December 2022
Issue 121

COLLECTT MAGAZINE



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Chris Bowen By George Ledger

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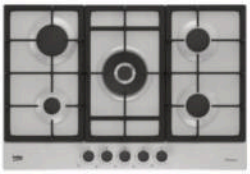

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Hello Consett! We extend a warm welcome issue 121!

#positivelocalnews

It goes without saying, we'd like to extend a HUGE thank you to all our contributors and local businesses that support the magazine with advertising, photos, articles and more. Without their continued support the Consett Magazine wouldn't happen.

In this bumper 20 page issue, we've got the content from front to back, starting with a local business supplies company sponsoring Consett Steel Youth Football team on **page 5.**

Lorraine Weightman looks towards the winter solstice and explores the Danish secret Hygge on **page 7.**

Consett in Focus Photography made the front cover again and more can be seen on **page 10 & 11.**

Free mortgage advice is being offered during these tough times by local company, read more on **page 14.**

The Hub in Consett aims to bring people and businesses together opening later than usual starting from December, read more on **page 17.**

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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Contributors

Barry Kirkham
Marco Elsy
Lorraine Weightman
Christina Groves
Alex Nelson
Liam Cook
Christopher Rea
George Ledger
Alan Small
Chris Bruce

SCAN ME

The Front Cover

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

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Durham County Council



Alfie G, James, Ed, Peter (coach), Adam, Alfie E
Luke, Sammy, Oscar, Josh, Matty, Kieran
Absent from image: Reece, Toby, Ben (coach), Matty (coach)

Emerge NE Sponsors Consett Steel Juniors

Collectively we're quite an active team here at Emerge NE. You'll find football fanatics and avid golfers, so naturally, we're keen to encourage any initiatives that help inspire a love of all things sporting! When we heard about an opportunity to directly impact a local youth team we were delighted to offer our support.

We're proud to announce our sponsorship of the Consett Steel Youth Football Team based just 1 mile from our head office in Consett. Our logo is now emblazoned on the team's kit this season.

As the best players in the world will testify, having a recognisable and professional-looking shirt can help pull a team together. We hope the new kit gives the side a well-deserved boost as they run onto the pitch to face the competition this year.

Youth clubs play an important role in helping young people build confidence and stay healthy, but securing funding for these initiatives can be a painful process. Local businesses can keep these clubs running by donating funds, equipment and other resources. We're pleased to do our bit for this talented group.

Emerge's Office Manager, Mark Gilfillan, comments:

"We're always looking for ways to help our local community and the idea of sponsoring grass roots football is appealing as it provides so many benefits to young people. From learning to work together to staying active, competitive sports teach children valuable lessons that they'll carry with them throughout life.

Quite a few of our employees are avid football fans so we'll be watching the team with great interest to follow their progress. We wish them every success for the forthcoming season and look forward to hearing about their games."

Good luck to the team from everyone at Emerge – we'll be following all the action and cheering you on!

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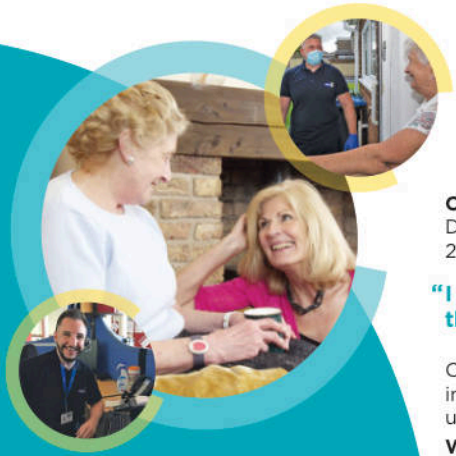

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You can also find us on facebook.com/CareConnectDCC

Durham County Council

Don't Worry, Be Happy - By Lorraine Weightman

For us in northern climes, learning to live with the shortness of days and the long dark nights takes some getting used to; and tests our resilience. So, like our ancestors, we look for ways to comfort us as we roll headlong towards the fugacious Winter Solstice on December 21st.

Yet, although - unlike our forbears - we have the benefit of gas and electricity; it now costs more than double the price it did last year to heat, light and cook in our homes.

And if you live in Consett, like me, you will know all about trying to protect yourself from the wind and the cold.

I'm guessing we all feel the need to 'gan canny' with our spending and are looking for ways to save a little here and there. But we need not forgo all comforts; as on numerous occasions simple pleasures can be as fulfilling and rewarding as more expensive pursuits, without cranking up the pounds!

Making the space we live in as comfortable and welcoming as we can is very important to our physical, mental and emotional well being, and it doesn't have to cost the earth.

The Danes have been doing this for centuries and are famously known world wide as the happiest nation.

So what is their secret?

Apparently it's the little word 'Hygge' - pronounced 'Hoo-gah'

Hard to say and even harder to translate, it's not just a word, but a concept, and the best explanation I could find was given by the 'Scandinavia Standard':

'Hygge is about cosiness and surrounding yourself with the things that make life good, like friendship, laughter and security, as well as more concrete things like warmth, light, seasonal food and drink.'

Reading this enticed me to think about my favourite things and what makes me happy. However, while Julie Andrews in The Sound Of Music, favours 'crisp apple strudels' and 'schnitzel with noodles' I find myself leaning more towards a wondrous cold pint of Guinness and King Prawns Chilli and Garlic on toasted Ciabatta! Nonetheless I wouldn't discount all her other choices in the song!

My childhood memories take me back to a time when our only source of heat was from the coal fire downstairs, banked up the chimney by my Dad using a blazer and a newspaper. As a family we happily sat around it, chatting and drinking Rowntrees milky cocoa. I loved the heat on the hearth toasting my Fair Isle stockinged feet as I snuggled inside my soft fluffy dressing gown, watching the light fading outside; intent on helping the lovely shadows of the flames dance on the wall behind us.

I also remember visiting Consett Baths in Winter, and after our swim, prancing round the changing rooms to raise my body temperature, before my friends and I made our way to the cafe upstairs; excitedly warming our hands around a steaming mug of bovril, while attempting at the same time, to devour a packet of Betty's cheese and onion crisps.

In the run up to the celebration of Christmas or Winter season; the majority of us wrap up warm when outside, adding extra layers as well as gloves, scarves and hats while anticipating and embracing the cosiness of warmth when we are indoors. I love seeing my solar lights twinkle on the garden fence at dusk, and enjoy the shimmer from my flickering candles and fairy lights in the living room with my legs wrapped in a soft velveteen blanket.

And I look forward to visiting my family and friends in Consett who I know have amazing, comforting log burning stoves.

The visitdenmark.com website states:

'In essence, hygge means creating a warm atmosphere and enjoying the good things in life with good people.'

If you wish to find out more, treat yourself to The Little Book Of Hygge: Danish Secrets to Happy Living by Meik Wiking, founder of Copenhagen's Happiness Research Institute, Or better still, make a list of your favourite things and allow them to bring you happiness!

I'll start you off:

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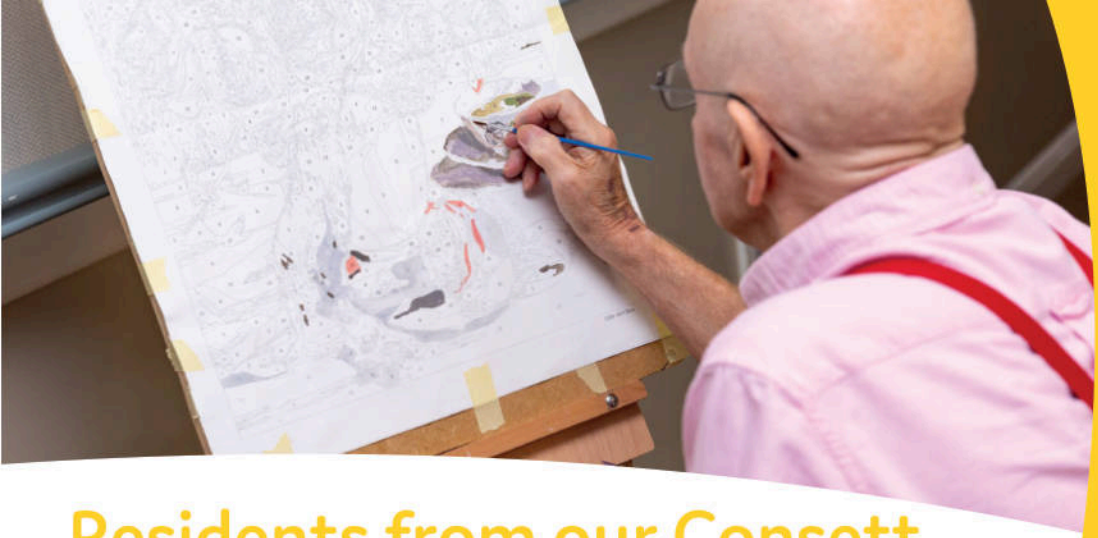

Residents from our Consett homes show that it's never too late to learn

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.

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‘Consett in Focus’
Documentary Photography Group

Teachers & Art Part 2

Denise Angel – Teacher & Artist

Denise was born and bred in County Durham, where her love of painting began as a teenager, she now resides in Consett. University followed with a BA (Hons) in Fashion and Textile Design and a career designing for the likes of Berghaus and M&S. Following a PGCE in education Denise became a secondary school teacher, teaching Art to A level. With over 35 years of professional experience as an Artist she has now recently became self-employed.

Denise works in mixed media using, Acrylics, Oils and Coloured pencils and as can be seen in the photos, loves to work on several paintings at a time, to keep her fresh and save time waiting for paints to dry. She however not only paints on canvas and paper but loves working on large scale murals, which can be seen locally at Lanchester Garden Centre and nursery schools in Sunderland and Durham Hospitals. Denise Angel is the name used for her artwork and workshop at Delves Lane Community Centre, which can also be seen online at her Facebook page – ‘Iridescent Moon Gallery’.

Article and Photos by George Ledger



Chris Bowen - Calligrapher

Chris Bowen has been a calligrapher for many years but started out as an oil painter. He studied at Hornsey College, London before working as a ceramic artist (that is he painted porcelain ware) at Royal Worcester. He says that he didn’t like the repetitive nature of the work so went into teaching, working in Worcester, Widnes and Liverpool before moving North to Blackfyne Comprehensive School as Head of Art, taking over from Sheila Mackie and then Derwentside College.

He was a member of the Liverpool academy and couldn’t help being inspired by meeting so many creative people. He has practised and taught fine art and calligraphy for over 30 years and is passionate about historical scripts, having studied many original manuscripts at Durham Cathedral library. He have worked with calligraphers from America and Europe - and found their approach inspiring because they are very open to less traditional methods, which has been very influential on my work as it chimes more with my general feeling about art and creativity, especially contemporary art

He also produces more abstract work combining colourful backgrounds with medieval text and has exhibited in both Durham Cathedral and Hexham Abbey.
Chris can also be found at Blackhill Community Centre, whre he runs a Calligraphy group, he continues to pass on his knowledge and skills to others and inspires the members.



‘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:
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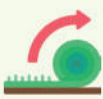
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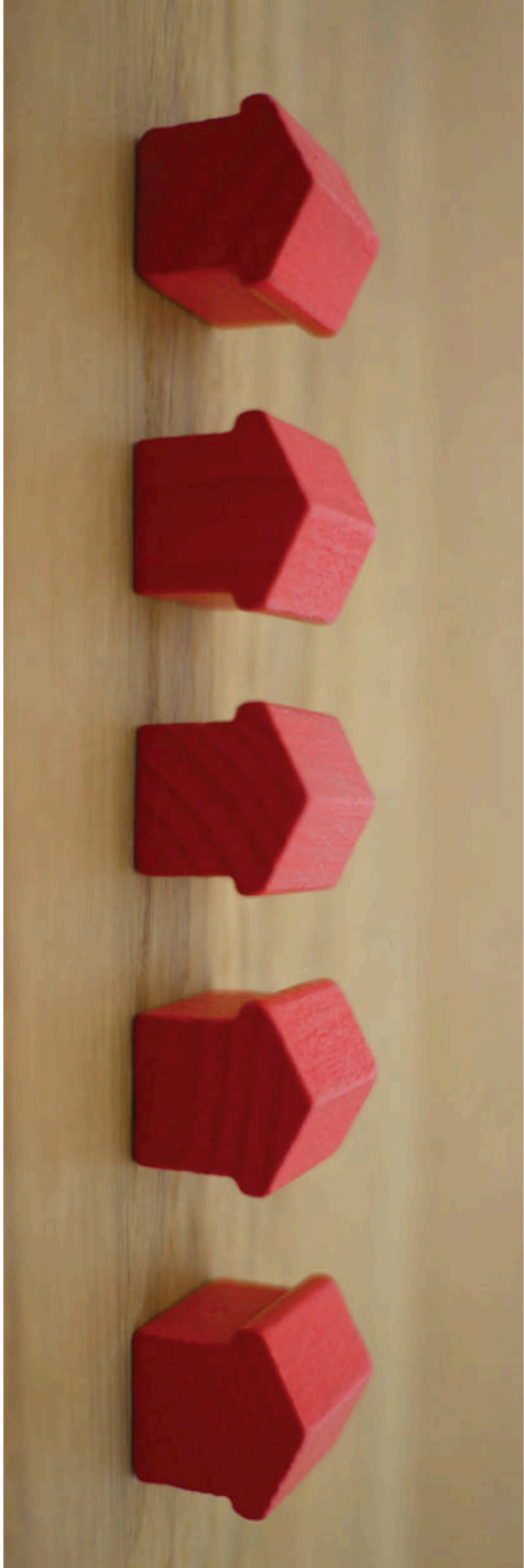

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Bringing People Together.

The Hub in Consett is the official name of the building that used to be known as 'The Braes'. Inside it houses MINT business club which offers networking and business training on a weekly basis.

The founder of the organisation, Nicola Jayne Little, has for 10 years been looking for a space to follow her dream. Over the last fourteen years she has been self employed, helping small business owners by providing consultancy network training throughout the north east. She is also an ex teacher skilled in supporting SEN students.

When she bought the building in 2022, it had been disused for over 2 years and it was her task to convert it into the Community space she imagined having.

Nicola who has lived in Consett for 8 years has always had plans to invest in the area. So after purchasing 'The Braes' she and her husband Mike, along with family, members and helpers transformed the space with lots of paint, hard work and furnishings.

The Hub's mission is to promote other businesses, and on the ground floor there is the Hub Market Place, which thanks to Donna Tunney - the marketing manager appointed in June this year- is thriving. Initially it was going to be a showcase for probably 20 to 30 Mint Members but under the watchful eye of Donna it now houses over 70 small businesses.

From Thursday 1st December The Hub will launch its late night opening, giving you the opportunity to shop for bespoke gifts crafted by local artists. The Hub is open until 8pm on Thursdays and Fridays up until Christmas. It's normal opening hours are Tuesday till Saturday 10 - 3.

Also on the ground floor is a co- working space for business and community activities. Free coffee is provided now, as plans for serving food in a cafe are in motion with the addition of a fully functional kitchen next year.

The managed offices upstairs house Nicola's other companies and there is office space to rent. At present Leona's Mindful Makers meet fortnightly on a Thursday.

Nicola has lots in mind for the future, and is currently applying for funding to help with the refurbishment of the windows and outside of the building, while expanding the services she provides inside. She has in an application for a warm hub space and is intent on providing a safe environment for all to enjoy, which is totally inclusive.

She is also passionate about providing for and helping people with additional needs and works with Durham Enable.

There is so much more to find out about this amazing community space right on our doorstep, here in Consett. To do that follow the links below and you will be pleasantly surprised.

thehubconsett.co.uk
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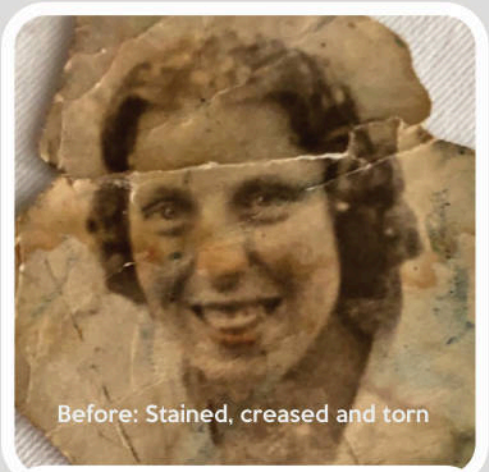

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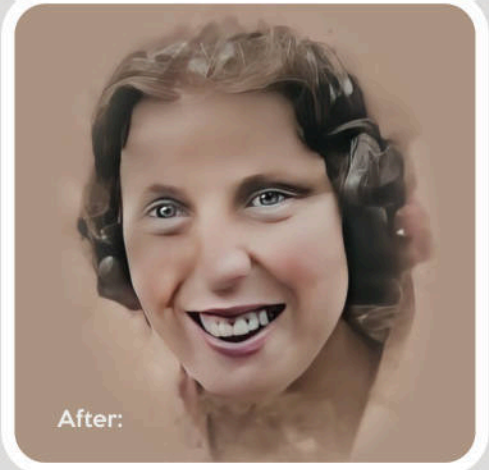

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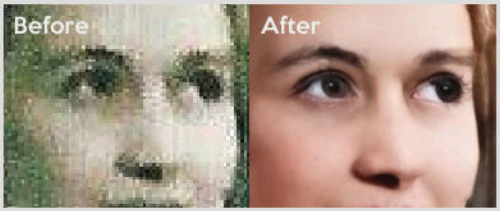

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editor@consettmagazine.com

Christmas Hazards! - Keep your pet safe.

As the festive season approaches, there are some things to bear in mind if you have a pet, to ensure they're kept safe and well:

Some animals may be very interested in the cords of Christmas lights but chewing them can result in electrocution. Cover up the wires and turn them off at the plug when they're not in use.

Fallen Christmas tree needles can get lodged in paws and cause abscesses so make sure they are hoovered up every day, or even better choose a fake tree.

Dried fruit (like in your Christmas cake), chocolate (especially dark chocolate), mistletoe, poinsettia and alcohol can all be toxic and should not be left within reach of your pets.

Ribbons, wrapping and tinsel might look like attractive treats for your dog but can cause upset stomachs and intestinal blockages that may require surgery.

Your vet will have to provide you with a service over the festive period, whether that's at the practice itself, or with an out of hour's provider. Make sure you speak to your practice now to get the relevant contact details in case you do have an emergency outside their normal working hours

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