November 2022
Issue 120

CONSETT MAGAZ



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George Skelton
By George Ledger

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Hello and a big warm welcome to the November issue of the Consett Magazine.

Publishing positive local news every month!

As always we'd like to extend a HUGE thank you to all our contributors and local businesses that support the magazine with advertising without your continued support the Consett Magazine simply wouldn't happen.

Sweet Things Cafe was officially opened in June of this year. We caught up with Becca and Katie on **page 4.**

Marco from the Consett Magazine team has fired up his space-heater of a computer, and has been playing with **artificiality intelligent computer generated art!** With a few text prompts the his machine can generate some truly stunning and unique images! Don't believe us? Check out **page 7.**

Local lady Jude McCrory whom after being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2018 has fought back, and along with friends, family and local organisations, they have raised over **£6000 for Cancer Research.** See that on **page 9.**

Consett in Focus Photography group have been out and about again this month capturing teachers and art on **page 11.**

The local 110 acre countryside retreat of Minsteracres is looking for volunteers to help out. Find out more on **page 12.**

Lorraine Weightman has been with the Consett Writers group and contributed a great poem on **page 16.**

Restore your old and damaged photos back to original or better quality on **page 19.**

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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Alex Nelson
Liam Cook
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Chris Bruce

SCAN ME

The Front Cover

The front cover this month is of George Skelton, sent in by George Ledger. Send your pictures to: editor@consettmagazine.com

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Sweet Things
CAFE

Sweet Things Cafe opened in Victoria Road Consett on June 10th 2022.

Becca Shaw and Katie Peters who are lifelong friends, took the leap of faith and decided to open their own business after both managing a well known coffee franchise. They have honed their skills to provide a haven for those who like delicious fayre.

Sweet Things with it's comfortable surroundings is completely child friendly. From delicious breakfasts which are served all day with vegetarian options, to tempting toasties, scrumptious pancakes and creamy milkshakes, there is certainty something for everyone.

My granddaughters are fans of the children's menu which is served on small plates with mini size cutlery, which is perfect for small hands. The efficient staff are friendly and accommodating, making the whole experience a pleasure.

Sweet Things Cafe is open Mondays to Saturdays and they also offer a takeaway lunch deal available every day, £6.95 for a cold sandwich or toastie with a can of pop.

Throughout October, Sweet Things introduced 'Treat Thursdays' after school, where they stayed open until 5pm so adults could bring along their little ones for tea. With the added bonus of 10% off any sit in or takeaway food orders from the full menu between 3pm-5pm

From November 1st Festive Afternoon Tea will be served, a special treat for everyone to enjoy.

Becca and Katie have obviously worked very hard to get where they are now and are brimming with new ideas. To find out more contact or visit the following:

sweetthingsconsett@gmail.com / 01207583308 - Facebook: Sweet Things Cafe / @sweetthingsconsett

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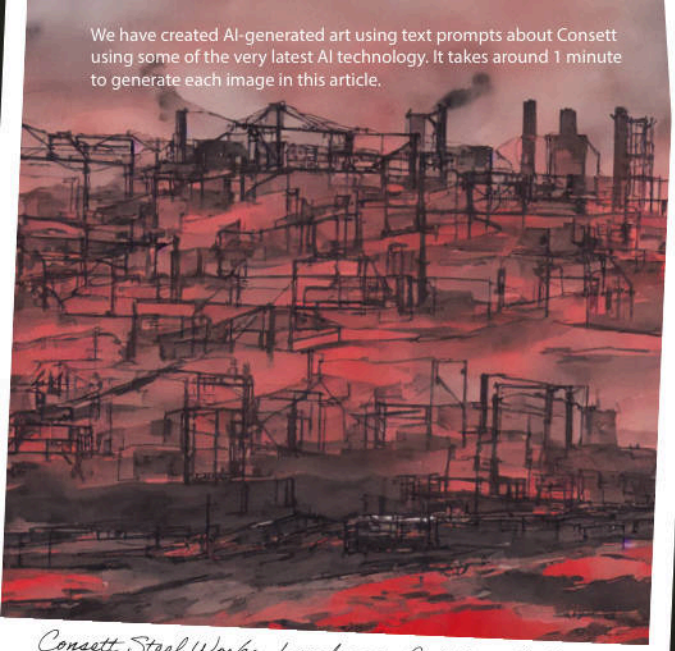
"If everyone spent £100 more a year on local businesses instead of chain stores,
it would add an additional £3 million a year into the local economy"

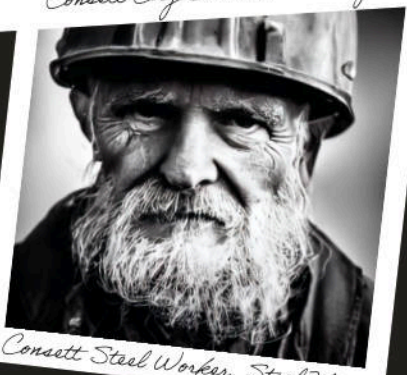
We have created AI-generated art using text prompts about Consett using some of the very latest AI technology. It takes around 1 minute to generate each image in this article.



Consett Steel Works, Landscape Painting, Red Dust



Consett City Centre, Pink Sky



Consett Steel Worker, Steel Man

How Artificial Intelligence Is Changing the Future of Art

By Marco Elsy & Barrington Kirkham

AI-generated art is already taking the art world by storm, so how is AI going to influence the future of not only art but also other major aspects of our lives? Let's take a look at some of the ways art is being redefined by artificial intelligence.

1. Question: What Is Considered Art?

What is art? It's visual, performative, and so much more. It could be considered music and dance, sculptures or literature. Photography is also a form of art, and so is architecture. Then there's also art in a cinematic form. Art is much more than just an old painting in a museum. With all of this in mind, could AI-generated art just be yet another subsection of art?

2. Originality and Ownership

AI-generated art is being fully experimented with in 2022. There are countless AI art generators available that are free and easy to use online. To create an AI artwork, you can simply feed an AI generator with text prompts. Consequently it will develop an art concept that matches the prompts. And it usually does quite an impressive job.

You can also feed AI-generators with images. It's up to you to choose the photos you give it. This brings up the question of, who's the creator of the artwork? Is it the AI doing the work? Or, is it you, the one who picks which text prompts or images inputted? So, who owns the AI-generated art when it's created?

According to the current laws in the United States, without human creation there is no protection. And, since AI generators aren't human, they cannot currently benefit from copyright protections.

3. AI-Generated Art Is Revolutionising Publishing

Put yourself in the position of an author of a book. It's all ready to be published and distributed but it's yet to have a cover image or pictures inside.

You've got two options: pay an illustrator to create your front cover, or use an AI-generator to create your artwork for you.

Just like providing the illustrator with a brief for the book cover artwork, using an AI-generator you'll provide text prompts and go through pretty much the same procedure; except it'll be a human (author) to computer interaction - instead of a human (author) to human (illustrator) experience.

After all, why not? When you speak with a (human) professional, you go through pretty much the same process as you would an AI. And AI doesn't only help with book covers. The same could also apply to album covers, posters, and anything where artwork is required.

So is AI Art: A Danger, a Replacement, or an Addition?

Due to the nature of art, it can be perceived by many different people in a multitude of ways. So, before we go thinking AI-generated art will replace people in the process of being artistic, think again. It does seems however that an artwork whether created by a human or a machine, it's nonetheless still art.

Artificial intelligence is looking to be incredibly beneficial in healthcare, finance, education, and many other areas of our lives. It's in constant advancement. So, why do we praise AI when it's mentioned in relation to those fields, but tend to ridicule it when it enters the art world?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Jude McCrory, owner of J A Styling in Consett has raised £6,147 for Cancer Research.

Jude who was diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2018, was given a full hysterectomy to suppress its advance. Confident that everything was okay she continued to manage and work at her hair salon, hopeful for the future. However in December 2021 the cancer returned, and Jude received chemotherapy treatment over a period of five months.

Ever resilient and forward looking, when she began to lose her hair at the beginning of the therapy, Jude decided to raise money by shaving her head. With the full support of her clients, family and friends, she raised around £2.240. But she didn't stop there.

At the end of July 2022, she organised a cricket match at Leadgate Cricket Club and on that one day managed to raise a further £1,365. Her sister Kate and Kate's sister- in-law Lynsey got involved in the fundraising and walked Hadrian's Wall, mustering a further £2,420.

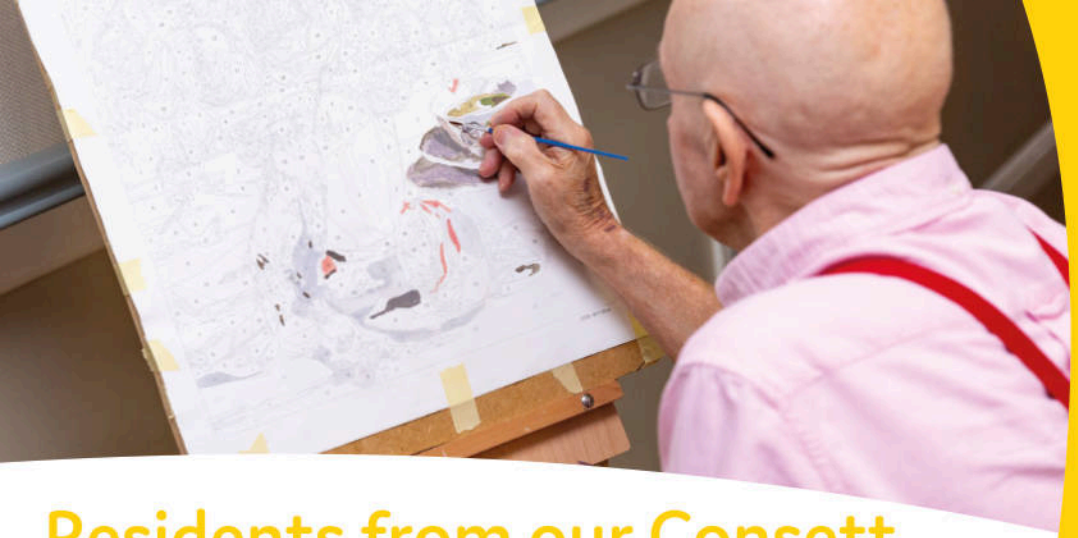
Jude's strong will, courage, and determination enabled her to endure this challenging time. Bravely through her treatment, she continued to look after her clients working one week on and one week off while receiving Chemotherapy.

Her clients and friends have bolstered her through this difficult juncture and she is extremely grateful and thankful for all the support she has received

Jude who is thrilled with the response to her fundraising quest decided to hold a presentation evening at Leadgate Cricket Club last month on October 13th, Here she presented a cheque to Nicky McKenna from Cancer Research. She has also arranged that the funds stay in the north east of England.

If you would like to find out more contact the following:

fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/jude-kate-lynsey

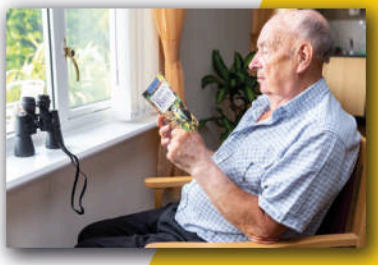


Residents from our Consett homes show that it's never too late to learn

Residents and team members from our Consett homes are celebrating 'loving learning' to relatives and their local community in October. As part of our Magic Moments activity programme this year, residents have enjoyed learning or revisiting activities such as yoga, seeing cities from around the world, practicing the art of calligraphy, photography or getting immersed in a dance class with our partners danceSing.

The varied programme of 'love learning' events is in part down to the innovative partnerships in place at each home, which also include Heygo, creator of bespoke, live virtual tours to places around the world and Eldercate, who offer language learning and photography classes for residents.

Our Magic Moments Coordinators create an ever-changing variety of opportunities, built on our residents' past experiences and interests. Our team members ensure each resident is offered the chance to re-kindle talents, find new hobbies, and involve family, friends and the community in exciting events in our homes.



As magic moments are unique to each individual, our Magic Moments programme reflects this too. It is carefully tailored to meet each resident's individual needs and preferences for the here and now as well as to meet future aspirations, whatever they may be.

For more information on care types offered, call our friendly teams today:

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www.fshc.co.uk

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‘Consett in Focus’
Documentary Photography Group

Teachers & Art Part 1
Kate Stenhouse – Teacher & Artist

Kate Stenhouse from Snods Edge, Shotley Bridge trained as an English Teacher then worked as a porcelain restorer for the Royal Family and Sotheby’s amongst others. She always had a love of art, so decided to become a full time artist and relocate to Snods Edge. She quickly gained a reputation as an artist and also a teacher. Her work is in many private collections both here and abroad and she takes inspiration from the landscape and flora around her home. Her work is very energetic, vibrant and colourful, and she encourages her students to develop these attributes in their own work.

She works in both acrylic and watercolour and has a gallery at Snods Edge which is open on Sunday afternoons and examples of her work can be seen on her website.
Photos by Chris Bruce





George Skelton - Painter

George Skelton is no ordinary painter; he was an Art Teacher for 38 years and a Professional Artist for over 12years. He was a founder member of Castleside Art Group over 50yrs ago (with Ken Armstrong) and Snods Art Group (with Ann Shaw). George also had a gallery / shop at Stanhope for many years (with Philip Oliver and Alex Clark).

Originally from The Grove, before moving to Moorside then Castleside he now lives not far away in Northumberland. At 16year he started Art College at Sunderland specialising in Wood Engraving, although he says he has not done any since, as he hadn’t the space or the equipment to do it. He then moved onto to Liverpool University for a Teaching qualification before returning to the Northeast and starting his career as an Art Teacher.



George has painted in Oils and Acrylics but its watercolour that he is well known for, a medium he says he only tried as it was the easiest and safest to use when his young children were running around the house. His love of The River Derwent and the Moors between Consett and Stanhope have been a source of inspiration for many years but since his move he now paints Northumberland scenes too. However, on our visit to his house, it was great to see his Living Room dominated by 2 paintings of the Derwent Reservoir and 1 of Consett Iron Company, he’s never lost his love of his hometown.
Photos by George Ledger



‘Consett in Focus’ Documentary Photography Group’

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**
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Minsteracres
Retreat Centre



Minsteracres Overview

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A warm welcome is extended to new volunteers (age no problem) we have had volunteers aged 80 years plus and the community is so welcoming that you would feel right at home.

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First Mortgage Derwentside began trading from the Greenhouse Business Centre on Greencroft Industrial Estate in June 2022. They are an extension of First Mortgage NE who currently have 4 other offices across the North East.

They provide FREE whole of market mortgage advice and specialise in residential and buy to let purchases and re-mortgages, as well as being able to obtain secured loans and bridging finance and covering all aspects of protection, wills and trusts.

With current rises in interest rates there has never been a better time to use a mortgage broker and First Mortgage Derwentside will look to take the stress out of the situation by giving honest independent advice and will look to source the best deal available.

Director Alan Small said "We are really looking forward to helping the people of Consett and the surrounding Derwentside areas with their mortgage requirements and we are also keen to build solid relationships with local businesses within the community. I've been a part of First Mortgage for over 7 years now and in addition to never charging our clients a fee we also pride ourselves on our 5 star service and this is something we will strive to continue in our latest branch. There is quite a bit of uncertainty in the market at the minute and getting the correct advice could potentially save you thousands "

Anyone looking for advice please feel free to call 01207 258 354 or by contacting sara@firstmortgagene.co.uk

Alan Small
Senior Mortgage and Protection Consultant

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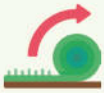
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Consett Culture

Consett Writers, who meet in the Library each Monday were delighted to be invited by Audrey Copeland to display some of their work at the Consett and District Heritage Initiative Exhibition, held in Consett Methodist Church Hall last month.

Along with other local groups and organisations the writers shared their memories of Consett and surrounding areas in prose and poetry, enabling us all to look at the past through different eyes.

It was good to see groups of school children showing a great interest in the history of the steelworks and their heritage, while examining the artefacts on display. For those of us who remember 'The Company' and the mines, it was a trip down memory lane to different times.

Here are some reminiscences in verse, remembered by my family and friends growing up in the centre of Consett, when 'The Works' were central to our lives.



Red Rumble

Born in the thick of the night air's smoke,
Under closed heavy clouds and carbonous coke,
Cradled and nurtured with soft lullabies,
Silver crossed pushed under molten red skies.

Blessed to a family with grit in their bones,
Hardened to work and the creaks and groans
of the giant ironworks, at the end of the street,
When she woke from slumber, she heard the feet -

of night time grafters padding their way
to a twelve hour shift, taking half their day,
A swift, 'Good night', and a 'Stay safe pet,
your baits put up and the table's set -

when you're back in the morning, I'll be up,
with a bacon sandwich and your favourite cup
of Ringtons tea; and the bed turned down,
leave your pay on the sideboard, the club's due in town'.

Big sisters and brothers in the cold school yard,
Swap tales of candy cigarette cards,
Grumbling tummies getting ready for dinner,
Toad in the Hole is always a winner.



It's time for a semi circled well scrubbed step,
After making sure the black path is swept,
A pan of potatoes, and the cabbage all chopped,
Minced steak prepared, with leek pudding on top.

Then, its belly bursts open and the rusty dust soars,
Mushrooming over the purple clad moors,
Settling calmly on Mondays washing,
Pegged out in the back streets, after possing.

The grime studded gutters lap up the noise,
As iron clad men who began, as just boys,
Rivet and fit, make their mark at the blast,
Ingots of steel in their moulds ready cast.

While sulphurous slag heaps glow bright at nightfall,
The rotten egg fumes permeating us all,
Blackened out boots reply to the sound
of clanking and banging as they stamp on the ground.

A pint in the stout house to relieve their dry thirst,
Before heading home and fearing the worst,
Then the news broke - eleven are dead,
These were the words they accepted with dread.

The rumble continues, the works do not rest,
as the red dust advances, being blown from the west.
The baby sleeps on in her flannelette bed,
Unaware of the others, with fears unsaid,

The mothers and wives and sisters all pray,
They won't need to witness another replay,
Maintaining their care, to mend, save and borrow,
Hoping today, brings a brand new tomorrow.

Yet still they pad down, and up the dark streets,
Carrying haversacks full, of bread and cold meat,
to feed their broad shoulders, the men who must graft,
to forge Consett steel, robust to the last.

Lorraine Weightman



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MARKETING

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STRESS FREE VET VISITS FOR YOUR CAT

Many cats find visits to the vets stressful but there are some things that can be done to make it a more enjoyable experience for you and your feline friends

1) Choose a cat carrier that completely unzips, or where the top can be completely removed. This allows them to be slowly exposed and lifted out if necessary, rather than being dragged out a front opening box.

2) Make the carrier a part of the furniture. Leave it in the living room with the front/top open and place their favourite toys, treats or catnip inside, so they are intrigued to go inside. Don't just get it out when you know you need to take them to the vets.

3) Try to get them to enter the carrier voluntarily by using their normal bed, treats and toys inside.

4) On the day of the visit, spray a feline facial pheromone spray (such as Feliway) inside the carrier 30 minutes before you leave to help keep them calm.

5) When in the car, secure the carrier on the floor, or on a seat with the seatbelt fastened.

6) When you get to the vets, raise the carrier off the floor by placing it on the seats or on an elevated shelf if available. Consider covering the carrier with a blanket or towel.

7) If you know your cat is becoming stressed while waiting for your appointment, let the reception team know, and they may be able to move you to a quieter area of the practice.

www.princebishopvets.co.uk

Things to do this November:

Nov 5th @ 10am
Saturday Walk, Derwent Walk Wander
10am meet and wander along the Derwent Walk from Ebchester Station, Car park just past the Derwent Walk Inn, DH8 0SX

Nov 12th - 13th @ 9am
Ghost Hunt Consett & District YMCA(Consett)
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Booking Essential: www.spiritseekers.info

Nov 24th
Christmas Hand and Footprint pottery session for Babies and Toddlers - Tickets: £6.95 - Booking essential visit: www.clartabout.co.uk/product-category/special-events/

Nov 26th - 27th @ 10am - 5pm
Bijou Christmas Artisan Market
At the Lord Crewe Arms, Blanchland

Nov 27th @ 11am - 3pm / 2pm - 4pm
Christmas Wreath Making - Cost: £45 per person
Location: House of Botanics, The Byre, Redwell Hills Farm, Leadgate, Consett, County Durham, DH8 7SH

If you'd like to tell Consett Magazine readers about an event, please send all relevant information to **editor@consettmagazine.com** or call us on **01207 438 292**

Restore old & damaged photos

We all have some old and tattered photos laying around, perhaps in the back pocket of that photo album that's been collecting dust on the shelf?

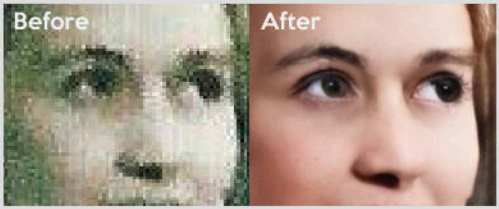
Now is the perfect time to restore and update those old photographs into full colour, high definition versions!

What is photo restoration?
Photo restoration is the process of cleaning, de-noising, up-scaling, colourising, touching up and finishing an old photograph that has seen better times. We use the very latest AI software and cutting edge hardware.

What does it look like?
Below you'll see two images, the first was the original, very low quality photo. The second is the result of expert Photo Restoration.







How much does it cost?
Our service is from £10 per image for basic colouring and up-scaling, (£20 per image for more advanced requests) You'll receive a proof so you can see the result before you pay for it.

What do I get for that?
You'll be sent ULTRA high resolution digital version of the restored images via Email. All images will be PRINT READY! Contact us for print options on **01207 438292**

How do I get my photos to you?
Easy! Take your smart-phone or digital camera, take a good picture of the image with no glare or reflection and send it to: **editor@consettmagazine.com**

Do you print the images too?
Yes! We can print your images on a mug, t-shirt, postcard or any format you'd like! Just let us know and we'll be happy to help.

How do I get started?
Just send the photos you'd like restored to our email: **editor@consettmagazine.com** - it's really that simple.

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