weightman, they write stories, poems, novels and scripts for pantomimes and plays, several which have been published. They have also supplied the stories to go with an exhibition on the centenary of WWI in the library.

The group has been running about 5 years, numbers have declined a little during the recent Covid pandemic, but they are picking up now as people feel the need to express their creativity again. They would welcome new members of any level and experience as new ideas will always inspire the work of the group.

Photos by Chris Bruce

Steve Urwin - Poet

Steve Urwin is a Poet from Consett, County Durham and his works has appeared in a wide variety of magazines as well as having been broadcast on BBC Radio.

Steve worked as a creative writing facilitator and organises live literature events. We Photographed these images at his Talking Pen event at Waddington Street Centre, Durham where regular Poetry Jams run on the first Thursday of every month.

Photos by Abigail Thomson & George Ledger

‘Consett in Focus’ Documentary Photography Group’

If you are part of an art, craft or hobby group please contact us at: **Our Facebook page:** facebook.com/ConsettTownofCulture

Website: consettinfocus.weebly.com
Or email us: consettinfocus@gmail.com


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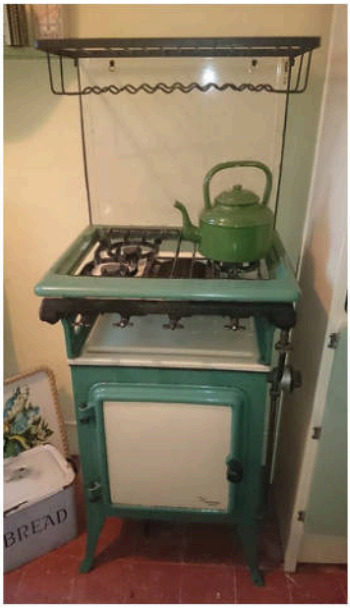
Soul Food

I've always been interested in cooking from being young, when I observed my family making delicious food with very basic ingredients. My Mam's specialities were big pans of hearty soup and oven baked casseroles packed with flavour and served with mashed or roast potatoes and heaps of vegetables.

My Auntie Rose made the best Yorkshire pudding, rising gently in a rectangular tin tray with the crispy sides curled over like waves, while the centre remained soft. Her Sunday apple pies freckled with burnt sugar were legendary, and we looked forward to them served deliciously with Birds custard at teatime. In Autumn, she added the blackberries we had lovingly collected on our walk to Knitsley the Saturday before, after we'd soaked them in water to make sure there were no tiny clandestine worms trying to avoid detection.

I learned to make beans on toast at an early age - still one of my favourites - but couldn't get away with the Cross and Blackwell variety which were bought by mistake a couple of times. I guess, we have all been brought up with Heinz! My Dad made the best Thackery's bacon sandwiches on Forsters white uncut doorstop bread, dipped in the frying pan juices and served with a good cup of Ringtons tea, and my brother made Welsh Rarebit with strong cheddar cheese, Coleman's English mustard and Worcestershire Sauce.



Our neighbours in Consett were all experts at corned beef and potato plate pies, delivering any surplus to us.

None of these dishes cost the earth but were made with love, and I loved the way sharing these delights with friends and family made them taste all the better.

While we had a typical 1960's white and blue enamel gas cooker, my Auntie Rose sported a 1940's New World version with a huge plate rack at the top.

I remember I wasn't allowed to use it as it had a special lighting technique. My Uncles - Pat and Michael - would roll up some newspaper, tentatively resting it in the flames of the coal fire in the kitchen, then kneel down in front of the oven; turning on the gas with one hand, while they stretched to the back of the oven to light it with the other taper held hand. The boom let us know all was well and the cooking could begin!

Sunday dinner was the best. All the vegetables prepared early morning, with the Yorkshire pudding batter mixed and resting in a blue and white striped bowl with a plate on the top. The tin foil covered meat was set on low, before we all trooped to 11 o'clock Mass at St Patrick's in Consett.

It was action stations when we got home. I set the table while the adults turned up the heat so the vegetables could be boiled within an inch of their lives, which made it possible for us all to sit down before the children's Novena started at

By Lorraine Weightman



2pm. Someone was given the important job of stirring the gravy while adding Comptons Gravy Salt to the meat juices and flour, I moved into this role as I grew up, being very conscious that if there were any lumps I would be demoted. When I was much older in my late twenties and married to Stewart with one year old Michael, I learned to cook in a whole new way. We moved into a house in Fairways and to my delight in the centre of the kitchen was a 1920's Aga that had been converted to gas. I loved the rack that produced square patterned toast in seconds and the lower simmering oven that would cook everything to perfection while we went out shopping or got on with other tasks. I loved it so much that when we moved out of the area I had to have another one.

In Tantobie, our Aga become one of the family, making delicious food, heating the water, keeping us warm, while drying our clothes on the airer, worked by a pulley. On many an occasion my children noticed singed burn marks on their school uniform after I warmed their clothes on the closed lids on wintry mornings. Unfortunately they couldn't be repaired by a navy blue felt tipped pen so I was forever buying new jumpers. And so to today, with my son and two daughters Katherine and Emily grown and flown the nest. I'm learning to cook again in an entirely different way, experimenting with my newly acquired purchase from Forster's in Consett.

Just the other day, after preparing a pizza for my granddaughters tea in less than five minutes, I overheard Eleanor say to her younger sister Matilda,

'Grandma's got a Ninja!'
I'm not sure she was any the wiser, but within 5 minutes they both had empty plates!



County attractions opened doors to visitors free of charge

Members of the public were encouraged to explore dozens of cultural attractions in County Durham free of charge last month.

This year's programme of Heritage Open Day events ran from Friday 9 September to Sunday 18 September, with cultural venues and heritage sites across the county taking part.

Durham Masonic Hall, Crook Hall Gardens and Killhope Lead Mining Museum were just some of the sites offering a sneak peek across the 10 days.

Heritage Open Days offer free entry to venues that usually charge as well as tours that give glimpses into usually hidden places. Visitors can go on walks through the county's historic landscape.

Many churches, from Saxon to Medieval to Victorian, also open their doors. Giving those interested a chance to talk to knowledgeable and enthusiastic volunteers who guide them around the venues.

Proclamation Of A New King

The declaration was made at St James Palace, on Sept. 9th, following the queen's death on the previous day.

The nation viewed the proceedings as it was televised for the first time.

We have seen history in the making as a new change now begins
New coinage, stamps and bank notes will soon image our new king.
The 70 years of loyalty and selfless duty shown
Is reflected in the nation's grief as flowers are laid, black armbands worn.
The muffled drums and toll of bells, the sadness in the air
The solemn duties carried out in public, display care
For a queen who served her people, and they now show great respect
As dedication saw her through hard times, which now reflect
And honour such devotion with a dignity alone.
The longest reigning monarch that this country's ever known
Has gone, our nation weeps, but continuity is all.
We look to a new era .."God save the King" we call.

(Joyce Shaw Sept 13th 2022)

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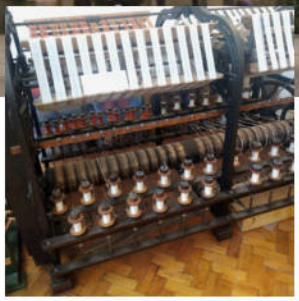



MACCLESFIELD

My day visit to Macclesfield, to visit the Silk Mill and museum, was planned for the 17th August, there and back in a day from home. The day before I was in London, when a major meltdown on the East Coast Main Line occurred at Biggleswade, blocking the line for eight hours. I ended up at Peterborough, by way of Cambridge and Ely, from where there were no trains going north, but there were trains to Birmngham and I reasoned I might as well forget about going home and head direct to Macclesfield, by way of Leicester and Derby. With no town centre Premier Inn, I elected to stay at the fairly new Tytherington Club. Waking up with a town to explore, before my appointment at 1400, I found a bus stop with only four buses a day into town and sampled the Little Gems 392 to the station where I picked up replacement tickets for my journey home that evening, the originals being in my office at home.

Macclesfield town centre is built, unusually, on a hill, and the bus station clings on to the hillside. I found a pub with the intriguing name The Cock in Treacle, the fine Victorian drill hall, and the art deco Picturedrome. My attention was also attracted to a big sign on a roundabout "Could your hearing problems just be EAR WAX? Safe and pain free micro suction technology", it said. I found the clinic at Chestergate (close to the Georgian Town Hall) on the main shopping street, and went in for an immediate appointment. Ten minutes later, with a large blob of wax removed from my right ear (which I left with them) I had much better hearing. There was a Sri Lankan restaurant called Kandy, not open until the evening, unfortunately, and I proceeded down the hill to my destination. The Silk Mill complex is a museum and associated café, just along the street from the Paradise Mill which looks like it is set in the 1930s.

The Silk Museum reveals Macclesfield's 300-year story as a global centre for silk production, textiles and design. It was a boom and bust operation, depending on the supply of foreign silk, and visitors can discover the unique collection of machines and learn about Macclesfield's rich industrial heritage. There's a historic archive of pattern books and textiles, from which you can see how designs were created and then transformed onto silk on the Jacquard looms using card with punched holes to direct the looms, which system would be used in later years as the punched cards of early computer programming. The town exported much labour to Paterson in New Jersey, USA, to establish a silk industry there, The expert guides at Paradise Mill each offer unique insights, looking at all aspects of Mill life and silk production, from the beauty of the textiles, the social history and the global phenomenon of silk.

The Paradise Mill was used for high end short run silk production (e.g. men's ties) by the firm of Cartwright and Sheldon whose offices and machines can be seen. The Silk Muesum and Paradise Mill is open from Wednesday to Saturday 10-4, also on Treacle Sundays (the last Sunday of the month) 12.30-3.30, this being the day of the town's colourful Treacle Market, giving rise to the pub name earlier.

Heading back to the station, I waited for my train on a wooden seat dedicated to transport campaigner and associate of mine Chris Dale (1948-2020). Three trains, but five tickets of three types brought me back to Chester-le-street for £33.20 on split tickets, as opposed to £54.90 normal fare with a railcard, and I enjoyed half an hour overlooking Manchester Piccadilly station at Yo! Sushi, although the little conveyor belts of food have been removed post-pandemic.

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